

## A House for God

2 Samuel 7:1-29

January 24, 2010

### Intro

As we come to second Samuel chapter 7, we find that David has been anointed king over all of Israel. At first, he was anointed only over the tribe of Judah, but after a short civil war he is now king over all the tribes of Israel.

The Lord has given him rest on every side, it tells us in verse one. He has defeated the Philistines who had troubled Israel for many years and now the nation is at rest.

At this point, David has even been given a beautiful palace made of cedar. The king of Tyre sent craftsmen and a great supply of cedar from the famous trees of Lebanon as a gift from one king to another.

That is the background that brings us to the events of chapter 7. David was sitting in his beautiful cedar palace and it occurred to him one day that this wasn't right. He said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells within tent curtains."

In other words, David wants to build a house for God. This chapter has great spiritual significance because it becomes the background for the prophetic events that unfold in the rest of the Scriptures. In fact, the ministry of Jesus Christ can be traced directly back to the unfolding events of 2 Samuel 7.

There is also a lot of personal application for each of us because David's heart becomes a great example to us, and God's response to David is filled with promises that affect us today.

### **I. What Do You Want to Do for God?**

- 1 David has a desire in his heart to do something great for God. He realizes that he has been greatly blessed by God's hand and so he wants to do something great for God.
- 2 This is what separates David from others. Clearly, we never saw this desire in Saul.
- 3 But this should be our heart for God as it was David's. When we realize how much we have received from God's hand, it should cause us to desire to do something for him. David's desire was to do something great.
- 4 This is a great example for us because many people instead have the attitude, "How little can I do for God and still have him accept me?"

#### A. We respond to God doing great things for us

- 5 God takes the initiative. He reaches out to us first. God took David from following after the sheep to ruling over the nation of Israel. (verse 8)

**I John 4:19, We love Him because He first loved us. NKJV**

- 1 If God didn't reach out to us we would still be in our sins and would be without God and without hope in this world.

**Ephesians 2:12-13, remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.**

- 2 There are several places in scripture where we see that God reaches out to us....
- 3 In Revelation 3:20 Jesus said to the church in Laodicea, *"I stand at the door and knock and if anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him and him with Me."*
- 4 This is an important theme that we must understand from the Scriptures. God takes the initiative and we respond to him; ***not the other way around.***
- 5 We don't worship God in order to obtain his favor. We worship him because he has already placed his favor upon our lives.

**Illus -** Contrary to what can be seen on many Christian television stations, we don't give to God out of our finances so that he would bless us tenfold. We give out of the first fruits of what God has given us as recognition that he has already blessed our lives.

B. But what if God says no?

- 6 When David first spoke his heart to Nathan, he responded, "Go, do all that in your mind to do."
- 7 But Nathan had spoken out of turn. He hadn't asked God first, so that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan that he should tell David the answer was "no."
- 8 Now it's important to understand that David's heart was in the right place. He wanted to do something to honor God in a great way. It may be hard to understand why God would say, "no" if your heart was in the right place.

**2 Chronicles 6:8-9, "But the Lord said to my father David, 'Because it was in your heart to build a house for My name, you did well that it was in your heart. Nevertheless you shall not build the house...'"**

- 9 Now, if our motives were not right, there's no question but that God would say,

"no."

**James 4:2-3, You do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures.**

- 1 It's important that we respond with the right heart if God says no.
- 2 Many people don't like hearing "no." And our flesh wants to respond by taking it personally, by sulking, or by being resentful.
- 3 It's very important for us to respond well if God says no. Why??? Because... if God says, "no..."

C. Then God has something better

- 10 I believe this is an important spiritual principle that we need to remember for our own maturity and strength of faith.
- 11 If God says "no" to us, there is a reason and that reason is always the same; because what God has for us is better.

**Illus - Last week I mentioned that if we would just trust God we would find that God would bless us in far greater ways that we can bless ourselves.** As an illustration of that point I told the story of how God provided miraculously for all the years of bible college I needed to become a pastor. Well another interesting story developed while I was in bible college. My former partner in the restaurant asked me if I would take a year off to help him open a new restaurant....

**Illus - I heard another "no" from God when I applied to become a missionary on the ship Doulos. I even interviewed with the captain of the ship. God's "no" was clear, but what a great lesson.**

- 12 God responded through Nathan and said to David, "You wanted to build a house for me, but instead, I will build a house for you." (verse 11)
- 13 What God was promising David was that He would raise up for him a descendent to sit on his throne forever. Notice in verse 16, "Your house and your kingdom shall endure before Me forever; your throne shall be established forever."
- 14 David rightly understood this to be a prophecy that the coming Messiah would be called the son of David.
- 15 Here David wanted to do something great for God, but instead God promised to

do something great for David because of what was in David's heart.

- 16 This promise to David becomes a significant part of the unfolding of future prophecy and is quoted many times in the scriptures that follow from this point.

**Isaiah 9:6-7 The government will be on the shoulders of the son of David.**

**Luke 1:31-32, "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David;"**

## II. That's Why He is a Great God

- 1 In verses 18 and following we read of David's response, not only to God saying to him "no," but also to the great promises God gave to him as well.

### A. Put yourself in the right perspective

- 1 In verse 18 we see that David went in and sat before the Lord.
- 2 That in itself is awesome picture for me. David heard God's "no" and the other promises as well and his response was to go in and sit before the Lord.
- 3 But what David said to the Lord really shows his heart. "Who am I, O Lord God, and what is my house, *that you have brought me this far?*"
- 4 *David knew that God was right.* He was just a simple shepherd following after the sheep and it *was* God who made him ruler over Israel.
- 5 *David knew that God was right;* God had been with him wherever he had gone.

**Illus – And David had been in some very hard places. God never promised to keep us out of difficulty, but he did promise to be with us through every trial.**

**Psalm 34:17, 19, The righteous cry, and the Lord hears and delivers them out of all their troubles... Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all.**

**Psalm 23:4, Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.**

- 1 When we realize how awesome God is, it puts us in a right perspective.

**Isaiah 40:12, Who has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand, And marked off the**

**heavens by the span, And calculated the dust of the earth by the measure, And weighed the mountains in a balance And the hills in a pair of scales?**

2 “Who am I?” is a great question. But the answer is just as amazing.

**Psalm 8:4, 6, 9, What is man that You take thought of him, and the son of man that You care for him?... You make him to rule over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet... O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth!**

B. You are God’s house today

6 God’s promise to David was that David’s son would build a house for God. Jesus is David’s son and we are the house that he is building.

7 When you step back and take a longer view you realize that the temple was only a shadow of something far greater.

8 Going back to the Garden of Eden when Adam walked with God in the cool of the evening, that's been God's heart all along- relationship.

9 He was with God in the wilderness and He was with Israel in the Temple, but Jesus became the fulfillment of God’s heart when he became, Emmanuel – God with us.

10 God is still with us and walks with us and in even nearer still because He has now declared that you are I the temple of the Holy Spirit.

11 We are the temple where God dwells today!!

**1 Corinthians 6:19, Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?**

**1 Peter 2:5, you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.**

1 And in the last days there will be no need of a temple...

**Revelation 21:22-23, I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God has illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb.**