

The House That God Built

Text: 2 Samuel 7

Introduction: Baseball fans know the old Yankee Stadium as “The House That Ruth Built.” The nickname came because Babe Ruth’s power and popularity in the 1920s changed the game. He filled the stands and made the Yankees so successful that they needed a bigger ballpark. People said the stadium was built because of Babe Ruth.

In 2 Samuel 7, David also wanted to build a house. Not a baseball stadium, but a temple for the Lord. He looked around at his own palace and thought, “It’s not right for me to live in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent.” David’s desire was noble. But God had something even better in mind.

Instead of David building a house for God, God said, “No, David. I will build a house for you.” It’s a powerful reminder of the truth of Psalm 127:1 which was written by David’s son Solomon who did in fact build a temple for the Lord. Solomon writes, “Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain.”

David wanted to do something great for God. But God showed him that the greatest works are not what we do for Him, but what He does for us.

We’re in 2 Samuel 7. Go ahead and turn there in your Bible if you haven’t already. It’s on page 242 in the black pew Bible in front of you. If you don’t own a Bible, we encourage you to take the pew Bible with you when you leave. If you would like to have a 1-2 Samuel Scripture journal for sermon note taking and personal study, we do still have a few of them out front and in the main hallway. Please feel free to take one when you leave.

We’re only going to make it through halfway in our study this morning, but I do want to go ahead and read the whole chapter.

(Read 2 Samuel 7...Pray)

Ultimately, 2 Samuel 7 shows us that **God is worthy of our worship because He fulfills His promise to establish David’s house forever.**

But chapter 7 doesn’t begin there. Instead, we see at the beginning of the chapter that...

I. David plans to make a house for God (2 Samuel 7:1-3).

A. Consider the setting for the chapter as it is described in verse 1.

1. **David is king.**
2. **He is living in his house in Jerusalem that was built for him by the messengers who were sent by Hiram king of Tyre. It’s a very nice house. A cedar house.**
3. **And there is rest in the land. The text says that “the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies.”**
4. **Notice that it was the Lord who gave David and the people rest from their enemies. God is sovereign over everything. Including the affairs of nations. It should comfort you to know that this is no less true today than it was in David’s day. God doesn’t have the same relationship with nations today as He had with Israel in David’s day, but we can be certain that God is sovereign. He is in control. And that reality should give us a tremendous amount of comfort and confidence as we look at the world around us.**
5. **This note of rest does raise some questions for us regarding the chronology of the book since we see David defeating Israel’s enemies in chapter 8 and then again in chapter 10. It’s most likely though that the events of chapter 7 took place after the events of chapters 8 and 10, but the author includes them here for thematic reasons rather strict chronology.**
6. **Specifically, the ark of God was brought to Jerusalem, and now David wants to build a house for God.**

B. And we read about David’s plan in verse 2. (Read vs. 2)

1. **I think we can appreciate David’s concern. Saul never seemed the least bit concerned about the location of the ark. He was happy to leave it in the back room of Abinadab’s house.**

2. But David is a different kind of king. He is concerned with spiritual matters. He understands that the ark represents the presence of God. And he doesn't think it's appropriate for the ark to be housed in a tent while he is living in a palace made of cedar.
3. But that's all he says to Nathan. Or at least that is all that is recorded for us before we read...

C. Nathan's response in verse 3. (Read vs. 3)

1. This is the first time that we have been introduced to Nathan. We know him best for his confrontation of David after David's sin, which we will get to in chapter 12. But for now, Nathan is the one David confides in concerning his uneasiness with the ark of God continuing to dwell in a tent.
2. Nathan's response to David here in verse 3 is interesting to me. "Follow your heart" is not usually good advice because our sinful hearts will lead us astray. But that's essentially what Nathan says to David.
3. It's important to note that Nathan was not speaking to David as a prophet. He was not giving David a "thus says the Lord." Rather, he was sharing with David his own trust in David to do something great for God.

But before David could fully develop his plan and get to work...

II. God promises to make David a house (2 Samuel 7:4-17).

Look at how God responds to David through Nathan...

A. God first says, "I haven't ever had a house" (vs. 4-6).

1. The text says, "But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan" (vs. 4).
2. And God says... (Read vs. 5)
 - a. Notice the omniscience of God here. He's all-knowing. He knows exactly what David is thinking. No one has told God that David is thinking about building Him a house. But still, God knows.

- b. And perhaps you can hear the amazement in God's question: "Would YOU build ME a house to dwell in?"
- c. Imagine if I decided one day that I wanted to build a house for Mark Zuckerberg, the founder of Facebook. Mark Zuckerberg is the third richest man in the world and is worth an estimated \$243.5 billion. You can be certain this morning that my net worth is nowhere close to that. It wouldn't make any sense at all for ME to build a house for Mark Zuckerberg.
- d. Now, David is the king of Israel. He's living in a palace made of cedar in Jerusalem. But even still, it is every bit as outlandish for David to presume to build a house for God as it is for me to build a house for Mark Zuckerberg.

3. Furthermore, look at what God says in verse 6. (Read vs. 6)
 - a. God instructed Moses in Exodus 26 to make a tabernacle or tent where He could dwell in the midst of His people.
 - b. And God had found the tabernacle sufficient from the time of Moses all the way to the time of David.

B. God never asked for a house (vs. 7).

1. Look at what He says there. (Read vs. 7)
2. Do you understand what God is saying here? He doesn't have a house because He hasn't yet wanted a house. If He wanted a house, He would have it. He's God. He doesn't need David to do Him a favor.
3. Whenever something breaks at my house, I call my dad. The truth is that I'm not very handy. Unfortunately, Dad lives a little too far away to run over and help me with whatever it is. But often, I can get him on a video call, show him the problem, and he can tell me what to do. Sadly, I'm pretty helpless when it comes to fixing things without his guidance and instruction.

4. But I want you to know this morning that God is not helpless when it comes to building a house. Or anything else for that matter. God is able!
 5. God was not dependent on David. No, God makes very clear that David was dependent on Him.
- C. Look at what God says about all that He had done for David beginning in verse 8.
1. It was God who took David from the pasture, from following the sheep (vs. 8a).
 2. It was God who anointed David as king over Israel (vs. 8b).
 3. It was God who gave David victory over all his enemies (vs. 9a).
 4. God had not been dependent on David. David had been dependent on God.
 5. Now that David was king, he thought he was in a position to really do something big for God. But God didn't need David. David needed God.
 6. Sometimes people with a lot of money think God needs them. Sometimes people with a big powerful position think God needs them. Sometimes people with a lot of talent or ability think God needs them. Goshen, God doesn't NEED you. And He doesn't NEED me. We need HIM!
 7. Now, there's a sense in which David's desire was noble, wasn't it? David wasn't trying to build a bigger house for himself. He wanted to build a house for God. But God still needed to reorient his thinking. This wasn't a forceful rebuke. But it was a gentle shifting of David's perspective.
- D. Because as we keep reading, we see that God makes a very significant promise to David (vs. 9-16).
1. Look at the second half of verse 9. (Read vs. 9b) God promises to make for David a great name. I wonder if that reminds you of anything. If you're a student of the Bible, I'm thinking maybe it does. It sounds a lot like the promise that God made to Abraham all the way back in Genesis 12, doesn't it?

2. Let's keep reading. (Read vs. 10-11a) God promises David and the people of Israel a place. A place of safety. A place of security away from their enemies. Does that remind you of anything? Again, it sounds a lot like God's covenant with Abraham.
 3. Look at what else God says in verse 11. (Read vs. 11b) Isn't that something? David wanted to make a house for God. Now, God tells David that He will make David a house.
 4. Let's keep reading. (Read vs. 12-16)
 5. When God says He's going to make David a house, He's not talking about a palace. He's talking about a royal dynasty.
 6. Now, David did eventually die just as God said that he would (vs. 12a).
 7. And God did raise up David's offspring Solomon to become king after him (vs. 12b).
 8. And God did establish Solomon's kingdom (vs. 12c).
 9. Solomon did build a temple for God (vs. 13a).
 10. But what does God mean that He "will establish the throne of his kingdom forever" (vs. 13b)? If you read the rest of the OT, it didn't quite turn out that way. Solomon died. His descendants forsook the Lord. And eventually, the Lord delivered them into captivity. The throne of David ended in 586 BC with Zedekiah, the last king of Judah.
 11. Now, there is a sense in which God was like a father to Solomon as we see in verse 14.
 12. God did discipline Solomon. He did not forsake him (vs. 14b-15).
 13. But look at verse 16. (Read vs. 16) Surely Solomon can't be the fulfillment of that part of the promise.
- E. This promise is what we call the Davidic Covenant.
1. It's the covenant. The promise. That God made to David.
 2. And it does find its most immediate fulfillment in Solomon. But as we've already noted, Solomon can't be the complete fulfillment of the promise. Not everything here applies to Solomon as David's offspring.

3. But the prophets were clear that the promise of God had not failed. Isaiah proclaimed the continuing validity of the promise when he spoke of “a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots [that] shall bear fruit” (Is. 11:1). Remember that Jesse was David’s father.
4. And in Isaiah 9:6-7 we read, “For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.”
5. The Old Testament prophets understood that there was still one to come who would fulfill God’s promise to David.
6. Which is why the New Testament authors understood Jesus as the ultimate fulfillment of God’s promise to David here in 2 Samuel 7.
7. It’s why He’s introduced as the son of David in Matthew 1:1. “The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.”
8. Consider the words of the angel Gabriel to Mary in Luke 1: “And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end” (Lk. 1:31-33). That sounds a lot like God’s promise to David in 2 Samuel 7, doesn’t it?
9. Listen to Peter on the Day of Pentecost in Acts 2: “Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on his throne, he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of

the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption. This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing. For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says, “‘The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool.”’ Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified” (Acts 2:29-36).

10. Peter says, “Remember the promise that God made to David? And you’ve been waiting for its final fulfillment. A king from the line of David who will come and make all things right. Jesus is that king you’ve been waiting for!”
11. And as we come to the very last book of the Bible, the book of Revelation, we see one of the elders say to John in Revelation 5, “Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals” (Rev. 5:5).
12. And in the final chapter of the book. The final chapter of the Bible. Jesus Himself speaks and says, “I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star” (Rev. 22:16b).

III. David prays to the maker of the house (2 Samuel 7:18-29).

Conclusion: Goshen family, God always keeps His promises. He always does exactly what He says He is going to do.

He has established the kingdom of David’s offspring. He has established the throne of His kingdom forever. His kingdom has been made sure forever. His throne is established forever. All the promises of God find their Yes in Jesus (1 Cor. 1:20).

And the most wonderful news of all is that you have been invited in. Not because you deserve to be invited in. But because of His grace.

Though you were far from God because of your sin, Jesus, the Son of David, came, and lived, and died to pay for your sin. So that you could be made right with God and be brought into His eternal kingdom.

If you're here this morning and you've already entered in, your response should be the same as David's response in the rest of the chapter, which we will get to next week. Worship! Worship the King! He's worthy of your worship!

But if you're here this morning and you have not yet entered in, you can enter in today. By turning from your sin and placing your trust in Jesus. That's all you have to do. Really, you're not doing anything. You're simply trusting in the finished work of Jesus on the cross. He's already done it all.

That's the message that Roy and I talked about very plainly and very directly on a number of occasions over the last several years. It's the message that some of you shared with him too. And until very recently he had been unable to accept the grace of God to him in Christ. But now he has been made new, and we celebrated that this morning with his baptism.

What about you? Won't you too turn to Jesus in faith this morning? Won't you receive the grace of God to you in Christ? Turn from your sin. And place your complete trust in the Lord Jesus Christ.