

The Prayer That David Prayed

Text: 2 Samuel 7:18-29

Introduction: Last week we began looking at 2 Samuel 7 where we saw God's promise to David to establish his throne forever. David wanted to make a house for God, but God told David through Nathan the prophet that He would make David a house. God wasn't talking about building a physical house for David. He was talking about a royal dynasty.

We call God's promise to David in 2 Samuel 7 the Davidic Covenant. We understand that there was a sense in which God's promise found its fulfillment in David's son Solomon. God did raise up David's offspring Solomon to become king after David. God did establish Solomon's kingdom. There's a sense in which God was like a father to Solomon. God did discipline Solomon. He did not forsake him.

But it is also clear to us that God's promise to David in 2 Samuel 7 was not completely fulfilled with Solomon. God told David, "And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever" (vs. 16). He clearly wasn't talking about Solomon. He was talking about someone greater than both Solomon and David. We know that God was talking about His Son, the Lord Jesus.

And that's where we left off last time. But the chapter continues in verse 18 with a prayer that David prayed to God in response to God's promise to him. This morning, we want to direct our attention to that prayer in the second half of 2 Samuel 7.

We're in 2 Samuel 7. Go ahead and turn there in your Bible if you haven't already. It begins 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. We're focusing our attention this morning on the second half of the chapter where we find David's prayer, but to ensure that we understand the context for the prayer, I'm going to go ahead and read the whole chapter.

(Read 2 Samuel 7...Pray)

David shows us here in 2 Samuel 7 that **God's faithfulness to His promises should cause us to worship and depend on Him.**

And how does David express his worship and dependence on God in 2 Samuel 7? He does so through prayer.

There are a lot of meaningful prayers throughout the Bible that stand out to us. I think of Moses' intercession on behalf of Israel. I think of Solomon's prayer at the temple dedication. Then, of course, there are the Psalms. In the New Testament, we have the Lord's model Prayer in Matthew 6. Jesus' High Priestly Prayer in John 17. And a number of prayers throughout the epistles.

And many of those prayers can serve as models for us as we pray. The same is true of David's prayer here in 2 Samuel 7. And I think you'll see that as we make our way through the outline this morning. Because first we see that...

I. David thanks the Lord for His grace (2 Samuel 7:18-21).

A. Notice how verse 18 begins.

- 1. Nathan has just reported to David all that the Lord spoke to him.**
- 2. And in verse 18, the text says, "Then King David went in and sat before the LORD."**
- 3. Presumably this means that David went into the tent where the ark of the covenant was located. There he sat before the ark and prayed to God.**

B. Notice that David began his prayer by humbling Himself before the Lord.

- 1. He asks, "Who am I, O Lord God?"**
 - a. Someone who overheard David's question might rightly answer, "Well, you are David. You're the one who killed the Philistine giant Goliath. You're a warrior. You're the king of Israel. You're the one whom God has blessed. You're the one with whom God has established His covenant. What do you mean, 'Who am I?'"**

- b. And all of that is true. As we look at our Bibles, David is a towering figure in the story of the Bible. Few people in the Bible accomplish as much over the course of their lives as David did. Few play such a central role in the history of redemption as David.
- c. But when seated before the Lord, David was right to ask, “Who am I?”
- d. And I want you to know this morning that if David was right to ask, “Who am I?” then we’re right to ask that question as well. Not in comparison to one another. Not even in comparison to David. But when we consider the greatness of our God.
- e. Listen to what David wrote in Psalm 8, “O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens. Out of the mouth of babies and infants, you have established strength because of your foes, to still the enemy and the avenger. When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?” (Ps. 8:1-4).
- f. Isn’t that the sentiment David is expressing here in 2 Samuel 7?
- g. It’s similar to the sentiment expressed by the Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 3: “What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth” (1 Cor. 3:5-7).
- h. Goshen, I don’t want you to miss the significance of David’s posture toward God here. Something really really really important in the history of redemption has just happened. And David is involved in it. And yet he says, “Who am I, O Lord God?”
- i. David understands that he is just a blip on the screen of God’s motion picture.

- j. I’ve quoted H.B. Charles before where he says, “You got here too late and gonna leave too early to have a monopoly on God’s program.”
- k. Friends, if even David didn’t have a monopoly on God’s program, then certainly we don’t either.
- l. “Who am I, “O Lord God?”

- 2. David continues his inquiry: “And what is my house, that you have brought me thus far?” (vs. 18b).
 - a. Think back to when we were first introduced to David. He was just a shepherd boy in Bethlehem. The youngest and the smallest of eight sons of Jesse.
 - b. And now look where God has brought him! He’s the king of Israel. God has just promised to establish his throne forever.
 - c. David couldn’t have even comprehended just how far God had brought him and would bring him. We look back on David’s story with a complete Bible. We have a lot more revelation from God regarding His redemptive purposes for David’s line.
 - d. But still, David understood that none of it was because of who he was. It was only because of God’s grace to him.
 - e. Let me ask you. Where have you come in your life? If you’ve had some success in life, you may be tempted to think that you’ve gotten where you are because of you. Your education. Your talent. Your hard work. Your good decisions. I want you to know this morning that all of that is a gift from God. It’s all a gift of His grace.
 - f. From David’s perspective, he had come a long way. The gap from shepherd boy in Bethlehem to king of Israel is massive. God had brought David A LONG way.

C. But it was a small thing in God’s eyes.

- 1. Look at what David prays in verse 19: “And yet this was a small thing in your eyes, O Lord God” (vs. 19a).

- a. David gets it. Nothing is a big deal to God. He's the omnipotent God of the universe. He's all-powerful. He's sovereign over everything. He never feels uncertainty because He doesn't know what is going to happen. He never feels frustration because things aren't working out as He planned. He always does exactly what He wants to do exactly like He wants to do it.
 - b. If He wants to take a shepherd boy from Bethlehem and give him victory over a Philistine giant with just a sling and a stone, He does it. If He wants to elevate said shepherd boy to king of Israel, He does it. If He wants to make a covenant with said king of Israel to establish his throne forever, He does it. If He wants to fulfill His promise to David by sending His own Son to take on flesh and live and die and be resurrected and rule and reign as King of kings and Lord of lords, He does it.
 - c. There's nothing too big for God! There's nothing too hard for God! Everything is a small thing in His eyes!
 - d. Now, that gets real practical real quick, doesn't it? I don't know about you, but sometimes in my life, I face things that feel too hard for me. It brings me great comfort and confidence to know that NOTHING is too hard for God. That doesn't mean that God always does what WE want Him to do. But it does mean that He always does what HE wants to do. And what He wants to do is always good and right even when we can't see it.
2. David goes on, "You have spoken also of your servant's house for a great while to come, and this is instruction for mankind, O Lord God!" (vs. 19b).
 - a. This shows us that David's humility here is not because he didn't understand the significance of what he was involved in.
 - b. David understood that this covenant that God was making with him was not simply for him personally. It wasn't even just for his family. Or even just the nation of Israel. It was for mankind.
 - c. Remember God's promise to Abraham back in Genesis 12. The promise was that through Abraham's offspring, all the nations of the earth would be blessed. David now understood that this would happen through his own promised offspring (Woodhouse, 225).
 - d. Now, David clearly didn't understand everything. As I said earlier, he didn't have all of the revelation that we now have. He couldn't have possibly known as he sat in that tent before the Lord that one day an angel would come to a virgin girl named Mary and say to her, "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).
 - e. David couldn't have completely understood all that. But he knew enough to know that something very special and very important was happening. And rather than becoming prideful because of his involvement in it, he was humble before the Lord.
 - D. David finds himself so in awe before the Lord that He is essentially speechless.
 1. Look at verse 20. (Read vs. 20)
 2. He continues in verse 21. (Read vs. 21)
 3. Notice that David refers to himself as the Lord's servant. He refers to himself this way 10 times in the prayer. God had been the one to first call David His servant. Alistair Begg says that "the real wonder is not that David refers to himself as God's servant, but that God refers to David as his servant" (Begg, sermon). Only Abraham, Moses, and Caleb had previously been called "my servant" by the Lord (Woodhouse, 225).

4. Again, David has a tremendous amount of clarity about who he is in relation to God. God is God. He is God's servant.
5. May we have that same level of clarity about who we are in relation to God. He is God. We are His servants.
6. So, when we come before the Lord in prayer as David did, we should do so, giving thanks for His grace.

That's the first part of the prayer. David thanks the Lord for His grace. Next, we see that...

II. David praises the Lord for His greatness (2 Samuel 7:22-24).

A. Where David humbles himself, you'll notice that he exalts the Lord.

1. He declares... (Read vs. 22)
2. We saw that David asked God, "Who am I?" Now he declares, "There is none like you!"
3. This reads a lot like one of David's Psalms.
4. In Psalm 86, David prays, "There is none like you among the gods, O Lord, nor are there any works like yours. All the nations you have made shall come and worship before you, O Lord, and shall glorify your name. For you are great and do wondrous things; you alone are God" (Ps. 86:8-10).

B. David then turns his attention to the nation.

1. He prays... (Read vs. 23-24)
2. Amazing was the work God had done among the people of Israel. From the time He first promised Abraham in Genesis 12 to make a great nation of him and his descendants. To God's deliverance of His people from slavery in Egypt. To His preserving work in their lives in the wilderness. To leading them into the land of Canaan, the land of promise. To now raising up David to serve God's people as king.

3. No nation on earth could claim such a special relationship with God.
4. The whole Bible is about God establishing a people for Himself. A people who will worship Him. A people who will honor Him. A people who will dwell with Him forever.
5. And the beauty of the gospel is that through the blood of Jesus on the cross, we have been grafted into God's people. We were not a people. But now we are God's people. Once we had not received mercy. But now we have received mercy. We are God's people. And He is our God.

C. I wonder when you pray how much time you spend praising the Lord for who He is and all He has done for you in Christ.

1. When we pray, we usually come to God with a laundry list of wants and needs. Bless this. Help him or her. Heal so and so. And those are good things that we should bring to the Lord in prayer. He cares about every detail of our lives. We can bring anything to God in prayer.
2. But like David's prayer here in 2 Samuel 7, the prayers we see throughout the Bible show us that we also should spend time in prayer giving praise to God. He's worthy of our worship.
3. In fact, Jesus taught us to pray, "Hallowed be your name." That's a model for how we ought to pray. We ought to praise the Lord in prayer.
4. Maybe you've heard of the ACTS model of prayer. ACTS is an acronym that stands for Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication. We start with adoration to God. Then we move to confession of sin. Then to thanksgiving for all that God has already done for us. And then we bring our requests or supplications to God.

David thanks the Lord for His grace. He praises the Lord for His greatness. And finally...

III. David petitions the Lord for His faithfulness (2 Samuel 7:25-29).

- A. After giving thanks and praise to the Lord, David makes one request.**
- 1. He asks the Lord to do what He promised to do. Look at verse 25. (Read vs. 25)**
 - 2. David's prayer here is an anticipation of the prayer Jesus taught His disciples to pray: "Your kingdom come" (Matt. 6:10) (Woodhouse, 230).**
 - 3. David wasn't concerned with his own agenda for himself or the nation. He was consumed with God's agenda. "Your kingdom come. Your will be done."**
 - 4. Oh, how we need to learn to pray this way! Usually when we pray, we are consumed with our own agendas. We bring our agenda to God asking Him to bless it and make it happen. When what we should really be doing is asking God to accomplish His purposes.**
- B. It should be obvious to us that David prayed with a kingdom perspective.**
- 1. And not his own kingdom. God's kingdom.**
 - 2. Look at the rest of the chapter. (Read vs. 26-29)**
 - 3. David couldn't have possibly understood everything related to the promise that God had made to him. But he trusted the faithfulness of the God who made the promise. His confidence was in the Lord. He knew that if the Lord promised it, He would do it. Because God always keeps His promises.**
- C. We have a lot more revelation than David did about the unfolding of God's purposes in the world.**
- 1. We know that Jesus came as the fulfillment of God's promise to David.**
 - 2. Jesus is the Messiah. He is the promised one. He is the descendant of David who is seated on the throne where He will remain forever and ever.**

- 3. But even though, at this point in redemptive history, we have a lot more revelation from God than David had, there's still so much that we don't know about when Christ will return and what it will look like for Him finally to establish His kingdom forever.**
- 4. Someone was just asking me this week about world events and whether perhaps they might mean that Christ's return is soon. The truth is that we don't know. I think Scripture is quite clear that God hasn't intended to give us exact understanding of when Jesus will return and all that surrounds His return. Rather, the things He has revealed to us are so that we, like David, might have confidence that God will accomplish His purposes. That God will do exactly as He has said He will do. That Christ will return and establish His kingdom forever.**

Conclusion: Like David, our response is worship. God is worthy of our worship.

As we come to the Lord's Table this morning, we see even more clearly than David ever could why God is so worthy of our worship and dependence. David looked forward in faith to a promise that had not yet been fulfilled. We look back in faith to the One who has fulfilled it. Jesus Christ. The Son of David. The Son of God.

God promised David that He would raise up a descendant whose throne would be established forever. And He kept that promise. Jesus came from David's line. He lived the perfect life we could not live. He died the death we should have died. And He rose again, conquering sin and death forever.

So, when we gather at the Lord's Table, we're doing what David did. We're responding in worship and dependence. We're thanking God for His grace, praising Him for His greatness, and trusting Him for His faithfulness.

This meal reminds us that God has been faithful to keep His promises in the past. And that He will be faithful to keep His promises in the future. The bread reminds us that Jesus' body was broken for us. The cup reminds us that His blood was poured out for the forgiveness of our sins.

And every time we take this meal, we proclaim His death until He comes. Until the day when the Son of David returns to sit upon His throne and reign forever.