

A CHANGE OF PLANS / Sunday School- March 2, 2014

Unifying Topic: AN ETERNAL KINGDOM

Lesson Text

I. David, Wants To Build God's House (2 Samuel 7:4-7)

II. God Responds To David (2 Samuel 7:8-11)

III. David's Name Is To Continue Eternally (2 Samuel 7:12-16)

The Main Thought: And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever (2 Samuel 7:16 KJV).

Unifying Principle: People value permanence and seek to build things that will outlast themselves. How do people seek to build a legacy? When David wanted to build a house for God, God promised to build a house for David—a dynasty, a tradition of royalty.

Lesson Aim: To have Christians understand that God sometimes has designs for people's lives that are different than what they had planned.

Life Aim: To have Christians be prayerful in ways that will allow them to be able to discern what God wants them to do with their lives.

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- 7:4 And it came to pass that night, that the word of the Lord came unto Nathan, saying,
7:5 Go and tell my servant David, Thus saith the Lord, Shalt thou build me an house for me to dwell in?
7:6 Whereas I have not dwelt in any house since the time that I brought up the children of Israel out of Egypt, even to this day, but have walked in a tent and in a tabernacle.
7:7 In all the places wherein I have walked with all the children of Israel spake I a word with any of the tribes of Israel, whom I commanded to feed my people Israel, saying, Why build ye not me an house of cedar?
7:8 Now therefore so shalt thou say unto my servant David, Thus saith the Lord of hosts, I took thee from the sheepcote, from following the sheep, to be ruler over my people, over Israel:
7:9 And I was with thee whithersoever thou wentest, and have cut off all thine enemies out of thy sight, and have made thee a great name, like unto the name of the great men that are in the earth.
7:10 Moreover I will appoint a place for my people Israel, and will plant them, that they may dwell in a place of their own, and move no more; neither shall the children of wickedness afflict them any more, as beforetime,
7:11 And as since the time that I commanded judges to be over my people Israel, and have caused thee to rest from all thine enemies. Also the Lord telleth thee that he will make thee an house.
7:12 And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom.
7:13 He shall build an house for my name, and I will stablish the throne of his kingdom for ever.
7:14 I will be his father, and he shall be my son. If he commit iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the children of men:
7:15 But my mercy shall not depart away from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away before thee.
7:16 And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever.

HISTORY:

Samuel the prophet is the author of 1 Samuel, but not 2 Samuel. The author is not known. The purpose of 2 Samuel is to record the history of David's reign. David had just brought the Ark of the Covenant back to Jerusalem which brought great leaping and dancing within him. ¹God's covenant with David makes this one of the great chapters of the Bible. God promised a king and a kingdom to come in the line of David. God confirmed this promise with an oath (Psa. 89:34-37).

7:1 And it came to pass, when the king sat in his house, and the Lord had given him rest round about from all his enemies;— This chapter begins with David sitting in his house. David had conquered all the nations that were around Israel, for God had caused him to live in peace; resting from his enemies.

7:2 That the king said unto Nathan the prophet, See now, I dwell in an house of cedar, but the ark of God dwelleth within curtains. During David's rest, he sees the ark of God in a tent /curtains. He was living in a palace and no doubt he spared no expense, mentioning cedar, an expensive wood grown from the trees of Lebanon which is often used as a symbol of "strength." However, the ark of God dwelled within curtains. The design of the first Tabernacle or tent came from God and was given to Moses, but now the ark of God is within temporary curtains. David is not only a

¹ <http://www.family-times.net/commentary/ii-samuel-7/>

<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sundayschool.html>

ruler but a shepherd who has a heart for his God! He wanted to honor God in a better way! His intention was to build a temple for God. A plan begins to formulate in his mind as to how he could do this. David was very careful to do nothing without consulting the priest/prophet, Nathan. Nathan was an important link here in communicating the will of God and plays an important role elsewhere as well.

7:3 And Nathan said to the king, Go, do all that is in thine heart;— So David calls Nathan the prophet, and outlines his intentions. Nathan hastily consents, thinking that David's plan to build such a house will be pleasing to God. **...for the Lord is with thee**— Apparently Nathan gave his approval because he saw nothing wrong with the idea until the Lord came to him.

LESSON:

2 Samuel 7:4-7 David, Wants To Build God's House

7:4 And it came to pass that night, that the word of the Lord came unto Nathan, saying,— God reveals His Word and Will to Nathan in a dream or vision at night. Apparently Nathan spoke too quickly about what God would say about building a temple for Him. We have to be careful in speaking too soon about a matter and not conferring with God.

7:5 Go and tell my servant David,— God calls David His servant and a servant does what the master desires. However, ²God doesn't go to David, He goes to Nathan. Nathan is the prophet of God. Prophets are the mouth-piece for God and Nathan should have known better. He makes Nathan go back and correct David. Now Nathan has to say what God really says about the matter of a house for Him.

7:5b ...Thus saith the Lord, Shalt thou build me an house for me to dwell in? — The question: "Shalt thou build me an house for me to dwell in?" Another translation says: "Are you the one who is to build Me a temple for My residence?" And 2 Samuel 7 coincides with the book of 1 Chronicle 17:4 saying "You are not the one to build me a house to dwell in." That is what God tells Nathan to tell David. The implication of God asking this question is told to David over in both I Chronicles 22 and 28— "Because you are a man of blood and a man of war, you cannot build my temple." You have too much blood on your hands. In fact God says, "You shed much blood." Most of David's life has been spilling other people's blood. He is a skilled spiller of blood, and that is not the kind of picture God wants from a king who is going to build His house, a place of rest. It's OK to bring God's people into the land of rest, but David was not a man of rest until now. During all of David's reign as a king he never really had a time of rest but to do what the Lord required of him.

7:6 Whereas I have not dwelt in any house since the time that I brought up the children of Israel out of Egypt, even to this day,— God continues to speak to Nathan telling him that He has not lived in any house since the time that He brought the children of Israel out of Egypt, in Moses' time. All of God's dwellings have been temporary, within curtains. This means God has wandered or had His dwelling in a tent and in a tabernacle.

7:7 In all the places wherein I have walked with all the children of Israel spake I a word with any of the tribes of Israel, whom I commanded to feed my people Israel, saying, Why build ye not me an house of cedar?— God is saying whenever and wherever He journeyed and moved with the children of Israel—in a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night, his dwelling was in a tent/tabernacle.

³Tent and tabernacle — These two seem thus to be distinguished, the one may note the curtains and hangings within, the other the frame of boards, and coverings upon it.

He never said why hadn't a cedar house been built for Me? And as He spoke a Word through the smoke coming from the tent, He never commanded or appointed any of the tribes of Israel to build Him a house of cedar. He didn't say at any time, "Why have you not built me a cedar temple?" God is the initiator. He always says what He wants, we are the responders.

2 Samuel 7:8-11 God Responds To David

² file:///GoldRoom/pbc/pbc.org/dp/roe/0024.html

³ <http://www.christnotes.org/commentary.php?b=10&c=7&com=wes>

<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sundayschool.html>

7:8 Now therefore so shalt thou say unto my servant David, Thus saith the Lord of hosts, I took thee from the sheepecote, from following the sheep, to be ruler over my people, over Israel:— This response from God is a mild rebuke. God, the Lord of host—the leader of armies of angels is still speaking to Nathan to remind David that He took him out of the sheepfold, from taking care of the sheep to be a ruler over His people, over Israel. God took David from the pasture to the throne; from running to ruling. David was still a shepherd, but now over the flock of God! This is a high appointment from God for His servant David.

7:9 And I was with thee whithersoever thou wentest, and have cut off all thine enemies out of thy sight, and have made thee a great name, like unto the name of the great men that are in the earth. God let David know that it was He who was with him wherever he went; protecting him from his enemies; and even given him a great name among men in the earth.

7:10 Moreover I will appoint a place for my people Israel, and will plant them, that they may dwell in a place of their own, and move no more; neither shall the children of wickedness afflict them any more, as beforetime,— Furthermore or in addition, God says He will appoint or establish a place for His people Israel. God's promise of a Promised Land had already been promised to Abraham. God makes the same promise to us today when He says "*I go to prepare a place for you...*" It was not for David to appoint a place for them to dwell. In the place God prepares, they will not be unsettled anymore; not be disturbed anymore. Again, God is the initiator, meaning He will establish His people in their own place and land; a place where the heathen nations won't afflict them anymore. It will not be as before, namely in the time of bondage in Egypt, by the children of wickedness.

7:11 And as since the time that I commanded judges to be over my people Israel, and have caused thee to rest from all thine enemies. Also the Lord telleth thee that he will make thee an house. From the time when God had appointed judges to be over His people, and now David receives a sense of rest or peace from the battles, God makes known "*Thou shalt not build a house for Me, but I will make a house for thee.*" God would increase and maintain the family of David and secure the succession of the throne to his dynasty. It was fulfilled primarily in Jesus Christ, the Messiah.

2 Samuel 7:12-16 David's Name Is To Continue Eternally

7:12 And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom. This refers to when David's life expires; when he dies, God will set up David's seed, his son, Solomon, to take his place as king of Israel. David was the king of Israel only because the Lord had chosen him. And God is the one who will establish, make it strong, and continue this kingdom. First, Solomon, but the eternal kingdom will be of the Messiah. This was in of my *December 2013 lesson*:

Joseph was in the royal line of succession through King Solomon and therefore of David's lineage.

Mary was also a descendant of Solomon's brother Nathan. Both Mary and Joseph were direct descendants of King David. Matthew's genealogy gives Jesus' legal or royal lineage through Joseph. Mary's ancestral line is recorded in Luke 3:23-38. Also look at (Matt.1:1, 16, 20; Lk.2:4).

This all boils down to God keeping His covenant promise with David. Salvation would come through David's line through the birth of the Messiah. The Messiah was born a descendant of David.

7:13 He shall build an house for my name, and I will stablish the throne of his kingdom for ever. David's request was good, but God had other plans of who would build and establish His house! In this, David is to understand that his offspring, Solomon shall build a literal house, a temple dedicated in God's name, and God assures that David's son will reign as king of Israel. The throne of David ended in 586 BC with Zedekiah, the last king of Judah; even Solomon's reign would end, but the line of David continues forever, eternally with Jesus Christ the Son of God having a house forever; a kingdom forever.

7:14 I will be his father, and he shall be my son. God will carry Himself as a father, with all affection, and He will own Solomon as His son. God is able to show an intimate loving relationship to all of us. And we can say He is our Father. Therefore, He is both to Solomon, as a type of Christ; and truly of Christ Himself as is evident from Hebrews 1:5.

7:14b If he commit iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the children of men:— This would only pertain to Solomon and those who would follow in the lineage of David, except the Messiah who is sinless. God uses the words "I will." This shows His response to sin committed. He will chastise and correct Solomon with the rod of men; with such rods and stripes as men would correct their children, not to destroy but to correct with love, even through other nations against him.

7:15 But my mercy shall not depart away from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away before thee. God gives an unconditional promise that His mercy will not depart from Solomon as David's predecessor (Saul) whom God removed. It will not be as God did king Saul whose throne was taken and God's glory departed from him. Nobody in Saul's family ever became king after he died. Even though ⁴Solomon did not follow the Lord as David did (1 Kings 11:4), the Lord continued to love Solomon and keep His promise. ⁵Mercies are like streams of water that never dry up.

7:16 And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever. God names three things: house, kingdom, and throne.

- House—household or family, the line of succession to the throne is established forever.
- Kingdom—when all the tribes will be gathered under the Messiah, it will be established forever.
- Throne—the original throne was only temporary but his future throne is eternal; established forever.

The point is: all of this will be established forever! It cannot be broken. It will be fulfilled in Jesus. That's why its forever. He is eternal! It does not mean that there cannot be interruptions, but the final outcome is guaranteed! All is established forever; permanently secured forever. "*Before thee*" means prior to; even before David dies. It's already done.

NOT APART OF THE LESSON

7:17 According to all these words, and according to all this vision, so did Nathan speak unto David. Nathan gave David a complete and accurate account of everything he heard and saw in his vision. These words of Nathan, which were actually Words of the Lord through Nathan, encouraged David in several ways:

- God would allow the temple that David wanted, to be built.
- David would not build it; however, it would be built by his son, Solomon.
- The kingdom of David would be an everlasting kingdom forever—through Jesus Christ.

SUMMARY:

God comes to Nathan in the night to give him a Word concerning David's desire to build God a temple. Nathan was to tell David that he was not the one to build the temple for He (God) had never lived in a temple. His home had been in a tent ever since He had brought Israel out of Egypt. And as He traveled with Israel, He had never commanded or asked the leaders to build Him a house (**w.4-7**).

God responds with this message through Nathan. God had to remind David of where He had brought him from to where he is not; from tending sheep to ruler; wherever David went, God was there destroying and protecting his enemies and making his name great like the name of great men in the land. God will be the one to select a place for Israel, planting them where they will not have to move any more or would evil men afflict them anymore, as they did when the judges ruled God's people. Instead, God would be the One to build a house for David (**w.8-11**).

And when David's life is fulfilled and he is buried with his fathers, God will raise up his offspring, born of his body and establish his kingdom and build a temple for God establishing his throne forever; being a father to him and he a son to God. If he goes wrong, he will chasten him with the rod of men as those who would correct their children. God's lovingkindness shall not depart from him as it was with Saul. Thus David's house, kingdom, and throne shall stand forever (**w.12-16**).

APPLICATION:

Have you ever had to change your plans because the Word of the Lord came to you, whether in thinking or direction? It pays to follow God. It will always keep us on the right track! What we do for Christ will last; just make sure it is His Will!

⁴ <http://www.easyenglish.info/bible-commentary/2samuel-lbw.htm>

⁵ <http://www.bibletools.org/index.cfm/fuseaction/Bible.show/sVerselID/8196/eVerselID/8196/RTD/Barnes>

<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sundayschool.html>