

THE WHOLE STORY

From Genesis to Revelation

2 Samuel 7

Introduction:

The end of the book of Judges summed up that period of Israel's history by stating that because there was no king in Israel, "everyone did as they saw fit." In many ways, 1 and 2 Samuel give the solution to that problem. However, the real problem was not that Israel did not have a king, but that they forsook the true king, God himself. When studying 1 and 2 Samuel, it is clear that Israel's first two kings were at best a mixed blessing and leaves readers, then and now, looking beyond this period of history for a true king that would lead the people to love, honor and obey God.

The passage begins with a landmark day in Israel's history. They are finally living in their own land, at rest from their enemies, with a faithful king on the throne. This faithful king wants to honor God for these blessings, so he proposes building a temple for God's presence. God responds by giving David a revelation and a promise. David will not build a house for God, God will build a house for David. David responds with a beautiful prayer of gratitude.

This Week's Main Focus:

We think that God expects us to do things *for him*.

However, the entire Christian faith is a response to God's lavish grace *for us*.

Part of God's promise is that one of his sons would reign over God's people forever. David's offspring will build a house for God, reign in Israel, and retain God's steadfast love for him and his people. This is exactly what any Ancient king would have most wanted, to know that his kingly line would remain intact.

We know from later in the Bible's story that Solomon is the one who built the Temple for God's presence. However, Solomon's actions led to some pretty serious consequences for Israel. The nation was divided, the people eventually went into exile, and David's line eventually ceased reigning. Later prophets longed to see the days of David's reign returned, and clung to this promise in 2 Samuel 7 for a future hope. That leads to a fascinating debate: who was the fulfillment of this promise? Was it Solomon, Jesus, both, someone else?

Sermon Response Question:

1) This weekend Pastor Will challenged us on how we think about rest. As we look at 2 Samuel 7 this week, we see that this entire event came about because God had given David rest. Are you regularly experiencing Sabbath rest? If not, what does it reveal about what is most important to you? If so, what steps have you taken to ensure you experience regular Sabbath rest?

Bible Study Questions:

Read 2 Samuel 7:1-29

2) King David is a very important figure in the Bible and God's covenant with him is considered by some to be the pinnacle of the Old Testament. As a group list the different covenants found in the Bible between God and man, where they are found in the Bible and how they relate.

3) David seems to be proposing to do something that honors God at the beginning of this chapter. What is God's response? What reasons does God give for his response?

4) God's promise has three beneficiaries: David, David's Descendant and all of God's people. What does God specifically promise to each?

5) What stands out to you about David's prayer in verses 18-29? What does David praise God for in v. 18-24? What does he as God for in v. 25-29?

Group Application Questions:

6) This passage shows us that it is important to let God build a house for you, rather than building one yourself. Share specific examples of how you have seen and participated in God continuing to build his house, the church, in your small group?

7) God gave David rest and a promise. David's response was praise and adoration. God has given to every believer rest in Christ's work and the promise of life with himself. Is your life and response to God similar to David's? If not, why not? If we prayed like David, what would have to change about our prayers?

Prayer:

- Like David, pray "who am I, Lord, that you have brought me thus far?"
- Declare to God all the ways that he has shown himself to be unlike any other.
- Thank him for saving you, be specific as to what he has saved you from
- Pray that God would be magnified in your life, your family, and your church
- Ask that God would fulfill certain promises that God has made to you.