

## 2 Samuel 7-9

Good evening and thank you for joining us. Would you please turn in your Bibles to 2 Samuel 7?

Last time in our study we saw David make some fatal mistakes in bringing the ark into Jerusalem, but then he changed that and had a great time of celebration as the ark triumphantly made its entrance into the city.

Tonight we'll see God's grace on full display, as we'll study chapters 7-9, and the title of tonight's message is GRIPPED BY GRACE

Let's pray

As chapter 7 begins we see a rare period of rest for David...

1 Now it came to pass when the king was dwelling in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies all around, 2 that the king said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells inside tent curtains." "

We get another glimpse into the heart of David. He's in his palace in a period of rest. He's looking out the window at the tent which holds the Ark of God, and David wonders... "Why do I live in a new, beautiful palace, while the Ark sits in a tent? David was so filled with gratitude and concern for God's glory that he wanted to do something special for God.

3 Then Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you." Nathan is a prophet of God, and Nate hears what David says and says 'yeah man, that's a great idea!' David wants to honor God. What could be wrong with David building a temple?

And we're about to see God is going to say no.

David's ambitions aren't selfish-they're good, he wants to honor God, but it's not God's will. And this section is dripping with application for you and I tonight because how do we respond when God says no?

4-5

4 But it happened that night that the word of the LORD came to Nathan, saying, 5 "Go and tell My servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: "Would you build a house for Me to dwell in? 6 For I have not dwelt in a house since the time that I brought the children of Israel up from Egypt, even to this day, but have moved about in a tent and in a tabernacle. God says 'Hey, for 400 years I've been fine in a tent!"

7 Wherever I have moved about with all the children of Israel, have I ever spoken a word to anyone from the tribes of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd My people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built Me a house of cedar?' " " God is reiterating the point. Remember the Ark of the covenant, the menorah, the tabernacle itself was all God's design. God is the one who came up with the idea of the ark. He's never asked anyone to build him a house of cedar.

See Nathan the prophet is now learning, that he spoke too soon to David. It was not God's will for David to build Him a house

V 8-9 God gives a message to Nathan to remind David what He has done for him.

8 Now therefore, thus shall you say to My servant David, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts: "I took you from the sheepfold, from following the sheep, to be ruler over My people, over Israel. There were 1,000 other shepherd boys among the flocks of Israel. God is the one that chose David, it was God's decision.

9 And I have been with you wherever you have gone, and have cut off all your enemies from before you, and have made you a great name, like the name of the great men who are on the earth. David was well known for his military exploits. God has delivered Israel from its invading enemies.

10-11

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; nor shall the sons of wickedness oppress them anymore, as previously, 11 since the time that I commanded judges to be over My people Israel, and have caused you to rest from all your enemies. Also the LORD tells you that He will make you a house.[fn] Notice- God is far more interested about a dwelling place for His people – than a resting place for the Ark of the Covenant. David wanted to build God a house, but God intends to build David a house. David's desire was for a temple, but God has in mind a dynasty - a house of kings that will rule Israel.

Maybe we're not temple builders. It may be in your heart, but it may not be what God has called you to do. It's not God's discipline, it's not in regards to anything sinful, just not His plans.

I struggle with this!

David has no idea about his dynasty, nor how it's going to be the fulfillment of the Messiah, Jesus! But first, God gives an incredible promise about David's son Solomon

V 12-16

12 "When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. 13 He shall build a house for My

name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. 14 I will be his Father, and he shall be My son. If he commits iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men and with the blows of the sons of men. 15 But My mercy shall not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I removed from before you. 16 And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you.[fn] Your throne shall be established forever.” ’ ”The Davidic dynasty ended in 586 BC when the Babylonians sacked Jerusalem. The Davidic ruler, King Zedekiah, died a prisoner in Babylon.

But the rabbis saw in verse 16, the prophecy a future king – a king who would rise from the lineage of David - who would reign forever over all the earth. They called this eternal ruler the “Anointed One”. The Hebrew translation is “Messiah” - in Greek it’s “Christ”.

Whenever we call Jesus of Nazareth, “Christ”, we’re declaring that He’s the heir of God’s promise to David. This is why the genealogies in Matthew and Luke are vital. They trace Jesus’ family tree back to David, and demonstrate how He qualifies as a Davidic heir

17 According to all these words and according to all this vision, so Nathan spoke to David.

18 Then King David went in and sat before the LORD; and he said: “Who am I, O Lord GOD? And what is my house, that You have brought me this far? Don’t you say the same thing? Who am I...?”

19 And yet this was a small thing in Your sight, O Lord GOD; and You have also spoken of Your servant’s house for a great while to come. Is this the manner of man, O Lord GOD? David understood the eternal implications of the prophecy. A forever throne... forever is a long time!

David is overwhelmed, b/c no one else loves like God loves!  
David tries to do God a small favor, but instead God blesses  
David forever!

**20 Now what more can David say to You? For You, Lord GOD, know Your servant.** Israel's psalmist – the great wordsmith and lyricist of the psalms - is speechless at the grace of God...

If you've ever tasted of God's grace you know it's a common reaction-speechless. Amongst our tribulations and triumphs, I would encourage you to pause and reflect on God's grace in your life, and the lives of others you know!

In the rest of chapter 7 David recounts God's mercies on Israel, and utters a beautiful prayer...

21-24

**21 For Your word's sake, and according to Your own heart, You have done all these great things, to make Your servant know them. 22 Therefore You are great, O Lord GOD.[fn] For there is none like You, nor is there any God besides You, according to all that we have heard with our ears. 23 And who is like Your people, like Israel, the one nation on the earth whom God went to redeem for Himself as a people, to make for Himself a name—and to do for Yourself great and awesome deeds for Your land—before Your people whom You redeemed for Yourself from Egypt, the nations, and their gods?**

**24 For You have made Your people Israel Your very own people forever; and You, LORD, have become their God.** Israel is a unique nation. No other nation plays such a pivotal role in God's design than Israel.

25-29

25 “Now, O LORD God, the word which You have spoken concerning Your servant and concerning his house, establish it forever and do as You have said. 26 So let Your name be magnified forever, saying, ‘The LORD of hosts is the God over Israel.’ And let the house of Your servant David be established before You. 27 For You, O LORD of hosts, God of Israel, have revealed this to Your servant, saying, ‘I will build you a house.’ Therefore Your servant has found it in his heart to pray this prayer to You.

28 “And now, O Lord GOD, You are God, and Your words are true, and You have promised this goodness to Your servant. 29 Now therefore, let it please You to bless the house of Your servant, that it may continue before You forever; for You, O Lord GOD, have spoken it, and with Your blessing let the house of Your servant be blessed forever.”

God said no to David building the temple, but notice God didn’t tell David why. God just said no. That can be brutal...

We’re told later that God said “No” to David’s offer because David was a man of war, and God wanted a man of peace to build His temple. 1 Chronicles 22:8-10 8 but the word of the LORD came to me, saying, ‘You have shed much blood and have made great wars; you shall not build a house for My name, because you have shed much blood on the earth in My sight. 9 Behold, a son shall be born to you, who shall be a man of rest; and I will give him rest from all his enemies all around. His name shall be Solomon,[fn] for I will give peace and quietness to Israel in his days. 10 He shall build a house for My name, and he shall be My son, and I will be his Father; and I will establish the throne of his kingdom over Israel forever.’

Often times when God tells us no He won’t tell us why. We have to trust.

In chapter 8 the military triumphs of King David are listed.

1 After this it came to pass that David attacked the Philistines and subdued them. And David took Metheg Ammah from the hand of the Philistines. When David became king, the Philistines were the aggressors, taking territory away from God's people. Under David's leadership Israel began to take territory from the enemy.

2 Then he defeated Moab. Forcing them down to the ground, he measured them off with a line. With two lines he measured off those to be put to death, and with one full line those to be kept alive. So the Moabites became David's servants, and brought tribute. What happened here? Remember Ruth was his great grandmother...we don't know for sure.

3 David also defeated Hadadezer the son of Rehob, king of Zobah, as he went to recover his territory at the River Euphrates.

4 David took from him one thousand chariots, seven hundred[fn] horsemen, and twenty thousand foot soldiers. Also David hamstringed all the chariot horses, except that he spared enough of them for one hundred chariots. He limited his enemies ability to rise up and revolt in the future.

5-12

5 When the Syrians of Damascus came to help Hadadezer king of Zobah, David killed twenty-two thousand of the Syrians.

6 Then David put garrisons in Syria of Damascus; and the Syrians became David's servants, and brought tribute. So the LORD preserved David wherever he went. 7 And David took the shields of gold that had belonged to the servants of Hadadezer, and brought them to Jerusalem. 8 Also from Betah[fn] and from Berothai, cities of Hadadezer, King David took a large amount of bronze.

9 When Toi<sup>[fn]</sup> king of Hamath heard that David had defeated all the army of Hadadezer, 10 then Toi sent Joram<sup>[fn]</sup> his son to King David, to greet him and bless him, because he had fought against Hadadezer and defeated him (for Hadadezer had been at war with Toi); and Joram brought with him articles of silver, articles of gold, and articles of bronze. 11 King David also dedicated these to the LORD, along with the silver and gold that he had dedicated from all the nations which he had subdued— 12 from Syria,<sup>[fn]</sup> from Moab, from the people of Ammon, from the Philistines, from Amalek, and from the spoil of Hadadezer the son of Rehob, king of Zobah. Israel possessed more of the land God promised to Abraham in Genesis 15 under David's reign than at any other time.

When David dedicated everything he received all to the LORD.

13 And David made himself a name when he returned from killing eighteen thousand Syrians<sup>[fn]</sup> in the Valley of Salt. Needs to be careful here. Psalm 60?

Now we're told in 1 Kings 10 that by the time Solomon takes the throne there's so much gold in Jerusalem that silver is counted as nothing, as rocks in another verse. David is setting the stage for when Solomon comes to build the temple.

14 He also put garrisons in Edom; throughout all Edom he put garrisons, and all the Edomites became David's servants. And the LORD preserved David wherever he went. This is the summary of this whole chapter. Every victory and every enemy subdued was a testimony to the LORD's preserving power in the life and reign of David.

Why do we care about these battles, can't we skip this and get to the "good stuff?" No, because these verses and this chapter demonstrates that David didn't pout or mope when he couldn't

build the temple. He got busy in doing what he could do for the Lord.

Verses 15-18 list the key members of David's administration. His cabinet...

15 So David reigned over all Israel; and David administered judgment and justice to all his people. 16 Joab the son of Zeruiah was over the army; Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud was recorder; or literally "rememberer" - the official state historian. 17 Zadok the son of Ahitub and Ahimelech the son of Abiathar were the priests; Seraiah<sup>[fn]</sup> was the scribe; 18 Benaiah the son of Jehoiada was over both the Cherethites and the Pelethites; and David's sons were chief ministers.

Now as we move to chapter 9, you'll recall in 1 Samuel 20 when David left Saul's court for good, David promised Jonathan he would be kind to Jonathan's descendants. In 2 Samuel 9 David keeps his word...

## Chapter 9

1 Now David said, "Is there still anyone who is left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan's sake?" We saw several minutes ago in chapter 7 David wanted to do something for God, and he proposed to build a temple for the Lord. Now David asked another question we should all ask: "What can I do for others?"

Scholars differ on how long David's now been king, some say about 15 years. And it's likely that David's sitting on the throne, and he thinks of his friend Jonathan. You can picture the scene right, David 'wishing Jonathan were there to see all that the Lord had done. David's missing the fellowship, the comradery, he's longing for his dead friend.

David's question here in V1 is a remarkable display of love, because Saul made himself an enemy of David.

Now it was customary in those days for the king of a new dynasty to completely massacre anyone connected with the prior dynasty. But David doesn't have revenge in mind, he asked what he could do for the family of his enemy.

2 And there was a servant of the house of Saul whose name was Ziba. So when they had called him to David, the king said to him, "Are you Ziba?"

He said, "At your service!"

3 Then the king said, "Is there not still someone of the house of Saul, to whom I may show the kindness of God?" Pause here... David wanted to show someone else the same kindness God showed to him.

I think most of us, if not all of us in this room, are kind. I hope we're kind! But do we really show the kindness of God to others? When we remember God's grace, we'll be gracious to others...

...3 And Ziba said to the king, "There is still a son of Jonathan who is lame in his feet." His name is Mephibosheth, and we first saw him in **2 Samuel 4:4 Jonathan, Saul's son, had a son who was lame in his feet. He was five years old when the news about Saul and Jonathan came from Jezreel; and his nurse took him up and fled. And it happened, as she made haste to flee, that he fell and became lame. His name was Mephibosheth.**<sup>[fn]</sup>

Mephibosheth's nurse gathered this little boy in a panic, fearing that the leader of a new royal dynasty would execute every potential heir of king Saul's dynasty.

4 So the king said to him, "Where is he?"

And Ziba said to the king, “Indeed he is in the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, in Lo Debar.” Notice Mephibosheth didn’t even have his own house. Instead, he lived in the house of another man. Lo Debar means no pasture. Mephibosheth is living in a barren place, with no ability to walk. It’s a brutal existence.

And there’s a picture that is being painted here for every single person, and it’s the picture of Jesus Christ, our king. See who does the initiating here? It’s the king reaching out to the lame.

**5 Then King David sent and brought him out of the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, from Lo Debar.** Lo Debar is a sparsely populated place. So when the king’s messengers show up, and approach Mephibosheth’s house, he must’ve been thinking-this is it. I’m done for.

See Mephibosheth had the wrong idea about the king-he thinks the king is angry, the king is upset. But oh how he’s wrong-he’s about to be blessed by the grace of the king.

So now, they load up Mephibosheth, they have to carry or transport him all the way to Jerusalem. What was going through his mind on that slow, bumpy journey??

**6 Now when Mephibosheth the son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, had come to David, he fell on his face and prostrated himself. Then David said, “Mephibosheth?”**

**And he answered, “Here is your servant!”** Think of the emotions running through David’s heart at this moment. Mephibosheth proly looked like his dad Jonathan, even like his grandfather Saul. David perhaps amazed by the resemblance.

And notice David calls him by name-Mephibosheth?

That’s how we got saved! The King of Kings called us by name!

What's going through Mephibosheth's mind right now?

Imagine, you're 5 years old and you hear the cries outside your door, his little ears hear that his daddy Jonathan has died in battle, and his grandpa and his uncles all dead. At 5 years old you're unable to fully process that news,

Through the wailing of everyone's tears, they all turn into a panicked frenzy, frantically scrambling, your told you need to flee so the new king won't hurt you. What happens in the heart of a 5 year old amongst this chaos?

Mephibosheth's nurse picks him up and begins to run, and she stumbles, and falls, and at 5 years old Mephibosheth breaks his legs, or his ankles, so he will never walk again in this life. There's no doctors, no surgeons, no casts to be applied.

They need to leave because they think the king will kill them. Every jolt, every step must be agonizing, let alone the emotional pain of his daddy being dead.

Mephibosheth spent all his life living a great distance from the king, because he didn't know what the king is like.

7 So David said to him, "Do not fear, for I will surely show you kindness for Jonathan your father's sake, and will restore to you all the land of Saul your grandfather; and you shall eat bread at my table continually." David tells a frightened Mephibosheth 4 things-Do not fear, I will show you kindness, I will restore, and you will eat bread continually....says this 4x in verses 7, 10, 11 and 13

Isn't this what God has done for us through Jesus Christ? We once sat on the throne of our own hearts, yet God called us, and has shown us kindness, He's given us an inheritance, He's invited us to His table. Hey we're all Mephibosheths!

Think too, Mephibosheth was blessed on account of someone else. David blessed him because of Jonathan.

For you and I, God shows favor on us on account of His Son, Jesus. God invites us to His table, and He treats us as His own.

We've been adopted into God's family, just as Mephibosheth was adopted into David's family.

8 Then he bowed himself, and said, "What is your servant, that you should look upon such a dead dog as I?" Mephibosheth considered himself a dead dog, meaning a worthless and insignificant person in light of such grace

9 And the king called to Ziba, Saul's servant, and said to him, "I have given to your master's son all that belonged to Saul and to all his house. All the king holds nothing back!

10 You therefore, and your sons and your servants, shall work the land for him, and you shall bring in the harvest, that your master's son may have food to eat. But Mephibosheth your master's son shall eat bread at my table always." Now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants. In addition to the land, David gave Mephibosheth servants to work the land. The food from the land was for Mephibosheth's family, because he now ate at David's table...

11 Then Ziba said to the king, "According to all that my lord the king has commanded his servant, so will your servant do."

"As for Mephibosheth," said the king, "he shall eat at my table like one of the king's sons." Again we see the picture of our King here don't we? See as Christians you and I aren't just forgiven, we're not just sliding into heaven, nor is God somehow gonna be stuck with us. No Jesus died for us that we may be with Him forever!! We're the King's kids!!

And what did we do to deserve such treatment from God!  
Nothing. Because like Mephibosheth, we're lame-it's all initiated  
from our King.

12 Mephibosheth had a young son whose name was Micha.  
(means who is like Jehovah!) And all who dwelt in the house of  
Ziba were servants of Mephibosheth. 13 So Mephibosheth dwelt  
in Jerusalem, for he ate continually at the king's table. And he  
was lame in both his feet. Notice, Mephibosheth was still lame.

There were still difficulties he had to face because of his  
condition, even though he's swimming in a sea of God's grace,  
Mephibosheth won't be healed until heaven.

You and I are the same way aren't we? We all have trials and  
tribulations, there's a certain measure of lameness, weather  
physically or emotionally in each one of our lives. And God has  
appointed that walk by faith through that, until we're made new in  
His image one day in heaven.

David's grace to Mephibosheth is a wonderful picture of God's  
grace to us. We are Mephibosheth.

We were hiding, poor, weak, lame, and fearful before our King  
comes to us.

We were separated from our King because of our wicked  
ancestors, and our deliberate choices.

We had separated ourselves from the King because we didn't  
know Him or His love for us.

Just like David, our King sought us out before we sought Him.

The King's kindness is extended to us for the sake of another.

The King's kindness is based on a covenant.

The King returns to us what we lost in hiding from Him.

The King returns to us more than what we lost in hiding from Him.

We are received as sons and daughters at the King's table, with access to the King and fellowship with Him.

And we deserve none of it!!!!