

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel Chapter 7

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- After unifying the kingdom under his leadership, David's first priority is to bring the presence of God to the center of the national identity – symbolized by moving the Ark of the Lord to Jerusalem, David is himself focused on the Lord, and he is trying to help the nation to focus on the Lord – making God the priority. This is an honorable pursuit.

David's vow:

**Psalm 132:1-5** “<sup>1</sup>Lord, remember David, and all his afflictions: <sup>2</sup>How he swore unto the Lord and vowed unto the mighty God of Jacob; <sup>3</sup>Surely I will not come into the tabernacle of my house, nor go up into my bed; <sup>4</sup>I will not give sleep to mine eyes, or slumber to mine eyelids, <sup>5</sup>until I find out a place for the Lord, an habitation for the mighty God of Jacob.”

V: 1-2 As David is sitting in his house he's contemplating the things of the Lord. Nathan the prophet is with him – and this says a lot.

- What we do in our spare time says a lot about us.

**Psalm 119:63** “I am a companion of all them that fear thee, and of them that keep thy precepts.”

- In his leisure time David is hanging out with another man of God, considering the things of God.

**Proverbs 13:20** “He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.”

- The Lord has given David, a man of war – rest or peace all around from his enemies.

**Proverbs 16:7** “When a man's way please the Lord, He maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him.”

- This is a season in David's life, like ours at times where we simply enjoy the peace of God that passes all understanding.
- Sometimes we get the idea that unless we're in the thick of the battle, unless the enemy is at our heels or at our throat – we're not in God's will.
- We have to understand that there are different seasons in life, and in our walk with the Lord; this is a good season for David.
- We do have to learn to be discerning and watchful just as much in the peaceful times as in those times of outright warfare – knowing that our enemy can be very subtle and beguiling.

**Genesis 3:1** “Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field...”

- David is in his house, at peace, and he's considering the presence of God, the ark of the Lord and how it is situated – he's thinking about the things of the Lord.
- He comes to the conclusion in his own mind that he is set up better than the Lord; he knows that he's not worthy of this blessing and at the same time that God rightly deserves to be elevated in honor, that He needs to be magnified in some way above the simple situation that He is in presently.

V: 3 As David expresses his sentiments to Nathan the prophet, Nathan sort of encourages David – God is with you and blessing you, do whatever is in your heart.

- This is similar to a famous quote by St. Augustine: "*Love God and do as you please.*"
- Nathan sees that David simply wants to honor God, there doesn't seem to be any ulterior motive, Nathan sees God's hand of blessing upon David – so he says go for it, whatever is in your heart to do, do it.

Two things come out of this short passage of Scripture:

1. As much as both David and Nathan are men of God and God's favor is upon them, neither asked God what He wanted in this situation, they consulted with each other but not so much directly with God.
2. Even at our best; when we are truly walking in the Spirit and seeking to honor God – we're still sinners at heart.

**Jeremiah 17:9** "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?"

**Proverbs 28:26** "He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool..."

**Romans 7:18** "For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) dwelleth no good thing:"

V: 4 David and Nathan have had their conversation and as Nathan is in his home, later that night – the Lord speaks to him concerning their conversation – the word of the Lord comes to Nathan.

- Essentially God says "no" and shuts both David and Nathan down.

**1 Chronicles 17:3-4** <sup>3</sup>And it came to pass the same night, that the word of God came to Nathan saying, <sup>4</sup>go and tell David my servant, thus saith the Lord, thou shalt not build me an house to dwell in:"

- In saying "no" to David, God is gentle with him. God still refers to David as "*My servant*", then God goes on to honor David even more for wanting to honor Him.

V: 5-7 God gives Nathan the words to explain to David in a way that would minister to him. There is no sense of harshness in this, just a gentle correction.

- God relates to David that He's never dwelt in a house before and that He's never asked for a house to be built for Himself, it's never been a question – “why haven't you built Me a house?”
- God gives David two reasons for not building him a house:

1<sup>st</sup> He's not asking for a house.

2<sup>nd</sup> reason is found in **1 Chronicles 22:8** as David is giving instruction to Solomon about the temple.

**1 Chronicles 22:8** “But the word of the Lord came to me, saying, thou hast shed blood abundantly, and hast made great wars: thou shalt not build an house unto My name, because thou hast shed much blood upon the earth in My sight.”

- Jehovah Shalom is the God of peace and it would be inconsistent to allow David who is a man of war, who has shed so much blood to build a house for God.
- While there was no expectation of a permanent house, mention is made in passing that there is an expectation that the leaders of Israel would <sup>7</sup>“feed My people.”

**Acts 20:28** “Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which He hath purchased with His own blood.”

- Feeding the sheep is mentioned because that is what David does, he's a shepherd at heart, that is where God called him from, that is part of why God called him – he's not known as a builder, he's known as a shepherd.
- God would later allow Solomon to build Him a house / temple that looked / appeared more permanent, but really wasn't.
- The Tabernacle / tent symbolized something – the transient or temporary nature of our lives, that we are just sojourners passing through – that this isn't our home, heaven is our home and that is where we're headed.

**James 4:14** “Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.”

V: 8-9 God reminds David of where he's come from and the blessings that have been poured out in his life.

- Even though God has said “no” to this thing, you are still a blessed man.
- When God tells us “no” about something we can respond in different ways.

1. Accept God's decision and move on knowing that God loves us, counting our blessings along the way.
2. Not accept God's word on the issue and seek to make it happen in our flesh.
3. Pout.

V: 10-11 God speaks of the future of the nation, that they will live in peace and security, giving them rest from their enemies.

- We can clearly see a short term and a long term fulfillment of this prophesy.
- During the reign of Solomon there was peace; rest from their enemies – but since that time there has not been peace even until modern times, which is why we pray for the peace of Jerusalem.
- The day is coming however when all that will change and there will be peace – when the Prince of Peace, the Messiah, Jesus, comes back and sets His feet upon the Mount of Olives, which splits in two and begins the Millennial reign of Jesus.

V: 12-13 After the promise to the nation, then a personal promise to David himself.

- When his days are fulfilled and he sleeps with his fathers; sleeping with his fathers is a term of blessing – bones not being scattered, eaten of the fowls – but buried honorably, a lasting legacy.
- His seed, his son shall reign after him (speaking of Solomon) and he will build the house that David desired to build.
- *God said that David couldn't build Him a house, but He tempers that by saying that He would build David a house!*
- And One of his descendants will reign forever – the Messiah, who's throne shall be established forever.

V: 14-15 Moving back to his earthly descendants: God will watch over them, if they sin then God will chasten them, correct them with the rod of men.

**Hebrews 12:5-8** “<sup>5</sup>... My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of Him: <sup>6</sup>For whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. <sup>7</sup>If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not. <sup>8</sup>But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons?”

- When we are chastened of the Lord, we should rejoice – it means we're His!
- The rod of men: Assyrians, Babylonians, Greeks, Persians, and Romans were all used for this purpose throughout history.

- God's mercy would not depart from them, He would be merciful to them.
- David had observed as God removed his mercy from Saul as He removed His Spirit.

**1 Samuel 16:13-14** “<sup>13</sup>Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him / David in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the Lord came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah. <sup>14</sup>But the spirit of the Lord departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the Lord troubled him.”

- David would later write after his sin with Bathsheba was revealed:

**Psalms 51:10-11** “<sup>10</sup>Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. <sup>11</sup>Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me.”

- David expressed his concern because he's seen what happened to Saul, who after he sinned had the Holy Spirit removed from him along with God's mercy.
- God is assuring David that this will not happen, He will bring whatever correction is necessary to keep David.

**Isaiah 42:6** “I the Lord have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles.”

V: 16-17 Reiterating part of what was said earlier that David's house and kingdom would be established forever – meaning the Messiah would be one of his descendants.

- Nathan communicated all of this from God to David.

V: 18-29 David's response of praise and adoration, acknowledging that the Lord is an awesome and wonderful God.

V: 18 Present: David starts out considering the things of the Lord wanting to somehow honor and glorify God – and ends up in His presence.

- Who am I, O Lord and what is my house? You've made me the king, you've given me this beautiful home, you've given me victory over my enemies, and fame, and glory, and honor – you've blessed me so much!
- Acknowledging that he is undeserving of God's blessing, acknowledging that it is only by God's grace that he should receive such blessing.
- Whether it is the blessings of our God, or salvation – it always comes down to God's gracious nature.

**Ephesians 2:8-9** “<sup>8</sup>For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: <sup>9</sup>Not of works, lest any man should boast.”

V: 19 Small thing in your sight – this is an easy thing for God to do, it is small compared to what He is going to do in the future.

- Is this the manner of men? No, not by a long shot.

V: 20 David acknowledged that God does truly know all his ways: What more can I say, you already know it Lord. David had reached the limit of his capacity to express to God his gratitude and thanks, words would no longer suffice.

**Psalms 139:1-2** “<sup>1</sup>O Lord, thou hast searched me, and known me. <sup>2</sup>Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off.”

- There are those times when we just can't express how good God truly is!

V: 21 “For thy word's sake...” David understands the value of God's word.

**Psalms 138:2** “I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.”

- Not because I'm so good or deserving, but for your glory Lord!

V: 22 There is no god like our God. Our God is incomparable!

**Isaiah 40:25** “To whom will ye liken me, or shall I be equal saith the Holy One.”

**Isaiah 46:9-10** “<sup>9</sup>...For I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like Me, <sup>10</sup>declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure.”

V: 23-24 Looking at the past: David recognizes the blessing to the nation of Israel: David asks a rhetorical question - what other nation has been delivered in such a way, what other people has been blessed the way that Israel has been blessed?

V: 25-29 Focusing on the future: Let everything you've spoke come to fruition, may it all come true!

- All that you would be glorified!
- The theme of this chapter is simply accepting God's will.

**Proverbs 3:5-6** “<sup>5</sup>Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. <sup>6</sup>In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths.”