

A Covenant Promise of Hope

Through His covenant promises, God points us to the hope of the gospel.



GOD'S STORY
THE TRANSFORMATION FOR ADULT LIFEGROUPS

2 Samuel 7:1-16

June 21, 2020

(2 Samuel 7:1-16) ¹After the king was settled in his palace and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ²he said to Nathan the prophet, "Here I am, living in a house of cedar, while the ark of God remains in a tent." ³Nathan replied to the king, "Whatever you have in mind, go ahead and do it, for the Lord is with you." ⁴But that night the word of the Lord came to Nathan, saying: ⁵"Go and tell my servant David, 'This is what the Lord says: Are you the one to build me a house to dwell in?' ⁶I have not dwelt in a house from the day I brought the Israelites up out of Egypt to this day. I have been moving from place to place with a tent as my dwelling. ⁷Wherever I have moved with all the Israelites, did I ever say to any of their rulers whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, 'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?'" ⁸"Now then, tell my servant David, 'This is what the Lord Almighty says: I took you from the pasture, from tending the flock, and appointed you ruler over my people Israel. ⁹I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men on earth. ¹⁰And I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed. Wicked people will not oppress them anymore, as they did at the beginning ¹¹and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders over my people Israel. I will also give you rest from all your enemies.'" ¹²The Lord declares to you that the Lord himself will establish a house for you: ¹²When 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. ¹³He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. ¹⁴I 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. ¹⁵But my love will never be taken away from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. ¹⁶Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever."

COMMUNITY – CONNECTING WITH ONE ANOTHER

- **What is something you're hoping for right now?**
- **What are the determining factors in whether or not that hope will one day be realized?**
- **Spiritually speaking, would you say your hope in the Lord is primarily based on something He will do in the future or something He has already done? Explain.**

Sometimes we think, "Things will be better if..." Our circumstances determine our view of success in life. In today's passage, we'll find that King David hoped to leave a legacy. He thought that legacy depended on something he could do for the Lord. What he discovered, however, was that the entirety of his legacy and hope rested in something the Lord was doing for him and for all people.

CONTENT – EXPLORING GOD'S STORY

Have a volunteer read 2 Samuel 7:1-7

- **In your own words, summarize what happened in these verses.**
- **Based on verses 1-2, where would you say David was placing his hope?**
- **Obviously, it's not wrong to want to do something on earth to honor the Lord. Why, then, did God reject David's plans?**

David felt bad that he lived in luxury, but God's dwelling was still a tent. He understood the irony in that and wanted to build God a more proper dwelling place. Even Nathan the prophet agreed it was a good idea. However, this was not God's plan. God hadn't asked David to build him a house. It was God who had destroyed their enemies and made the name of Israel great, and it wasn't because He resided in an earthly palace.

In fact, the moveable tent He had instructed Israel to construct had moved with them and represented the glory of God to the nations they encountered along the way. God would build David's house, not the other way around.

- **What are some ways Christians today might move ahead of God's plans? What does this reveal about where we place our hope?**

Have a volunteer read 2 Samuel 7:8-16

- **What does it tell you about God that He didn't get mad or shut David down altogether, but lovingly told David what He would do through his family?**
- **Through whom is David's house and kingdom "established forever"?**

God made covenants with Noah, Abraham, and Moses before establishing a covenant with David. Because God kept His covenant with Noah, sinners continued to be born and inhabited earth. Because God kept His covenant with Abraham, his descendants became the nation of Israel. Because God kept His covenant with Moses, the nation of Israel settled in the promised land and, in doing so, set the stage for establishing a king to rule the Israelites. David was that king. God established a covenant with David, a covenant so weighty that David's lineage included the future King of Kings, Jesus Christ.

- **Why do you think God told His people of Jesus' coming centuries before His arrival?**
- **Read Luke 1:30-33, Luke 4:18-21, Revelation 19:11-16, and Revelation 21:1-4. What words or phrases describe the type of ruler Jesus is and the type of kingdom He is establishing?**

The promise that Jesus the Messiah would someday come to earth and set people free from the bondage of sin was given to David and his people through a covenant made about 1,000 years prior to Jesus' birth. Throughout Scripture, we read many texts that point to Jesus as the fulfillment of this covenant promise. For the people of Israel, this promise was one they could put their hope in when they struggled to understand God's plans for them and the oppression they continually faced as His people. The same remains true for us, as we cling to the promise that Jesus will one day return to fully and finally establish His kingdom here on earth.

- **What promises of God give you hope and assurance when life doesn't go like you thought it would?**

COMMISSION – ENGAGING IN GOD'S STORY

- **Are there any ways you might be currently moving ahead of God and His plans? Explain.**
- **As we live together as followers of Christ, what are some ways we can express our appreciation for King Jesus?**
- **How does the practice of continual gratitude to Jesus for what He has done help you remember where your hope is found in your daily circumstances and future?**

PRAYER: Thank God for His covenant promises that throughout history have pointed to the hope you have in Jesus. Pray that He would give you a desire for this King and His kingdom in your heart, that you would live every day eagerly awaiting the joy that is to come when He comes and brings the kingdom to us in its fullness.

CONTINUE TO JOURNEY THROUGH GOD'S STORY

Bible Reading Plan:

DAY 1 – Psalm 51
DAY 2 – 2 Samuel 24; Psalm 24
DAY 3 – Psalm 1, 19
DAY 4 – Psalm 103, 119:1-48
DAY 5 – Psalm 119:49-128

KEY VERSE: Psalm 1:1-2

H.E.A.R. Method:

Highlight a verse or two.
Explain what the text means.
Apply the verse to your life.
Respond to God.

Our team has put together Bible study resources to encourage and inspire you as you engage in God's Story. Visit chetscreek.com/gods-story for videos, study guides, and more.

OUR VISION

To be a church
for the unchurched,
here and around the world.

ADULT LIFEGROUPS

Gospel-centered communities that aim to KNOW
GOD together and BE CHANGED by Him in a
way that will CHANGE THE WORLD.

7:1-2. Some time after David was settled in his palace and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies, the king had a conversation with the prophet Nathan. David indicated that he was uncomfortable with the fact that the earthly throne of the Lord of the universe was relegated to a tent while he, a servant of the Lord, was living in a palace of cedar. David wanted to eliminate the disparity by building a sacred temple for God.

7:3. Nathan assumed that since the Lord was with David (1 Sam. 16:13; 18:12, 28), the king's thoughts in this matter must have been inspired by God. So he advised David to go ahead and carry out whatever he had in mind.

7:4-7. The same night, after Nathan had spoken with David, the word of the Lord came to the prophet with a response to the king's concerns. Scholars have noted that God's words to Nathan here constitute the theological centerpiece of Joshua through 2 Kings. The 197 Hebrew words in God's revelation to Nathan provide the primary justification for David's family line ruling over Old Testament Israel for more than 400 years, and they lay the foundation for the coming of the Messiah.

God's answer began in an affirming way as the Lord called David my servant, an acknowledgment of the king's relationship with God. The message then provided what must have seemed at first to be a dose of bad news.

Though phrased as a rhetorical question, the meaning was clear: David would not be the one to build an earthly house for the Lord to dwell in (see 1 Chron. 17:4). But Israel's king should not take this rejection personally. God had never dwelt in a house from the day he brought Israel out of Egypt right up until David's day. What's more, the Lord had never asked any of Israel's rulers to build him a house of cedar.

7:8-9. Through the prophet Nathan the Lord reminded David that he had guided the king's career from its humble beginnings to the present. Referring to himself as the Lord Almighty, a name that emphasizes God's power over all the forces of the universe, the Lord affirmed that he was the one who took David from the pasture and from following the flock to make him ruler over Israel. David's successes resulted from the fact that God had been with him wherever he had gone. God, and not David's sword, had cut off all his enemies from before him. And that same God would catapult David into the ranks of the great patriarch Abraham, making his name great, like the names of the greatest men of the earth (see Gen. 12:2).

7:10-11a. Not only would the Lord bestow blessings on David, he would also bless David's nation. True to the promise God gave to the patriarch Abraham generations earlier (Gen. 12:7; 13:14-15; 15:18-21), God would provide a place for his people Israel, planting them in the land so they could have a home of their own. With land would come justice and freedom from foreign oppressors. People would not oppress them anymore. As this happened the Lord himself would give David rest from all his enemies.

7:11b-13. The heart of God's covenantal promises to David began at this point as the Lord declared that he would establish a house—that is, a dynasty—for David. Thus, after David's days on earth were over, the Lord would raise up one of David's offspring to succeed him. David's destiny thus contrasts sharply with that of King Saul, whose family line was virtually wiped out by the Philistines, traitorous Israelite soldiers, and the Gibeonites (1 Sam. 31:2; 2 Sam. 4:5-6; 21:8-9). God would establish the kingdom of David's son on the earth. Though David was denied the privilege of building a temple for God, his son Solomon would build a house to honor God's name (1 Kgs. 6:1).

7:14-16. The favored son of David would be granted a unique relationship with the Lord. God would be his father, and David's heir would be counted as the Lord's son. This concept is expressed later in two psalms (Pss. 2:7; 89:27) and reflects the understanding that David's royal descendant would have a unique relationship with God. Christian interpretation—based on Jesus' own self-understanding (Luke 22:70; John 10:36)—views this verse as a key prophecy relating to Jesus (Rom. 1:4; 2 Cor. 1:19; Heb. 4:14).

On the one hand, David's son would be the recipient of privileges not accessible to other Israelites. On the other hand, as God's adopted son, he would also be disciplined by God. The Lord would punish him when he did wrong (Heb. 12:7). God would make these punishments painful and humiliating, using floggings inflicted by the rod of men. Even so, God's fatherly love would never be taken away from this one, with the result that David's dynasty would not end as Saul's had. David's house and his kingdom—that is, Israel—would endure forever before the Lord. The concluding sentence in verse 16 restates (see v. 13) God's remarkable promise that David's throne would be established forever (1 Kgs. 9:5; Ps. 89:4,29,36; 132:12; Isa. 9:7; 16:5), thus confirming its certainty. These divine commitments would be celebrated in song by the Israelites (Ps. 89:4,35-36); their ultimate fulfillment would occur in Jesus Christ (Luke 1:32-33; Heb. 1:8).