

Our Mission:

To share Christ with the world
and grow disciples for Jesus



Loving God and Loving Neighbor as Ourselves

Background:

God makes this covenant with King David. It is a covenant that the Gospels draw upon as they offer proof of Jesus' credentials while acknowledging him as a rightful descendant of David and heir to the messianic throne. Yet this text in and of itself has much to ponder. While David wants to build a house for God, God's intent is to build up the house of King David. God blesses David in the same way he blessed Abraham and his descendants even while acknowledging that they will engage in wrongdoing. It would seem once again God's grace is greater than our sin.

Theology Connection:

We know that David had his faults, and yet he is referred to as a man with a heart for God. Might we see David through the lens of simultaneously justified and yet sinner? Do we see in King David both our desire to serve and to honor God, and yet our failure to act in accord with such desires? Yet this is the family out of which God chose to redeem humanity! Perhaps this is a reminder that God has always been working at redemption, knowing that we cannot in any way prove ourselves worthy of such a gift.

Application:

While the emphasis appears to be upon the establishment of the House of David, nonetheless we see in this text that God has no desire to be locked up in some sanctuary but would rather be out among the people. While we may go to worship God in a sanctuary, the promise is that God goes with us, making us a living tabernacle by which God reveals his love for the world. While we might want to designate places as holy, God chooses to anoint each of us, making each of us a holy instrument of his grace.

The Text: Exodus – 2 Samuel 7: 1-17

7 After 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. "The 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."

¹⁷Nathan reported to David all the words of this entire revelation.

ADULT

God makes a promise to David. He didn't have to. He didn't ask anything from David in return. He simply states that as he has shown favor to David, he will continue to be with his descendants forever.

We've experienced the fulfillment of this promise in Jesus. Yet, we are still waiting it would seem, for the finished product.

What do you imagine was David's reaction when Nathan shared God's word, considering it meant giving up his immediate plan to build a Temple? Have you ever had the perfect plan, and then it seems as if the stars just wouldn't align for you? Are you okay with waiting on God's timing or do you try to force the issue? Do you get impatient with God and what God is doing in this world? When that happens, what might you do?

YOUTH

Please read 2 Samuel 7:1-17

What did David want to do for God? Build a house for God right!

Why is it so important to remember that we do not actually do anything for God, but rather He does things through us?

Think about a time where God was working through you...

David may have thought that if he built a house for God, then God would owe him blessings.

In what ways have, you found yourself bargaining with God in this same way?

Let us pray:

Dear God, you promised to make David's household great among the nations. Then you sent your son, Jesus, to transform this world so that all people are one in the great household of God. Show us how to live as your children and please continue to use us and work through us. In Jesus' name, we pray,
Amen.

CHILDREN'S

David felt troubled because he lived in house made of cedar while the "Ark of the Covenant" remained in a tent." David talks with the Prophet Nathan. Nathan gave his blessing to David and said that God was with him. God then spoke to Nathan reminding him that God took David from the pasture with the sheep, to be leader over the people of Israel. God was with David wherever he went and still is! Why make a permanent dwelling for the Ark, when it should be able to move about and go where it is needed. Just like how God was with David wherever he went! Nathan then told David everything that the Lord said.

Think:

1. What should you do when you feel troubled?
2. Does God always answer us in the ways we want? Why or why not?

Remember:

We go through so many things in our lives. We experience times of peace as well as times of unrest. Even when we are going through hard times, we know that God is always with us! He gives us protection and always keeps His promises.

Pray:

Dear God,

Please help us to trust You no matter what! We know that You have an amazing plan for each one of us, and we are very thankful for that. Please keep us on the path that leads to You, so that we may one day live with You forever!
In Jesus' name we pray, Amen!