



## **Do You Really Know the King?**

### **A Study in Samuel**

*David and the Temple*

*2 Samuel 7:1-29*

*Preached by Rev. Craig T. Smith*

*on Sunday, September 25th, 2022*

### **The DTR**

Most every person had, at some point in their lives, the infamous DTR. DTR stands for “Define the Relationship.” It is an important clarification of how two parties will relate to one another. Mothers and fathers will sometimes define more clearly the nature of the relationship between parent and child. Sometimes employers must have clearly defined expectations which must be communicated to employees. Coaches have to define the nature of the coach/player dynamic to their teams. And of course, young couples smitten with each other at some point have a conversation defining their romantic relationship. In each of those cases, the relationship is defined more clearly for all involved.

God has these same relationship-defining conversations with His people throughout Scripture. Covenant language is used to clarify the nature of the relationship God has with His people. God defined the relationship he had with Noah and all creation after the flood. God defined the unique relationship He had with Abraham, promising to make Abraham’s name great. God defined the relationship with Moses and Israelites at Mt. Sinai when He told them what needed to transpire to ensure that Israel would be His people and that Yahweh would be their God.

And in 2 Samuel 7, God defined the relationship He had with David after the freshly minted king settled into his new capital city of Jerusalem. This is the authoritative text concerning what we know as the Davidic Covenant. Here, God once again confirms that His revelation, His word, has a redemptive character in a broken and sinful world. God reveals the merciful and gracious way that He meets the specific needs of his people throughout history. In this text, God talks about the boundless, endless steadfast loyalty that is the basis for life-sustaining grace. And because of this gracious loyalty, we can experience that saving and sustaining grace. (read text)

## **A Unique and Critical Chapter in Scripture**

In chapter 6, King David, his kingdom, and Jerusalem are tethered together providing the foundation for the understanding of the Messiah to come in the New Testament. God draws our attention to the importance of David and his dynasty within the framework of the Bible's salvation story. The Scripture is a scarlet thread of redemption that runs throughout the entire Old Testament and culminates with Jesus. We see God directing us toward Christ and the cross here, via some other texts helping us along the way.

Psalm 89 reflects on the covenant made here with David. Hebrews 1 recalls this promise and clarifies how it specifically was fulfilled in Jesus, the King of kings and the Son of David. God's commitment to David is eternal. This is such a powerful commitment, even David struggles to believe how God has so graciously defined this relationship.

## **David's Plan to Build a Temple**

Initially, David had a plan based on how he perceived the relationship he had with God. David wanted to build a temple for God in Jerusalem. God has given David "rest" from his enemies. We can assume that David has been successful at driving the Philistines out of Israel. David assumes also that this is the perfect time to build a permanent structure for God's dwelling, a house for God. That is how David understands their relationship. God has helped David and Israel. Things are good. God should have a nice house too, not some traveling tent.

When David speaks of a house, he introduces a theme word for the chapter. "House" appears fifteen times in the chapter. It is used both literally and as a physical structure – the temple, David's house – and also metaphorically referring to a family, clan, or tribe. By the time we finish the chapter, we realize that there are more spiritual metaphors to be experienced in the understanding of "house."

## **David Had a Palace, God had a Tent**

David is bothered by the contrast between his palace and God's tent. David has a dream to build the temple. And God will stamp that dream with a "no." God is clear that David's son will build a temple, not David. But that is not the end of the discussion.

God expands David's understanding of what a house can be. And ours too.

First of all, we are reminded that God doesn't need anything. There is nothing that man can bring, give, build or provide to complete God. We might like to think that God needs our expertise in something or requires some great effort or action on our part. But he does not. God does not and has not needed a physical home.

Furthermore, God didn't ask for a house. In the ancient world, temples were for deities who were tied down to one location. Show up to that one location, offer some sort of sacrifice and move that god into action on your behalf. That was the idea. God reminds us here that He is not some "little g" god who can be manipulated by a nice sacrifice, and He cannot be contained in a temple.<sup>1</sup>

But then God begins to share this beautiful covenant with David. First, God makes it clear that He has done everything for David. He took David from the pasture and from tending the flock to make him into the ruler of Israel. God has been with David everywhere David went. God has done this for David and God has been with David.

What has God done for you? Where did He find you? From where has He brought you and what did God lead you through? Where has God placed you today? Have you ever considered the journey that God brought you on to get you where you are? David considers this and is reminded of what exactly God has made possible. And acknowledges as much in his prayer to follow.

### **A Covenant for King David**

Next, God tells David that he will continue these blessings in the future. He will make David's name great.<sup>2</sup> This means that long after David has died, his fame will last, ensuring a permanent place in history for the shepherd king. Rather than building a house for God, God himself will build a "house" for David. And it is here in verse 11 the wordplay around the word "house."

God mixes the literal and metaphorical uses. David wants to build God a physical house, but he is not the right contractor for the job.

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<sup>1</sup> This point is reiterated when the temple is built in 1 Kings 8:27.

<sup>2</sup> It recalls how God promised to make Abraham's name great in Genesis 12:2.

And then in a surprise twist, God declares that He will build a royal dynasty – an enduring “house” – for David. David will be succeeded by a son, establishing the first royal dynasty in Israel. That son will build the temple.

And then God promises that David’s line will be established forever. More sons will follow, and God will be a Father to them, and they will be his sons. When they sin, God will graciously restrict his punishment to something appropriate, but God will never withdraw his steadfast covenant love as He withdrew from Saul.

God rejected David’s plan, but He did not reject David. Remember that when you feel the answer to that really important prayer is no. God is not rejecting you or me when he tells us no. He is clearing the path for something greater in store. He does that here for David. So often, God’s no is followed by a beautifully gracious “however.” “No, David, you cannot build me a house. However, I will build YOU a forever dynasty, making your name great and lasting.” When you hear God’s no, continue to listen for the “however” that is sure to follow. God has clearly redefined their relationship for David. It isn’t just strength for today. It isn’t just sustaining love and grace for today. There is the hope of forever in God’s relationship with his children.

That is the way God still defines his relationship with us. It is based on grace, mercy, love, and eternity. We should respond like David when God defines the relationship clearly through His Word. David will yield or surrender his will, his plans to the Lord. And he will insist on God’s will to move forward. There is a deep-water prayer being prayed here. Have you ever implored God to be fully himself in your life?

### **David’s Reply**

God has clarified their relationship. David realizes this and responds with thanksgiving, praise and supplication.

This prayer is a unique blend of surrender and insistence. If only our prayers were similar. We should realize the nature of the relationship we get to enter into with God. If we did, we would be just as grateful for the no’s as we are the yeses. David doesn’t negotiate when he gets the no. He gratefully moves on to surrender his will to the Lord and then to boldly insist that God “do as you have promised.”

After speaking with Nathan, David goes to the temporary tent where the Ark of the Covenant resides. David's opening question admits that his family, his house, has no legitimate dynastic expectations. You can see David accepting the promises given by God. "Who am I, Lord God, and what is my house that you have brought me this far?" It is a good question to ask yourself from time to time. None of us are deserving or worthy of any relationship with a holy God. But because of the cross, we can have one. We, like David, can have a forever home with God.

As we read through David's prayer, we are struck by how God builds a house for us.

### **A House Can be a Place**

Yes, a house can be a physical structure. It can be the place where God provides for you and your family. Where you can feel safe, secure, comforted. Where you can learn and model contentment in the Lord and trust securely in his will. A house can be the physical place that you live. And that house is a blessing. God has made it possible for each of us to have someplace to live, some structure in which to remain and rest. God brought David and Israel rest from their enemies. God has delivered Jerusalem to David. He is blessed in his literal home.

### **A House Can be a People**

David is struck by the concept that his family – his house – can stand forever. David is greatly humbled by that promise. We should be too. When I consider how my family – my house – will have eternal relationship because of the Lord, I am humbled too. What a beautiful blessing, to think that God has made it possible. Its no wonder that David can implore God to fulfill the promise forever that He made. But David is also clear that when he asks God to fulfill His promise and to be fully God, it is all for God's glory. Not for our joy or comfort or happiness.

### **A House Can be a Promise**

David is overwhelmed with the beautiful promise of this "eternal house." David also rightly understands that this promise is related to God's great saving acts that came earlier. He remembers God's gracious saving of Israel from Egypt. David remembers the gracious saving conquest of the Promised Land. David remembers the gracious saving covenant language that Israel has become God's people and God has become their God.

God was able to save and deliver Israel and David is confident and trusts that God can deliver David and his family. This trust is why David can end his prayer with this strong, insistent, supplication for God to fully be God. When we are at our strongest, our prayer is that God will be fully Himself in our lives. Praying this prayer anchors the request, the supplication, in God's character and reputation.

### **A House Prepared By a Person**

When God declares that "I will be his father and he will be my son," we see directly how this promise relates to the New Covenant in Jesus. For us today, God's Father/Son relationship with the Son of David echoes all throughout the Gospels.

There is a Son of David who will come, and we will find our dwelling in Him. He will be our deliverer and He will prepare a home for us. Jesus was the Son of David and He preached that the Kingdom had arrived. And this Son of David invites us into His Kingdom.

He is the King who can liberate us from the power of sin, from the sting of death, and from the separation of hell. Living a life of submission and surrender to this King Jesus is a life-covenant made with God. It is a life marked with his unfailing, committed, perfect, and gracious love. It also means we are to live a life that is marked by a commitment to both the gospel and kingdom. That is the covenant relationship we enter into when we are saved. It isn't about just what we receive. It is about the covenant nature of our relationship with God. And we are reminded that Jesus prepares our house for us.

Not long before Jesus went to the cross, he had a "define the relationship" conversation with the disciples. It was in the upper room after the last supper. He told his disciples that He was going to prepare a home for all believers in his Father's house. When questioned about how to get there, Jesus told them, and us, simply: "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

And that is the nature of our relationship with God. We are able to come to the Father but only through Jesus. There is nothing stronger or greater than the love of Jesus. Receive His salvation today. Surrender to His will and ask God to be God to the fullest extent in your life. Let Jesus roll the burdens of your heart away. Yield your life to His perfect plan for you.

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR FURTHER THOUGHT:**

Have you ever been the recipient of a DTR – a talk in which someone defined the nature of the relationship they had with you? Have you ever had to have a DTR with someone you love, care about, work with etc.?

How has God proven or shown His steadfast, unfailing loyalty to you? How did you respond to that?

Reflect on your spiritual journey with the Lord. What has God done for you? Where did He find you? From where has He brought you and what did God lead you through? Where has God placed you today?

When God answers your prayers with no, do you negotiate with Him? What is the danger in negotiation as opposed to simply accepting God's will? Look again at David's prayerful response in 2 Samuel 7:18-29. What resonates with you? Which parts stick out to you?

Saul always looked to negotiate with God. David surrenders to God. Consider further the relationship between the kings and their prophets. Saul came to see Samuel as an unwanted intruder (1 Sam. 13; 15; 28). However, David always listens to Nathan. David values Nathan's presence and when we see David interact with Nathan, David obeys the word of the Lord presented through Nathan. David values God's prophetic revelation, God's word.

- Are you listening to at least one friend who values and obeys God's word? Who is someone who has the impact on you that Nathan had on David? Someone who after spending time with, you feel compelled to go rest in God's presence? How important is a friend who trusts and values God's word and obeys it? How have those friends impacted your life today and in the past?

Have you ever had God answer your prayers with "no?" How did you respond? What did the "no" lead to in your life? Was there something greater God had in store for you?

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**Want to keep up with us in the sermon series?** Read 2 Samuel 8 this week on your own to be ready for next Sunday!



**HOME GROUPS MEETING!** A home group is a consistent group that meets during the week. This group shares in fellowship and discipleship. Some groups share in specific studies, others discuss the sermons preached on Sunday. Do you need to be a part of something bigger than yourself? Get info from Pastor Craig today!

**Wednesday Morning Bible Study at 10:30AM.** Come join our study in Mark!

**MEN'S BREAKFAST:** Each Saturday at 7AM at the Olde Country Diner at 1426 Winchester Ave. All men are welcome!

**MEN'S HOME GROUP!** Meets the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday evenings of the month at the church from 6:30-8PM. Pastor Craig is leading it! All men 18 and older are invited to come and be a part! Sign up at the Welcome Desk! Come be a part! Eat before you come.

**HIGH SCHOOL HOME GROUPS TONIGHT:** There will be four new home groups geared towards our teenagers. High School Guys and High School Ladies meet at 5PM at the church on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month. Middle School Guys and Middle School Ladies meet at 5PM at the church on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of the month. All are welcome! Jason Dubea is leading Middle School Guys, Danielle Smith is leading Middle School Gals, Craig Smith and Justin Loizos are leading High School Guys and Danielle Smith, Salena Loizos, and Alexis Felix are leading High School Ladies.