

**I. Introduction.**

**II. Do you want to do something great for God? v. 1-3**

- A. David is enjoying a season of rest, prosperity, and security. v. 1 5:12-13,17ff  
Rest is a covenant hope of Israel. v. 1 7:11 Deut. 12:10 25:19 Heb. 4:1ff
- B. David desires to build a house for the ark of God. v. 2 Ps. 132:4-5
1. David seems to feel embarrassed that the ark of the Covenant, which represents the LORD's presence, is housed in a tent while he is living in a fine palace.
  2. David's desire seems to be based upon the expectation that when Israel gains rest, a permanent place of God's presence will be established. Deut. 12:8-12
  3. David's desire is commendable: he isn't concerned with increasing the greatness of his name, but rather he seeks the glory of God. I Sam. 13:14 Dan. 4:29-30
  4. David wants to express gratitude to God Who has richly blessed him. Ps. 116:12
- C. Nathan, the prophet, encourages David's plan. v. 3
1. This is the first appearance of Nathan, who will play a major role in David's life and in preserving Israel's history. 12:1ff I Ki. 1:11ff I Chr. 29:29 II Chr. 9:29
  2. How could Nathan, the prophet, be wrong? v. 4ff Dt. 18:15-22 I Sa. 1:12ff 16:6-7
  3. Nathan was not speaking prophetically, but simply assessed the situation based upon his own judgment of the worthiness of David's desire. 5:10 I Sa. 18:14,28
- D. Application: How well do you handle prosperity? Prov. 30:8-9 I Co. 1:26ff
1. For many it is harder to be faithful to God in the midst of plenteous blessings than times of deprivation and hardship. I Ti. 6:10,17ff Mt. 19:24 Luke 12:15ff
  2. Gratitude to God is a great motivation to service.
  3. Does God's blessing make you want to be generous to God?
- E. Application: Even wise men (like Nathan) are sometimes wrong.
1. It is good to seek counsel when making important decisions. Pr. 12:15 13:10 19:20
  2. We must weigh human counsel against God's Word which is our only infallible authority. II Tim. 3:16-17
  3. Counselors must be very careful to distinguish between when they are speaking on the authority of Scripture and when they are giving a personal opinion.

**III. God does not need your help. v. 4-7**

- A. David's human plan (dream) is corrected by Divine revelation. v. 4 24:11 Gen. 15:1 Dt. 18:22 I Sa. 15:10 2 Sam. 24:11 1 Ki. 6:11 Isa. 38:4 Jer. 1:2,4 Ezek 1:3 Hos 1:1 Joel 1:1 Jonah 1:1 Mic 1:1 Zeph. 1:1 Hag. 1:1 Zech 1:1
- B. David is not the one to build a house for the LORD. v. 5-7
1. The LORD has long been present among His people without needing a house. v. 6 Ex. 13:21f 26:1ff 40:34ff
  2. The LORD has not asked Israel to build Him a house. v. 7
  3. No physical building can hold God. I Ki. 8:27 Is. 66:1
  4. Elsewhere we are told that David is not chosen to build the temple because he was a man of war. I Ki. 5:3ff I Chron. 22:8 28:3

- C. The LORD gently corrects David.
  - 1. While David's dream is rejected, David is not.
  - 2. David is honored as the LORD's servant -- which connects him to God's great servants of the past (and future) and to the Messiah. v. 5b 7:27 3:18 I Sa. 19:4 I Ki. 3:6 Ezek. 34:23-24 37:25 Jer. 31:21ff 2 Ki. 19:23 20:6 Gen. 26:24 Nu. 12:7f Josh 1:2,7 Job 1:8 Isa. 20:3 41:9 42:1 44:1-2,21 49:3 52:13 Zech. 3:8 Mark 10:45
  - 3. David's instinct that a house is to be built is correct. v. 5,12-13 Dt. 12:9ff
- D. Not all of our dreams (plans) are of God, even when our intentions are good.
  - 1. Strong feelings, good intentions, and the encouragement of others is not enough.
  - 2. What you desire may not be God's will. Mt. 26:39 6:10 I Jo. 5:14
  - 3. God may have something different (and better) for you to do. Ro. 8:28
- E. God does not *need* your help and service.
  - 1. He is self-sufficient. Isa. 40:28 Ex. 3:14
  - 2. You can never put God in your debt. Rom. 11:35f Acts 17:24-25 Ps. 50:10-12

#### IV. Rather, it is God who does great things for you. v. 8-17

- A. Instead of David building the LORD a house, the LORD builds a house for David.
- B. The LORD has already done great things for David. v. 8-9 Ps. 78:70-71
  - 1. He chose David to be ruler over Israel. v. 8
  - 2. He has been with David through many trials. v. 9a
  - 3. He is making David's name great. v. 9b Gen. 12:2
- C. The LORD will continue to bless David's house. v. 10-17 (primarily next week)
  - 1. Israel will be securely planted in the land where she will enjoy rest. v. 10-11 Ex. 15:17 Deut. 12:9ff Jer. 2:21
  - 2. Your descendant (seed) will reign and build a house (temple) for God. v. 12-13a
  - 3. Your dynasty will endure forever. v. 13b Ps. 89:36
  - 4. Your son will be a son to God. v. 14
  - 5. This covenant promise is unconditional and everlasting. v. 15-16
- D. All of these wonderful promises point to David's greater Son, Jesus. He. 1:5,8 Is. 9:7 11:1ff 55:3 Ga. 3:16 Mt. 1:1ff Luke 1:31-33 Heb. 1:8 Acts 13:34 2:30-31,36 Ps. 16:8-11 110:1 Ps. 89:26 Mt. 16:18

#### V. Concluding application: Has God done great things for you? Eph. 2:8-9 I Cor. 1:30-31

##### Discussion questions

1. Why is 2 Samuel 7 one of the most important passages in the Bible?
2. Why does David want to build the temple?
3. What are David's circumstances at the beginning of this chapter?  
Does God's blessing motivate you to serve Him?
4. How could Nathan, a prophet, be wrong? v. 3
5. What was wrong with David's plan?
6. How can we know if our plans and dreams are according to God's will?
7. Explain the self-sufficiency of God.  
If God is self-sufficient, then why should we do anything for Him?
8. In what ways is God building a house for David?
9. Which is more important: What we do for God? Or what God does for us? Why?
10. How do these promises to David point to Christ?