

Message #10**II Samuel 7:1-17**

When we were in Grand Rapids, God opened the door for me to preach in many different churches. One church that we went to had a pulpit with the pulpit light burned out. Instead of fixing it, they ran a cord and taped a dangling light bulb to the pulpit. I have never forgotten that. The thought that went through my mind as I stood there was “this is a pathetic church.” They did not care what God’s church looked like and it looked pathetic. The people didn’t even care if the church of God is well maintained.

Now I do not think a church needs to be some crystal cathedral; but certainly a church ought to be clean and respectable. Obviously the people had no sense of wanting their church to be a place that glorified God.

That was certainly not like David, who was a man after God’s own heart. He was a man who wanted God’s place of worship to have the best.

This is one of the great chapters and most important chapters in all of Scripture. This is the chapter that contains the Davidic Covenant in which God guarantees the Davidic family a reigning King and eternal Kingdom. This is the covenant that guarantees that Jesus Christ would be born a human through the Davidic line.

There is a lot here in II Samuel 7. In this text we get to see the heart of David and the heart of God. If we could form a thesis statement it would be something like this:

DAVID LOVED GOD AND WANTED TO PHYSICALLY BUILD A HOUSE FOR GOD BUT GOD TOLD HIM THROUGH NATHAN THE PROPHET THAT HIS SON WOULD BUILD THE HOUSE; BUT GOD WOULD BUILD A DAVIDIC DYNASTY SO THAT HIS FAMILY LINE WOULD BE THE ONLY AUTHORIZED LINE TO RULE THE PEOPLE AND PRODUCE THE ULTIMATE RULER, JESUS CHRIST.

Whenever David did something or wanted to do something, he was all in. He never tackled something in a half-hearted way.

Now there are two main parts to this:

PART #1 – David wants to build a house for God. 7:1-3

David had brought the ark to Jerusalem and was living in his palace house there. His house had been built out of cedar by carpenters and stonemasons sent by the King of Hiram (II Sam. 5:11). This was a very nice house. It would have been the best of the best.

Verse 1 tells us that everything was peaceful. There was rest on every side. There were no immediate enemies that David had to fight and no threats. David was enjoying life.

The LORD was blessing David and giving him rest on every side. Probably a few years had gone by and David was enjoying the blessings of God in Jerusalem.

According to **verse 2**, David was troubled by the fact that he was living in a beautiful cedar house but the ark of God was inside the tabernacle tent. He did not like the fact that he seemed to be living in a better house than the place where God was worshipped.

This is important because David is in a real personal time of great blessing, but God is at the forefront of his thinking.

So David contacted Nathan the prophet and told him just that (**v. 2**). It does not appear that David asks Nathan if he should build this Temple, but he just informs him of what he had been thinking.

Nathan told David to go forward with his plans that was in his heart and mind (**v. 3**; I Chron. 17:1-2). Nathan knew that God was with David and he believed that his thoughts were of God and admirable. Nathan did not see anything wrong with this objective. So he gave him the green light and said go ahead and build it.

You have to admire people who want the best for God. I cannot help but think of the men who met to plan the building of this church. I remember Bob De Does saying I want this church to look like a place of worship, not like a pole barn.

Many of today's churches have lost this Davidic spirit of wanting it nice and worshipful for God. Many churches look more like night clubs than reverent places of worship.

We just interviewed a person for membership, who had searched for a church. She said she was in a church and a rock band was on the stage and playing and a woman in front of her was dancing. She went to the Pastor and said doesn't this seem like a bar scene? She said when I used to go to bars, this is what I used to see. That is not a reverent place of worship.

PART #2 – God responds to David's desire. 7:4-17

Now the same night that David had told Nathan his desire and Nathan told him to go ahead, God came to Nathan to communicate a message from Him to David. God's men were not getting instant revelatory messages from God all the time. Nathan had told David go ahead, but God had other plans.

Even those who love God and love the word of God can sometimes misinterpret things or not fully grasp things. We must be very careful to make certain that when we say this is the word and will of God that we truly know what we are talking about. Even Nathan could have backed away and said, "I better ask God His will on this" before he said go ahead.

This is fascinating because it is clear that Nathan advised David to go forward with the project, but that was not consistent with what God wanted. Furthermore, God did not speak directly to David but spoke through His prophet. God always has proper protocol when it comes to Him and His word.

In **verse 5**, God told Nathan what He wanted him to say to His servant David. There are three responses.

Response #1 - God gives David his first response. **7:5-7**

There are four messages God gives to David in this first response.

(Message #1) - Are you the one who should build Me a house to dwell in? **7:5**

In the first three verses, David is referred to as the King, but when you come to this verse God refers to David as “my servant.” This question is designed to get David to answer the question, did God tell you to do this.

The emphasis is on the Hebrew pronoun “you.” Are you the one I have led to do this? The Greek Septuagint really emphasizes the fact that God is saying, no you are not the one who will build me the house.

(Message #2) - I have not dwelt in any house since I brought Israel out of Egypt. **7:6a**

Had God actually had a house of worship, Israel would have never been where she was because she was so unfaithful that she didn’t go where God told her to go and do what God told her to do. So God moved around with the nation from place to place. Had He had a specific house where He lived, the situation would have been completely different.

(Message #3) - I have had My presence in a moveable tent or tabernacle. **7:6b**

One reason why a house could not be built for God is because Israel didn’t obey God and therefore she moved from place to place so God graciously allowed His presence to move with them. His people never stayed faithful to Him long enough to put up a permanent structure. Even though His people disobeyed Him, He still went with them. He protected them and provided for them and rescued them.

(Message #4) - I never asked any ruler to build Me a house of cedar. **7:7**

There is plenty in the word of God to work on without adding things. God was interested in getting His people to obey His word, not build Him a house.

John Woodhouse said, God wants our hearts and our obedience, He does not need our projects (*II Samuel*, p. 204). His presence is with us every day.

The truth is David did not ask for a new house, God just provided it for him. God did not ask for a new house, and God can provide whatever He wants. God tells us what He wants.

By the time David heard this, he probably said I am sorry I brought this up.

Response #2 - God gives David His second response. **7:8-11a**

This next response also has four very personal messages:

(Message #1) - I am the one who was with you out in the pasture and made you ruler over Israel.
7:8

God is telling David I wasn't in some cedar house; I was out in the field controlling everything. God says I am the one who has watched over you and cared for you from Bethlehem as a shepherd to Jerusalem as the King.

(Message #2) - I have been with you everywhere you have gone and cut off your enemies. **7:9a**

God says I have not been in a cedar house; I have been all around with you taking care of your enemies.

(Message #3) - I am going to make your name great like any great man who has lived on this earth. **7:9b**

It is one thing to have a famous name on earth, it is quite another when God says this is a great man on earth. We may recall that God told Abraham, He would make his name great (Gen. 12:2). He was going to do the same kind of thing with David.

(Message #4) - I am going to provide a place for My people Israel and they will live in it forever in peace. **7:10-11a**

God says no one needs to provide a place for Me, but I must provide a place for the people and I will provide this place. God says I will plant My people in a land and they will live forever in peace and blessings. This obviously has not happened yet.

Response #3 - God gives David His third response. **7:11b-17**

Now God tells David something amazing. **God says I am going to build a house for you (7:11b).**

Now keep in mind that David already lives in a cedar palace (**7:2**), so the house that He is speaking about is the house of David's physical descendants and what He is going to do for them.

There are seven messages He gives here:

(Message #1) - When you have completed your days, you will die with your fathers. **7:12a**

David had a specific time in which to live and a specific course to complete and when he completed the time, he would die. It does not matter how great the leader, everyone eventually gets old and dies.

(Message #2) - I will raise up your descendant who will come forth from you. **7:12b**

The descendant of David who would be the Messianic King would be raised up from the dead. Luke clearly connects this to Jesus Christ—Acts 2:30-32; 13:22-23.

(Message #3) - I will establish his kingdom. **7:12c**

Some of these things have a reference to Solomon, but they also go beyond Solomon.

(Message #4) - Your descendant will build a house for My name. **7:13a**

(Message #5) - I will establish the Davidic throne forever. **7:13b**

Solomon's throne was not established forever, but Jesus' throne will be.

(Message #6) - I will have a unique relationship with your son. **7:14-15**

I will be a father to your son and he will be a son to Me. Now the first part of the verse has to do with the unique relationship the Father has with the Son.

But the second part of this has to do with Solomon because God's son never committed any sin. When he commits iniquity, I will correct him, but my mercy and lovingkindness will always be with him. I will not remove My presence like I did with Saul.

It is interesting that God says when it comes to discipline that He often uses other men to carry out the discipline. In other words, God uses humans to punish His people when they get out of line.

God would let His people suffer punishment, but not abandonment.

(Message #7) - I will establish your house and Kingdom and throne forever. **7:16**

According to **verse 17**, Nathan spoke to David all of the words and visions that God let him see and hear.