

INTRODUCTION

Hey, if you have your Bibles, and I hope you do,

- please grab them and turn to 2 Samuel chapter 7.
- You can open a phone or a tablet to 2 Samuel 7,
- or you can use one of the hard-backed black bibles
 - under every single chair.
 - You'll find 2 Samuel 7 on page **259**.

INTRODUCTION: NEW TESTAMENT ONLY

You ever met someone who says they're a New Testament only Christian?

Like they avoid the Old Testament cause all they need is the New?

- I've met people like this, and frankly,
 - Sometimes I get pushback on how we preach...
 - through the Old Testament here at Fathom.
- People say things like,
 - *"I only read the New Testament,*
 - *because I'm under the new covenant,*
 - *and I don't need all those stories,*
 - *and history,*
 - *and laws and stuff...*
 - *I just need Jesus.*
 - *Why are you spending so much time...*
 - *on these stories about David?*
 - *Just get us back to the New Testament, Pastor."*

And listen, I love you...but that's way off!

It actually goes against the very words of the New Testament!

Jesus himself said this:

SLIDE MATTHEW 5:17

[17] “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.

Jesus didn't come to do away with the Old Testament.
Or in 2 Timothy 3:16 Paul says this:

SLIDE 2 TIMOTHY 3:16

[16] All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness

Now, what scripture is Paul referring to?

- THE OLD TESTAMENT!
- That's the scriptures they had at that point!

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ILLUSTRATION: SHARPIE

Like, I once knew a gal...

- who when she read certain verses in her Bible...
 - that she didn't like...
- she'd get out a black sharpie marker...
- and she'd black out those verses.

Yo, that's a problem!

So, she'd read,

- “Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.”
 - Have you seen my husband?
 - Black that thing out.

Or she'd read about the Old Testament wars and murders and such...

- Black it out!

Or she'd see:

- Exodus 22: "Do not allow a sorceress to live."
 - Which she was cool with...
 - until she started getting into Harry Potter...
 - and then she's like... "Where's that sharpie?!?"

EXPLAIN: BIBLE GUY

But here's where we land at Fathom,

- and really, all Protestant Christians affirm this belief...
- we believe in the AUTHORITY OF THE SCRIPTURE.

The 66 books that make up our Bible are our authority!

The truth of God's Word does not change!

- Times change.
- What's popular changes.
- What's politically correct changes...like by the minute.

But God's Word does not change.

And listen, I'm a Bible guy.

- I believe it cover-to-cover.
- I think the whole thing's inspired by God.
- I think the whole thing is about Jesus.
- I even think the leather's genuine.

And I love me some New Testament.

- We preach through the Gospels every Summer...
- and the New Testament Epistles every Fall.
 - But every Spring we spend time in the Old Testament!

And here's my premise for today:

SLIDE You can't fully understand Jesus without understanding David.

TRANSITION

Today in 2 Samuel chapter 7 I'm gonna show you...

- why we're NOT "New Testament-Only-Christians"...
- No! We're people of the ENTIRE book!

And honestly,

- this chapter might be one of the best link-ups...
- for how we are to understand the relation...
- between Old and New Testaments.

According to scholar Walter Brueggemann, this chapter, *"occupies the dramatic and theological center of the entire Samuel corpus."*

So, let's get after it!

2 Samuel 7 starting in verse 1:

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2 SAMUEL 7:1-3

[1] Now when the king lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, [2] the king said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent." [3] And Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you."

EXPLAIN: CONTEXT

Alright, so here's where David's at...

- in chapter 5 he is finally anointed King of Israel.
- David then sacks the city of Jerusalem,
 - and sets it up as the capital city of Israel.
- Then the king of Tyre, a pagan nation, wants to honor David,
 - and so he sends him stockpiles of cedar...
 - and carpenters to help build him a palace.
- He then whooped-up on Israel's arch-enemies, the Philistines,
 - a couple of times...
 - just evidencing that Israel was here to stay.
- And finally, last week we saw...
 - that David brought the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem,
 - he set up the tabernacle,
 - and now the presence of God...
 - Is back with the people of God.

So, things are going well for our boy David.

EXPLAIN: TABERNACLE

And now he's sitting in his cedar house in Jerusalem,

- when he notices the tabernacle.

Now, remember what Pastor Kyle told us last week.

- The tabernacle was the tent that housed the Ark.
- And this tent was hundreds of years old at this point.

Anyone got an old tent in their garage?

- You ever just open up an old tent?
 - Just pop that thing up?
- What does that thing smell like?
 - Listen, it's not good!

Well, David's in his palace,

- and he sees God's tent,
- and so, he tells his buddy, the prophet Nathan,
 - *"This ain't right!*
 - *I shouldn't live here...*
 - *and God live in a tent."*
- Implying that he wanted to build God a permanent home.

And Nathan responds like I would respond if you wanted...

- to just drop a million on us here at Fathom...
- so we can get a bigger building...
 - *"Do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you!"*

Verse 4:

2 SAMUEL 7:4-7

[4] But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, [5] "Go and tell my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: Would you build me a house to dwell in? [6] I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling. [7] In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?""

POINT 1: INCARNATIONAL PRINCIPLE

So, Nathan was like, *“Go for it, David!”*

But God tells Nathan,

- *“Woah, woah, woah! Hold your horses.*
- *I never asked for a house of cedar!*
- *I’ve always been a God who was WITH my people.”*

This is known as the INCARNATIONAL principle.

It’s my first point: our God is **SLIDE INCARNATIONAL**

- So, when Christians think about the incarnation,
- our minds normally go to Jesus Christ’s incarnation.

This is what we celebrate at Christmas.

- The incarnation of Christ is where...
 - the divine Son of God...
 - became the human called Jesus Christ.
- It’s when God the Son...put on flesh!

But, **THE INCARNATION is only part of the INCARNATIONAL PRINCIPLE.**

- All through the scriptures we find the principle...
- that God’s desire WAS ALWAYS to be WITH his people.

EXAMPLES

In Genesis, when God makes a covenant with Abraham...
here’s what he says:

SLIDE GENESIS 28:15

[15] Behold, I am **with you** and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land. For I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.”

In Exodus, from the burning bush, God says this to Moses:

SLIDE EXODUS 3:12

[12] He said, “But I will be **with you**, and this shall be the sign for you, that I have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain.”

And after Moses leads the Israelites for 40 years in the desert,

- God allows his successor, Joshua,
- to lead God’s people into the promised land, saying this:

SLIDE JOSHUA 1:9

[9] Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is **with you** wherever you go.”

TRANSITION

BLANK SLIDE And on and on I could go.

Our God is INCARNATIONAL.

So, God tells Nathan,

- *“I never asked for a house of cedar,*
- *I moved WITH my people!”*

And God goes on in verse 8:

2 SAMUEL 7:8-11

[8] Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that

you should be prince over my people Israel. [9] And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. [10] And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, [11] from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house.

POINT 2: INDEPENDENCE

Eugene Peterson, of this text, says,

*“I think David was just about to cross over a line...
from being full of God to full of himself.”*

And it's my second point:

- Our God is INCARNATIONAL...
- But our tendency is toward **SLIDE INDEPENDENCE**

You see, more often than not...

- Christians will pass the tests of adversity.
- But they will very often fail the test of prosperity.
 - When you get strong...
 - when you begin to think that you have all you need...
 - that's when things begin to fall apart.
- When you begin to think,
 - *“I've got this!”*
- Is when you're most susceptible to being shown,
 - *“Nah...I ain't got this!”*

- We move away from DEPENDENCE on God...
- towards INDEPENDENCE from God.

So, God reminds David...

- of who he was...
- AND where he came from...
- AND who the active mover was.

Did you notice the pattern?

- I took you from the pasture.
- To be prince over MY people.
- I have been with you.
- I have cut off your enemies.
- I will make a name for you.
- I will appoint a place.

APPLICATION

Hey church...

- Never forget where you were when God found you.
- Never forget the grace that he showed to you.
- Never forget how much you owe to that grace.

Do everything you can...

- to stay DEPENDENT on God...
- not INDEPENDENT from God.

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EXPLAIN: HOUSE

But then, I want you to notice the last sentence of verse 11 again:

Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house.

- Now, this is WAY different from how...
- other gods of the ancient world worked.

We know from other historical records from the ancient world...

- that it was typical for a king,
- as he established his reign,
- to build his god a huge temple.

King Tut is a great example.

- He built a big temple for “Amon-Re”
 - a major Egyptian god,
- and Amon-Re said in an Egyptian oracle...
 - that because of this...
 - he would grant King Tut a kingdom...
 - that would span the globe forever.

Didn't exactly work out like that for Tut...

POINT 3: INVERTED

But David is about to do the same thing, and God flips the script.

And I'll make my third point here:

- Our God is INCARNATIONAL...
- But our tendency is toward INDEPENDENCE...
- So, God's Kingdom is **SLIDE INVERTED!**

Man, that's some good alliteration!

God says,

- *“You're not gonna build a house for me.*
- *I'm gonna build a house for you!”*

And this is where following our God is different from every other religion.

In religion the principle is:

- if you build god a house,
 - then god will bless you.
- If you do good for god...he will do good for you.
 - And God help us, that's even what some Christians...
 - mistakenly believe.

But that isn't the message of the Bible...

- hey, not just the New Testament...
- but the Old Testament, too.
 - *"You don't build ME a house," says God...*
 - *"I build YOU a house!"*

God's ways are INVERTED from how the rest of the religious world works!

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APPLICATION

So, God simply says NO to David.

David has a dream to do something and God just tells him "no."

Have you ever had a desire to do something...

- and God just said 'no'?
 - Or 'not now'...
- And you can't figure out why?

You can see here, from this passage, that God has his reasons.

- God said 'no' to David in this passage...
 - because he didn't want people...
 - to make a bigger deal out of David...
 - than they did of God.

Here's a mind-boggling thought:

- Do you ever think maybe God ORDAINS failure in your life...
 - so that you'll make a big deal out of God...
 - and not out of your success?
- Maybe God knows that if you succeed in something...
- you'll find more joy in your success than you do Him?

TRANSITION

That's what happens to David, here.

But David does get a counter-promise from God.

- *"No, you don't get to build me a house...
 - but I'm gonna build you a house...*
- *and here's what it's going to look like."*

Verse 12:

2 SAMUEL 7:12-17

[12] When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall 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 to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men, [15] but my steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. [16] And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever." [17] In accordance with all these words, and in accordance with all this vision, Nathan spoke to David.

EXPLAIN: DYNASTY

So, when David wants to build a house for God,

- he's talking about a literal building.

But God now reveals that the "house" he wants to build for David...

- is a **SLIDE DYNASTY**
- A lineage.
- A kingship.

This is known as the Davidic Covenant.

- There are a number of covenants, or promises,
- from God to his people in the Old Testament.
 - The Abrahamic covenant...
 - had promised a place and a people...
 - for God's kingdom.
 - The Mosaic covenant provided the law of the kingdom.
 - And now the Davidic covenant...
 - provides a human king for the kingdom.

EXPLAIN: DUAL FULFILLMENT

Now, scholars point out that there is a dual fulfillment from this covenant.

This is often how prophecy works in the scriptures.

- There is an immediate meaning,
- and then there is an ultimate one.

The 1st fulfillment of this was David's son, Solomon.

- Solomon would build the most incredible temple of God,
- and the throne of David would be established through him.

And even though Solomon would do some really stupid,

- Saul-like things,
 - like having 700 wives...
 - and worshiping idols...
- God did not strip the throne from him...
 - like he did from Saul.

That IS what's promised here.

But, Solomon is not the ULTIMATE king God had promised.

- He'd be a pretty big disappointment...
 - and ultimately his sons would lose the kingdom...
 - and Israel would be driven out of the land into exile.

We needed another king, greater than Solomon.

- So this promise points through Solomon,
 - beyond him,
- to another descendant of David who would come.
 - He'd be known as the Son of David.
 - He'd be born in the City of David.
 - But he'd be the truer and better David.
- You know I'm talking about Jesus, right?

Here's what Paul says in 2 Corinthians:

SLIDE 2 CORINTHIANS 1:20a

[20] For all the promises of God find their Yes in him.

- Jesus is the ultimate fulfillment of the Davidic Covenant...
- the promise made to David here in 2 Samuel 7.

He is the fulfillment of the "house" God is making for David.

But then, in a crazy link, Jesus is also a real “house” as well...

- so, in John chapter 1 we find these words...
- about the incarnation of the Son of God.

SLIDE JOHN 1:14

[14] And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

And the word translated “dwelt” there is actually the word tabernacle.

- So, the Word (that’s Jesus)...
 - is in the house of David (the dynasty)...
- AND he also became flesh and dwelt (or tabernacled) with us.
 - So, he is also literally the house...
 - where God’s presence dwells!

Don’t you see?

This is why we must study the Old Testament!

- Because **SLIDE** you can’t fully understand Jesus,
 - without understanding David.

TRANSITION

And the rest of this chapter,

- which I do not have time to go into completely,
 - covers David’s beautiful prayer of gratitude...
 - to God for this promise...this covenant.

But let’s just read a few of these amazing verses!

2 SAMUEL 7:18

[18] Then King David went in and sat before the LORD and said, "Who am I, O Lord GOD, and what is my house, that you have brought me thus far?"

2 SAMUEL 7:22

[22] Therefore you are great, O LORD God. For there is none like you, and there is no God besides you, according to all that we have heard with our ears.

2 SAMUEL 7:26

[26] And your name will be magnified forever, saying, 'The LORD of hosts is God over Israel,' and the house of your servant David will be established before you.

CONCLUSION

And next week, we'll see what all this gratitude leads to. So, my friends, how do we apply this?

Well, just one big point for this morning:

SLIDE W/PADS SALVATION IS BY GRACE ALONE

God's salvation is given to us as a gift, not as something we earn.

- We don't build a house for God...
- He builds a house for us!

This is the part of Christianity where most people stumble.

- It's a gift.
 - It's not earned.
 - It's not deserved.
 - It's GIVEN.

Salvation is a gift that God gives where God paid all the price.
And there may be no better place in the Old Testament than 2 Samuel 7,

- where we see more strongly...
 - that salvation is NOT a cooperative agreement...
 - it's not a matter what we do for God,
 - but what God has done for us.

So many people ask,

- *"How much do I have to do?"*
- *How often do I need to come to church?*
- *How much do I have to give for God to be happy with me?"*

But that question shows you don't get the Gospel!

Salvation is a gift of grace!

- God doesn't love you because of your performance...
 - but because of his promise...
- and believing the promise is the only way...
 - you'll ever be able to do performance correctly.

ENDING

Oh, church, do you know this?

- Have you believed this?
- Have you surrendered all to this God?

Jesus has already done it, and he gives it as a gift to all who will receive.

- Christianity is not about you living a good life...
 - and then giving your record to God,
- but Jesus living the perfect life...
 - and then giving His record to you, as a gift.

It's not about you building him a house...

it's about moving into the house he has already built for you.

And that house is Jesus!

Have you crossed the line of belief...of faith in Jesus?

- If not, you can do so today.
- You can pray, in your heart, to Jesus.
- You just say,
 - *“Jesus, I give you my life.*
 - *I want you as my king!*
 - *I come into your house.”*

Listen, if you pray that today...Jesus will come into you AND be with you.

- I pray you believe what the entirety of the Bible teaches...
- that all the promises of God find their yes in the Son of David.

Let's pray.

RESPONSES:

Well, every week at Fathom we respond in 4 ways:

- COMMUNION – THE LORD’S SUPPER
- GIVING TITHES & OFFERINGS – fathomchurch.org/give
- PRAYER - fathomchurch.org/prayer
- SINGING

So, I’m going to read the Words of Institution from the Apostle Paul, we’ll take communion, and then we’ll sing:

1 CORINTHIANS 11:23–26 – WORDS OF INSTITUTION

[23] For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, [24] and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, “This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” **TAKE**

[25] In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” **TAKE**

[26] For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

Love you church, let’s stand and sing together.

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