

2Samuel 7:1 ¶ And it came to pass, when the king sat in his house, and the LORD had given him rest round about from all his enemies;

2Samuel 7:2 That the king said unto Nathan the prophet, See now, I dwell in an house of cedar, but the ark of God dwelleth within curtains.

2Samuel 7:3 And Nathan said to the king, Go, do all that *is* in thine heart; for the LORD *is* with thee.

One day while David was sitting in his house enjoying the peace that the LORD had given him from all his enemies, David shared something that was on his heart with the prophet Nathan. He stated a couple of obvious facts; he lived in a house made of cedar, the most valuable of woods, while the ark of God occupied a tent. Nathan didn't have to hear anymore; he recognized the implication—that's just not right. The prophet told David to go ahead and act on what was in his heart because the LORD "is with you." In other words, God would bless his actions to rectify the situation.

2Samuel 7:4 ¶ And it came to pass that night, that the word of the LORD came unto Nathan, saying,

2Samuel 7:5 Go and tell my servant David, Thus saith the LORD, Shalt thou build me an house for me to dwell in?

2Samuel 7:6 Whereas I have not dwelt in *any* house since the time that I brought up the children of Israel out of Egypt, even to this day, but have walked in a tent and in a tabernacle.

2Samuel 7:7 In all *the places* wherein I have walked with all the children of Israel spake I a word with any of the tribes of Israel, whom I commanded to feed my people Israel, saying, Why build ye not me an house of cedar?

That night the LORD spoke to Nathan and told him to go and tell David that he was wrong; he could not build a house for the LORD (the ark of His presence). He was to tell David that the LORD had walked in a tent and tabernacle ever since bringing the Israelites out of Egypt. Not once had He complained or asked the men whom He had appointed as the spiritual leaders of the people of Israel why they had not built Him a house of cedar.

2Samuel 7:8 Now therefore so shalt thou say unto my servant David, Thus saith the LORD of hosts, I took thee from the sheepcote, from following the sheep, to be ruler over my people, over Israel:

2Samuel 7:9 And I was with thee whithersoever thou wentest, and have cut off all thine enemies out of thy sight, and have made thee a great name, like unto the name of the great *men* that *are* in the earth.

The LORD instructed Nathan to go and remind "my servant" David that He had chosen him, a lowly shepherd, to rule over His people Israel. What a beautiful title the LORD gave David—His servant. In the Hebrew it is a word that recognizes David as a willing servant and worshipper of the LORD.

The LORD continued by reminding David how He had always been with him and protected him from his enemies and established him as one who would go down in history as one of the greatest men on earth. I think that observation is

made in reference to being “great” in God’s eyes in particular.

2Samuel 7:10 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; neither shall the children of wickedness afflict them any more, as beforetime, 2Samuel 7:11 And as since the time that I commanded judges *to be* over my people Israel, and have caused thee to rest from all thine enemies. Also the LORD telleth thee that he will make thee an house.

Nathan was to tell David that the LORD had appointed this place (the land of Canaan) for the people of Israel, God’s people, as a place that they could call their own. He wanted to establish them permanently and protect them from their enemies, very different from their experience during the times of the men whom the LORD had appointed in the past as judges of Israel.

The LORD then declared that He would make David a house—not an actual building, but that he would always have an heir qualified to rule from his throne. He wanted David to know that He was pleased with his heart to honor Him.

2Samuel 7:12 And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom.

2Samuel 7:13 He shall build an house for my name, and I will stablish the throne of his kingdom for ever.

2Samuel 7:14 I will be his father, and he shall be my son. If he commit iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the children of men:

2Samuel 7:15 But my mercy shall not depart away from him, as I took *it* from Saul, whom I put away before thee.

2Samuel 7:16 And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever.

The LORD went on to promise that He would give David a kingdom that would continue on after his death. The son that succeeded him as king (which we know will be Solomon) would build a house in honor of God’s name, and his throne would be established forever. The LORD promised to be a father to him—not like a father, an actual father, just as He is to every believer today. If he sinned, the LORD would chasten him using sinful men (as He so often does). Like a good father, He promised that He would never take His mercy away from him like he did from Saul.

The Lord promised that David’s house and his kingdom would be established forever!

That is an amazing promise. I never understood how that could be and wondered at how it could be explained since the house and throne of David obviously came to an end when Babylon conquered Jerusalem and destroyed the city and the temple. Right now I sadly can’t remember which commentator enlightened me when studying some other scripture. Just because the throne of

David is not being occupied on earth at this moment, doesn't mean that the position is not still valid before the LORD. That throne will once again be occupied when the LORD Jesus, the son of David, returns to establish His earthly kingdom and rule the world from that throne in Jerusalem.

2Samuel 7:17 According to all these words, and according to all this vision, so did Nathan speak unto David.

The writer then notes that Nathan delivered the message to David just as the LORD had commanded him.

2Samuel 7:18 ¶ Then went king David in, and sat before the LORD, and he said, Who *am* I, O Lord GOD? and what *is* my house, that thou hast brought me hitherto?

2Samuel 7:19 And this was yet a small thing in thy sight, O Lord GOD; but thou hast spoken also of thy servant's house for a great while to come. And *is* this the manner of man, O Lord GOD?

2Samuel 7:20 And what can David say more unto thee? for thou, Lord GOD, knowest thy servant.

2Samuel 7:21 For thy word's sake, and according to thine own heart, hast thou done all these great things, to make thy servant know *them*.

After hearing the LORD's message to him from Nathan, David went to sit before the LORD—at the tabernacle that housed the ark is to be presumed—and share his heart with Him.

David shared that he didn't understand why the LORD God chose to bless him and his family so richly. David also recognized that this was but a small thing in the LORD's sight, but the thought of such extended blessing to his family was beyond David's comprehension. He didn't know how to respond. He knew that the LORD knew him intimately. He realized that he had received so much because the LORD was faithful to His word (to make him king as declared by Samuel), and it pleased him to do so and to tell David so.

I couldn't help but think of the words of David in the psalms.

Psalms 8:4 "What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?"

Psalms 144:3 "LORD, what is man, that thou takest knowledge of him! or the son of man, that thou makest account of him!"

2Samuel 7:22 Wherefore thou art great, O LORD God: for *there is none like thee, neither is there any* God beside thee, according to all that we have heard with our ears.

2Samuel 7:23 And what one nation in the earth *is* like thy people, *even* like Israel, whom God went to redeem for a people to himself, and to make him a name, and to do for you great things and terrible, for thy land, before thy people, which thou redeemedst to thee from Egypt, *from* the nations and their

gods?

2Samuel 7:24 For thou hast confirmed to thyself thy people Israel to be a people unto thee for ever: and thou, LORD, art become their God.

David then breaks out in praise and worship of the LORD God, the self-existent, eternal God. Truly there is none like Him; no other being that has all His supernatural attributes. Man has never heard of any being to compare to Him.

This is a truth that the LORD will echo several times throughout scripture, significantly through the prophets Isaiah and Jeremiah.

Isaiah 43:10 "Ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me."

Isaiah 44:8 "Fear ye not, neither be afraid: have not I told thee from that time, and have declared it? ye are even my witnesses. Is there a God beside me? yea, there is no God; I know not any."

Isaiah 45:5 "I am the LORD, and there is none else, there is no God beside me...."

Jeremiah 10:6 "...there is none like unto thee, O LORD; thou art great, and thy name is great in might."

He then thanks God for setting apart Israel as His own possession among the peoples on earth and for providing for their redemption. He had chosen them to testify to the nations of His awesome power and authority by the miracles He performed in delivering them from Egypt and providing for them in every way. His miracles testified to the truth that He is greater than any of the false gods of the nations.

Because it pleased Him, the LORD had confirmed the people of Israel as His special possession forever through His covenant with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

2Samuel 7:25 And now, O LORD God, the word that thou hast spoken concerning thy servant, and concerning his house, establish *it* for ever, and do as thou hast said.

2Samuel 7:26 And let thy name be magnified for ever, saying, The LORD of hosts *is* the God over Israel: and let the house of thy servant David be established before thee.

2Samuel 7:27 For thou, O LORD of hosts, God of Israel, hast revealed to thy servant, saying, I will build thee an house: therefore hath thy servant found in his heart to pray this prayer unto thee.

David goes on to thank the LORD for His promise to bless him and his descendants by establishing his throne for eternity. He calls for the LORD's name to be magnified and honored forever as the people witness the fulfillment of His promise to David. May He be acknowledged and worshipped as "The LORD of hosts," the "God over Israel." He then thanks God again for

establishing the throne of his descendants forever before the LORD. He affirms again that he understands that the LORD has promised to build him a house, a family dynasty; and it is in gratitude for such blessing that he utters this prayer before Him.

2Samuel 7:28 And now, O Lord GOD, thou *art* that God, and thy words be true, and thou hast promised this goodness unto thy servant:

2Samuel 7:29 Therefore now let it please thee to bless the house of thy servant, that it may continue for ever before thee: for thou, O Lord GOD, hast spoken *it*: and with thy blessing let the house of thy servant be blessed for ever.

David closes his prayer once again recognizing the LORD God as the sovereign God—The matchless power and authority throughout creation. He basically affirms his confidence that God’s word is true and looks forward to seeing His promise to David fulfilled.

It is not wrong to come to the LORD armed with His promises to us as recorded in scripture. The LORD is honored by our faith in Him to prove His word true. He is pleased when we have faith in His word.

Hebrews 11:6 “But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”