

# His House Is Forever

2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel 7:1-17

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When you hear the word dynasty, what comes to mind?



Mulkey and the lady tigers? Jay Johnson and our college world series champs? In June of 2021, when Johnson replaced Mainieri as the next head of coach of the men's baseball, Johnson said, "I am humbled and honored to be the head baseball coach at LSU and serve as the steward of the next generation of national champions." Aren't we thrilled that in only two years that next generation of champions began this past month in Omaha!

Maybe you need a little more time to have elapsed and successive passing of power to consider something a dynasty. We aren't like China which had the Hun and Tang Dynastical powerhouses, but we do have names like Rockefeller, Walton, S.C. Johnson, and Marriott. Money isn't the only thing that makes a dynasty. In that same era, Andrew Carnegie gave away an estimated \$350 million (during his lifetime) to build over 2,500 libraries and establish five major philanthropic organizations. And still today, some are choosing to shape the trajectory of their family dynasty by giving away the majority of their wealth. In 2010, Bill Gates and Warren Buffett created TheGivingPledge to challenge others to join them as they gave away their wealth during their lifetime. Now Gate's three children might have said, "What Mom and Dad, you're doing what with your money?" But consider what character traits are being woven into those three kids and their heirs knowing what their patriarch had done.

You and I might not have the billions required to sign TheGivingPledge or consider ourselves the patriarchs or matriarchs of a dynasty, but we can think about the legacy we are leaving to our children.

Today's text is the key passage known as the Davidic Covenant. As Christians, the Davidic Covenant is one of the major covenants that God makes with man, helping us understand God's story of redemption through a Savior. This passage is epic in its importance of the unfolding of Jesus Christ as the Messiah who will reign on God's throne. But as momentous and majestic are the promises given to David, the story of hardships that this soon-to-be father and his heirs will endure is as momentous and massive. David has the lofty promise that his heir will reign, but he also has the day-to-day experience of a family that is full of interpersonal hardships and the pain that comes from family dysfunction.

For most of us, family dynamics are some of the most difficult and tender to navigate. Even with the promises of God, I have walked with several parents as they grieve broken relationships with children. I've walked with too many as they mourn the

loss of relationship with a sibling over addictions. Family fallouts hits close to me personally. I have an uncle who was deeply grieving over Father's Day because his adult sons are not speaking to him. Even though he was at every sporting event and cheered on their blossoming careers, there is a lack of connection between them which has led my cousins to sever ties with their father. Now he feels that he has failed as a father. Relating as broken people, in broken families, in a broken world can simply be really hard; that is why the promises of God are all the more imperative to understand and cling to.

Today we are going to glean from 2nd Samuel how the promises of God hold fast even when hardships from our flaws and the world's attacks inflict heavy consequences. Therefore, we must trust God to fulfill what he has promised and put our hope in his provision. We are going to see this from three main aspects. First, because God's promises have immediate and eternal implication, we must expect them. Second, because deviation from God's promises happen, we shouldn't be surprised. And third, because God's love and promises are steadfast, we should entrust our lives and the lives our loved ones to them.



1. God's promises have immediate and eternal implications, expect them.

2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel 7:8 "Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, 'Thus says the Lord of hosts, I have...I will.'"

Our first point we see from God's Word this morning is that God's promises have immediate and eternal implications. Many of us when we read this passage quickly jump to the eternal implications because we learned early on in Sunday School that Jesus reigns in heaven. But before we jump to that amazing reality, I want us to consider the immediate landscape where these promises fall for David.

David is enjoying unprecedented peace and security, he's made himself a palace made of fine cedar and God is still dwelling in tent, so he wants to build a beautiful, permanent dwelling place for God. Four important events that have happened leading to this point. 1. Civil war w/ Saul has ended. It was a holy war as both camps saw their man as God's anointed king. 2. David captures Jerusalem from the Jebusites - reestablishing it as the political capital. If you're going to have a unified land, you must capture this city as it is the main city in the trade route between Northern and Southern Israel. 3. The ark is brought back to Jerusalem - the ark is the physical and tangible depiction of the presence of God with his people, it is where God meets with his people and enforces the idea that the king of Israel will rule under the direct rule of God. The ark making Jerusalem the spiritual capital of Israel is huge. 4. There is unprecedented peace and security - God gives David's kingdom peace inside and even outside from his enemies. So, David wants to build God a house.

God asks David, "Are you the one to build me a house?" Not only does God explain to David that he was fine traveling with God's people in a tent, but 1st Chronicles also tell us that due to David being a man of war and bloodshed he is unfit to build the temple. God's house is to be a place of prayer, not a trophy to the conqueror. Yet despite the consequences of David's warring actions bringing a refusal for God's building permit, God makes a startling promise to David with many immediate

ramifications.



The Past & Future Tense of God's Promise to David

- What I have done:
- I took you from the pasture, from tending the flock
  - I appointed you ruler over my people Israel
  - I have been with you wherever you have gone
  - I have cut off all your enemies from before you

The prophet Nathan tells David what God says, “Thus says the Lord of hosts, I have....” And then he lists several things. As God gets ready to tell David what he is going to do, he wants to remind David of how faithful he has been to him. He reminds David of how their journey together began, God calling him when he was a young obscure

sheep herder. God reminds David what he has done on his behalf, “I have been with you wherever you have gone and have cut off all your enemies.” With God as the one doing all of the action, he is laying the foundation that David might trust him for what comes next.



The Past & Future Tense of God's Promise to David

- What I will do:
- I will make your name great
  - I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them
  - I will also give you rest from all your enemies.
  - I, the LORD himself will establish house for you

God then says, “I will make your name great and I will provide a place for my people....I will plant them that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more.” Do you hear the echoes of Genesis 15? Just a few hundred years earlier God told David’s forefather, Abraham,

the same basic message. “I will make your name great and give you a land.” (Gen 12:2; 15:7) God is saying as faithful as I was to Abraham, I will be so to you. Now hear what else I’m going to do...., “I am going to give you rest from all your enemies and I will establish a house for you.”



A House – Palace, Temple, Dynasty

<sup>14</sup>Go and tell my servant David, “This is what the LORD says: Are you the one to build me a house to dwell in?”

<sup>15</sup>“The LORD declares to you that the LORD himself will establish a house for you.<sup>16</sup> When your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom.<sup>17</sup> He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.<sup>18</sup> He will be his father, and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with a rod wielded by men, with floggings inflicted by human hands.<sup>19</sup> But my love will never be taken away from him; I took it away from Saul when I removed him from before you.<sup>20</sup> Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.”

God begins a play on words. David already lives in a magnificent house; God isn’t going to make a new cedar palace for him. The word translated house in this passage has three unique nuances. It can mean palace, temple, or dynasty. God tells David that his offspring will build a temple for God’s name, but more importantly God

will begin a dynasty through this offspring, and the throne of his kingdom will be forever.

With this news what is a man to think? When I graduated from school, I’m pretty sure all my dad hoped for me is that he would no longer have to pay my car insurance bills. But David has watched God give him victory over his enemies, unite the kingdom of Israel and now he’s promising that his own flesh will always rule over Israel. With that kind of promise, one can only imagine how immediately it must have impacted David’s parenting. When his son took his first steps, did he think, “One day you will walk up these steps, take my crown, and sit on my throne.” Did David’s chest swell with pride when his son did something noble and think, “Now that is the character of a king!” With all the bloodshed and turmoil David experienced, one can only imagine the delight in raising a son knowing that God has promised his reign will not be thwarted. God’s promise no doubt had an immediate impact on David’s parenting.

We have promises that God has made in scripture for us today as well, so we too must expect that they will have immediate and eternal implications. One of the most famous verses on parenting is Proverbs 22:6, “Train up a child in the way he should go

and when he/she is old they shall not depart from you.” This isn’t saying your kids won’t move out of state to take a job after college. It is saying, this “way” that you have trained your child, the way of walking with the Lord and honoring him above all else, train up your child in this and they will eventually walk in that way with you, and you will enjoy fellowship together. What does this mean practically? When we train our children well, not just barking commands or reciting cliché Christian platitudes, we should expect our kids to want to flee temptation, we should expect our loved ones who profess the name of Christ to live holy and righteous lives. We should expect that our Christian family members to be a light in the darkness. We should expect these things not in a “you’d better perform” kind of way, but expecting these things because God is at work, and he is faithful to his promises.

In our church, we have multi-generational families that faithfully worship together Sunday after Sunday. One of the pastoral assistants that works and worships here is Laura Shaw. She has a passion for inner-city kids and has been mentoring and serving in Buchanan elementary for years. It is no wonder that her daughter, Elizabeth, also has a heart for kids and faithfully serves in our Joyful Noise musicals. Laura has done an excellent job of training up her child, and now as an adult, Elizabeth is also walking in her mom’s way of following Jesus. We need to humbly lean into God and trust his promises to have a far-reaching and present impact on those we love.

Even as I preach that sentiment to myself, I am well aware how scary it really is to trust my loved ones to the Lord and not try to carry them solely on my shoulders.



2. Deviation from God's promises happens, do not be surprised.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel 7:14 "When he commits iniquity..."

The second point we glean from our text is that deviation from God’s promises happens. Therefore, we are not to be caught off guard or be surprised. Concerning David’s offspring whose throne will be established forever, 2 Sam 7:14 states, “When he commits iniquity...” Scripture is based in real life. God doesn’t say to David, “if” your son commits iniquity....he says, “when.”

David was a broken man living in a broken world. He didn’t have one cherished son that would inherit the throne; no, that would have been simple. Instead, David had 19 named sons by 7 named wives and many more unnamed. (1 Chron 3:1-9 - Amnon, Absalom, Adonijah, and Solomon being the standouts born of Jezreel, Maacah, Haggith, and Bathsheba) The story of his children is somewhat a train wreck in slow motion. His son Amnon violates his half-sister Tamar and then his other son Absalom murders guilty Amnon. Even Solomon, who does ascend to rule from David’s throne, was born to the woman that David committed adultery with.

David’s character flaws as a man (When kings were out for war - David was gazing at Bathsheba), and failure as a father (lack of intervention when Amnon commits sin against his sister), leads to resentment in the heart of his children. After a failed coup to usurp his father as King, Absalom is killed causing David to cry out, “Oh my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! Would I have died instead of you! (2 Sam 18:33)



Deviation from God's promises happens, and consequences will follow. David is told his dynasty will reign forever, but he and Solomon each only reigned for 40 years (2 Sam 5:5; 1 Kings 11:42) and by 931BC the kingdom was divided; by 722 the northern kingdom was destroyed and by 586BC Jerusalem in the Southern kingdom was destroyed.

Now there is a Muslim Mosque on the temple mount.

David committed iniquity, Solomon committed iniquity, and so will those that we love. The scriptures are clear none of us are righteous, all of us sin, and we have an enemy that preys on our weaknesses. But God is not surprised by our failures and still chooses to discipline those he loves. We should not be surprised by failure either and still choose to engage our loved ones.

I spent time with my family member that is raising two grade-school aged children. In a quiet and vulnerable moment, he asked me, "Why are my kids bickering non-stop? They didn't used to be this way." I encouraged him that we need to speak to the heart when we parent, not just trying to make the bad action stop. But I also want him to understand that kids have a sinful nature, but God isn't done with them yet. God will discipline because He loves his children, and so should we.

As children leave home, iniquity can leave a heavy desperation on parents. As a campus minister, many times through my 20-year campus career I would have parents contact me saying, "Don't tell my daughter that I've called you, but she is far from the Lord, making terrible decisions, and I want her to turn back to God. Will you reach out to her?" My encouragement was always, "I will. But know, that God cares about the state of where your daughter is even more than you do. He will be faithful to pursue her."

We must put our trust in God when we see our kids wandering from the faith. While ministering at LSU, I observed that parents can't put their sole trust in what school you send them to guarantee their kids spiritual lives. There was rarely a direct correlation, "Oh they went to such-and-such Christian school, of course they are going to get involved and become a leader in our ministry to reach LSU for Christ." Far more, the students at LSU who watched their parents have a genuine relationship with Christ ended up having their own genuine relationship with Christ.

The anguish of a parent's heart over the pain of an adult child is like no other. Right now, 27% of Americans over the age of 18 report being estranged from a family member. Right now, the hashtag #ToxicFamily has 1.9 billion views on TikTok as young adults are estranging themselves from their parents at an alarming rate. Boomers accuse millennials and Gen Z of being too quick to cut contact, while younger generations push back by saying you don't have to tolerate unacceptable behavior just because someone is related to you.<sup>1</sup> I'm aware that family dynamics are incredibly complicated, and that no one should ever have to be subjected to an abusive situation.

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<sup>1</sup> Latifi, Fortesa. "Why So Many Young People Are Cutting Off Their Parents", *Cosmopolitan*, June 22, 2023.

But for normal disfunction, God’s promises do have something to say to the topic of estrangement in a family. Deuteronomy 5:18 says, “Honor your father and your mother, as the Lord your God commanded you, that your days may be long, and that it may go well with you in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.” When there is iniquity and pain in family dynamics, the promise of God that honoring your parents will cause you days to go well in the land is one that should be heeded. Young adults contemplating cutting off your parents, God has sovereignly placed your parents in your life. Even if your parents are domineering, continue to show them love and respect. That might mean you need to establish healthy boundaries with them but stay in the relationship and show love. Parents, scripture clearly teaches that we are not to “exasperate” our children. Only parenting from an emotional distance, without humbly letting your children see your heart can make children feel that you don’t love them. God disciplined David and Solomon because he wasn’t surprised by their iniquity, and we should not shy away from disciplining in love those we love as well.



3. God's love and promises are steadfast, entrust your life and the life of your loved ones to them.

2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel 7:15: "For my steadfast love will not depart from him."

The last and biggest thing I want us to see from our text is that God's love and promises are steadfast, therefore we can entrust our lives and the life of your loved ones to him. In 2nd Samuel 7:15, we read God say of David's offspring after committing iniquity, “But my steadfast love will not depart from him.” David’s offspring, Solomon, started off leading well, but it wasn’t long before his heart worshiped the foreign gods of his foreign wives. Even still, God says of Solomon, “I will be a father to him, and he shall be to me a son.” Israel is referred to in scripture as God’s child, but no other place in the Old Testament is an individual referred to with the intimacy and esteem of God’s son. God’s promise to David was found trustworthy to Solomon, he disciplined him as a son, even when that discipline was hard.

Even though that discipline caused Israel to be divided, carted off into captivity, and have what appeared as no descendant of David on the throne, we see that God’s promises to David did not fail. Luke 1:30-33 states, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. <sup>32</sup> 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, <sup>33</sup> and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” David’s throne is a type. In Jewish understanding, 1st Kings 22:19 shows us that Yahweh rules in heaven from the only throne. Other pagan kings claim to have thrones but there is only one in heaven which reaches to the cosmos and whoever rules from it has sovereignty over the cosmos. When God’s man is on God’s throne, shalom will come! David was the first to sit on the throne, Solomon continued the dynasty after David, then Rehoboam, on down to Hezekiah, and finally Zedekiah. Jesus, proclaimed in Luke 1, is ruling now.

What does this promise mean for our immediate circumstances when a child is far from the Lord, or a beloved sibling has gotten entangled in the depravity of addiction once again? God reminds us, “His steadfast love will not depart.” You and I can grow weary in relationships because we want breakthroughs to happen now and be



$$\text{Growth} = \frac{\text{Grace} + \text{Truth}}{\text{Time}}$$

permanent. But what we see in scripture is that “God will bring to completion the good work he began in us.” (Phil 1:6) In God’s time line, growth is often a function of grace and truth happening over time. Only grace over time won’t produce growth. Continuing to pay rent for a grandson because he

blows all his money on alcohol and would be on the street rarely produces growth. Discipline sometimes must allow someone to hit a very low bottom before they’re truly ready for change.

In the same way, conveying only truth such as “you should be able to hold down your job” again and again doesn’t produce growth either. May God give us grace and truth over time to see true growth happen.

Here’s the really good news for the eternal implications of God’s promise of steadfast love of those he disciplines. Christ is persevering for the saints. John 10:18 says, “I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.” The beloved of the Lord will not be able to run nor be snatched out of the powerful hand of our savior. Another good news, Christ faithfully pursues those he loves. John 6:39 says, “And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day.” Jesus pursues the lost coin, the lost sheep, and our lost loved ones.

Finally, know this: Christ is seated on David’s throne. I was a wrestler in high school. When you face off with your opponent you shake hands, the ref blows the whistle, and then you lock arms in a tenuous stance trying to find an advantage. Beloved church, Jesus is not standing wrestling the enemy hoping he’ll win. He is seated on the throne of David, a place of authority and power. If things look out of control now, know that God is working ALL things together for good of those who love the Lord, and he is doing so in a place of authority.



At the end of June, we watched an amazing celebration of victory for our LSU Tigers. LSU defeated Florida in dramatic fashion to begin what we certainly hope is a new baseball dynasty. We’ll see if that is true in the coming seasons. What we do know is true is this: Christ is the heir of David’s throne and is ruling with authority in heaven and will one day return to make all

things new. On that day, we won’t be cheering the name of Paul Skenes, or putting Dylan Crews on our shoulders. No, on that day every knee will bow, and tongue confess, Jesus Christ is Lord. Then we will enter the eternal victory celebration of Christ on his throne!