

## Building a House

### 2 Samuel 7:1-17

We are reading through the Bible like a story, which it is. We are reading it in chronological order. This morning, we are reading a section of scripture from 2 Samuel 7:1-17. This is one of the most important passages of the Old Testament. It's one that helps us put it all together. If you brought your Chronological Bible this reading is from April 24.

**7** When King David was settled in his palace and the Lord had given him rest from all the surrounding enemies, <sup>2</sup> the king summoned Nathan the prophet. "Look," David said, "I am living in a beautiful cedar palace, but the Ark of God is out there in a tent!" <sup>3</sup> Nathan replied to the king, "Go ahead and do whatever you have in mind, for the Lord is with you." Nathan gives the go ahead because this seems reasonable. It makes sense that God would want this, **but not so fast.** <sup>4</sup> But that same night the Lord said to Nathan, <sup>5</sup> "Go and tell my servant David, 'This is what the Lord has declared: Are you the one to build a house for me to live in? <sup>6</sup> I have never lived in a house, from the day I brought the Israelites out of Egypt until this very day. I have always moved from one place to another with a tent and a Tabernacle as my dwelling. <sup>7</sup> Yet no matter where I have gone with the Israelites, I have never once complained to Israel's tribal leaders, the shepherds of my people Israel. I have never asked them, "Why haven't you built me a beautiful cedar house?"

<sup>8</sup> "Now go and say to my servant David, 'This is what the Lord of Heaven's Armies has declared: I took you from tending sheep in the pasture and selected you to be the leader of my people Israel. <sup>9</sup> I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have destroyed all your enemies before your eyes. Now I will make your name as famous as anyone who has ever lived on the earth! <sup>10</sup> And I will provide a homeland for my people Israel, planting them in a secure place where they will never be disturbed. Evil nations won't oppress them as they've done in the past, <sup>11</sup> starting from the time I appointed judges to rule my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. "Furthermore, the Lord declares that he will make a house for you—a dynasty of kings! <sup>12</sup> For when you die and are buried with your ancestors, I will raise up one of your descendants, your own offspring, and I will make his kingdom strong. <sup>13</sup> He is the one who will build a house—a temple—for my name. And I will secure his royal throne forever. <sup>14</sup> I will be his father, and he will be my son. If he sins, I will correct and discipline him with the rod, like any father would do. <sup>15</sup> But my favor will not be taken from him as I took it from Saul, whom I removed from your sight. <sup>16</sup> Your house and your kingdom will continue before

me for all time, and your throne will be secure forever." <sup>17</sup> So Nathan went back to David and told him everything the Lord had said in this vision. 2 Samuel 7:1-17

When David has a pause from all the battles with his enemy and gets some time to look around, he notices something that doesn't seem to be right. Because David loves God and he's a man of action this is his response...King David said, "Let me build something for you."

You can understand why David is saying this. He is the one who is trying to do things right, putting God first. He brings the ark of the covenant back to the center of Israel, their new capital Jerusalem, the city of David. And the presence of God is in a tent while David, a mere man, is in a beautiful mansion.

Think about what David did when they brought the ark back to Jerusalem. Do you remember that? He danced like a fool in the procession. He was worshiping God for being so good to him and being faithful to his people Israel. His wife thought he looked foolish because he took his robe off and acted in a way that wasn't fit for a king in her mind.

Much like that processional, David's motivation for wanting to build a temple for God was to offer worship to God.

From this point on David becomes the gold standard for kings or leaders of Israel. If \_\_\_\_\_ could just be more like David, we could be on top again. He was a legend. How could it get any better than this?

Well, it did. God had something better in mind than a temple. He never asked for one, even though David's motivation was good.

This is very consistent for God's activity with people. The people will have something in mind that they think is good. And often it is something good with good motives behind it, even godly motives. But then God comes up with something beyond what his people could dream of.

Paul describes this aspect of God's character and power in Ephesians. <sup>20</sup> Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think. <sup>21</sup> Glory to him in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations forever and ever! Amen. Ephesians 3:20

More than we could ever ask or think! There are big things you could think of, but you would never ask because that just isn't realistic, but this is saying you couldn't even imagine this so that you could ask.

God was promising David something that was beyond what he could even think to ask for. But here's the kicker. It's even better than what he can imagine even after God gives him this promise. David cannot imagine what it really means for the future. He sees the tip of the iceberg.

I remember when the kids were little, before Deitrich came along, we took a vacation to Myrtle Beach. **Yes, the redneck Riviera.** You see things there that can't be unseen. Folks wearing things that were either **never intended to be swim wear** or they are just **way too small**. You see **burn or tan lines** that will shock you.

**We were so broke** we had no business going on a vacation anywhere unless it was free. But yes, we camped. Hotels were out of the question. Yes, camping is voluntarily lowering your standard of living while on vacation. This made the redneck Riviera **even more red neck** because it was a campground on the beach. In Myrtle Beach there used to be an amusement park right down a block off the beach. It was called The Pavilion. It had a roller coaster and lots of other rides for little kids and bigger kids. And yes, there were carneys there. Our kids, particularly Quinten, wanted to go to the amusement park. He talked about it, but he knew the reality of our situation. We can only take this trip because we are camping, and gas is cheap in the south. We can't afford any extras. Whatever the campground provides, which was a lot, that's what you get.

One night we were walking downtown, and Quinten saw the amusement park and all the kids having fun and he said, **"That's ok, we can't afford it."** He understood that some things can't even be dreamed about because they are beyond reach. When one of his friends' parents were getting a divorce, he was very upset. He was grilling mom about what if we divorce. Robin gave him all the reasons why we wouldn't like love, commitment, God...He wasn't buying any of that so in desperation she said, **"We can't afford a divorce."** To that he said, "OK, nothing to worry about."

**Robin and I were grinning** when Quinten put the amusement park out of his mind as a dream beyond a dream because we had figured out how to swing it. We had already figured out how to do it. I must have **sold some plasma** or picked up all the Pabst Blue Ribbon beer cans out of the beach trash cans to pay for it. You see, Quinten could at least picture it, even if he felt it was beyond his reach. **What God has promised David he could have thought up on his own.** It was beyond his comprehension. And even when explained he could only have the most basic understanding of what this covenant would mean.

To David's offer to build a temple...**God responded, "I am building a different kind of house."**

**The house that God was building started as soon as Adam and Eve disobeyed,** and sin brought separation in their once intimate relationship with God. **His plan was to return to that kind of relationship** between people and their God. But it was going to take some time. **What God was building, only he could. David could**

**envision a temple** which would be the point where heaven and earth meet, the home of the Ark of The Covenant and God's presence with his people. God could see more.

**This house that God is building through David's family is connected to the covenants he made to his people.** What we need to do is **go back to the foundation of this house** that God is building around David's lineage that will last forever. You could rightfully call it a dynasty. **This is all based upon God's faithfulness, his "hesed" loving faithfulness to his people.**

This is what the Lord of Heaven's Armies has declared: I took you from tending sheep in the pasture and selected you to be the leader of my people Israel. <sup>9</sup> I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have destroyed all your enemies before your eyes. Now I will make your name as famous as anyone who has ever lived on the earth! <sup>10</sup> And I will provide a homeland for my people Israel, planting them in a secure place where they will never be disturbed. Evil nations won't oppress them as they've done in the past, <sup>11</sup> starting from the time I appointed judges to rule my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. 2 Samuel 7:8b-11

What was the first covenant God made? This is where the building begins...**The foundation...God's Covenant with Abraham.**

<sup>4</sup> "This is my covenant with you: I will make you the father of a multitude of nations! <sup>5</sup> What's more, I am changing your name. It will no longer be Abram. Instead, you will be called Abraham, for you will be the father of many nations. <sup>6</sup> I will make you **extremely fruitful**. Your descendants will become **many nations**, and **kings** will be among them! <sup>7</sup> "I will confirm my covenant with you and your descendants after you, from generation to generation. This is the everlasting covenant: I will always be your God and the God of your descendants after you. <sup>8</sup> And I will give the entire land of Canaan, where you now live as a foreigner, to you and your descendants. It will be their possession forever, and I will be their God." Genesis 17:4-8

**A covenant is a solemn promise that God imitates.** There's nothing that the people have done **to deserve this**. It's all about **God's character**. His part of the covenant is **unbreakable**. He will do what he says he will do. It's whether the people on the receiving end **will do their part**, which is to do what God asks them to do.

**Every part of what God has been building is based upon his promises, his covenant.** A covenant is like a binding contract. But you know what they say about

contracts, "they're only as good as the paper they are written on." Which means they are no better than the people who are behind making the contract. Ask some of the early Mo-town artists if the character of the people writing the contracts affected how they were fulfilled.

**These covenants are based upon the character, the essence of who Yahweh, God, is. It is his "hesed" loyal, loving faithfulness. It's not what he does, it's who he is. He can do no other. The paper these are written on is unchangeable and is always looking to bless the ones who join Him.**

**God saw this man who had faith and he initiated this promise with him. But keep in mind this is just the foundation of the house.**

This promise to Abraham was passed on to his children. This is God affirming this covenant with Isaac, Abraham's son. <sup>2</sup> The Lord appeared to Isaac and said, "Do not go down to Egypt, but do as I tell you. <sup>3</sup> Live here as a foreigner in this land, and I will be with you and bless you. I hereby confirm that I will give all these lands to you and your descendants, just as I solemnly promised Abraham, your father. <sup>4</sup> I will cause your descendants to become as numerous as the stars of the sky, and I will give them all these lands. **And through your descendants all the nations of the earth will be blessed.** <sup>5</sup> I will do this because Abraham listened to me and obeyed all my requirements, commands, decrees, and instructions." <sup>6</sup> So Isaac stayed in Gerar. Genesis 26:2-6

**Purpose: To create a special people to bless all people—missionaries.**

**One God over all things was a foreign concept** at this time of local gods who made things grow in the fields and helped cattle and people have babies. **They were missionaries for the one true God.** As such, when God would bless them it was an example to other people of the truth of Yahweh and the futility of their belief systems.

**I'm going to use this family, not because they are special, but because they aren't.** It's because Abraham had faith. My blessing is going to be upon them. **Other people will notice that this family is being blessed** because they will grow, and they will become powerful.

But keep in mind that phrase, "**and through your descendants all nations of the earth will be blessed.**" More about that later.

But there is another covenant that God makes that builds on this one to Abraham. This is the...**The ground floor...Covenant with Moses.**

If you remember, the people of Abraham were **in captivity in Egypt as slaves.** God used Moses as the leader who brought them out of Egypt to return to the land promised to Abraham.

**4 'You have seen what I did to the Egyptians. You know how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. 5 Now if you will obey me and keep my covenant, you will be my own special treasure from among all the peoples on earth; for all the earth belongs to me. 6 And you will be my kingdom of priests, my holy nation.' This is the message you must give to the people of Israel." Exodus 19:4-6**

**Did you catch the next part in this house God is building? He took the foundation of this covenant to make Abrahams family grow into nations and give them a real homeland and now he is making them one nation. But not only that, there's this "kingdom of priests."**

**What is God doing with this next covenant? The Purpose: To create a nation of priests—living examples.**

**What do priests do? They help people know how to connect with God, how to please him and be in relationship with him. It's tricky because God is a consuming fire. He is holy and powerful, and we are neither. Priests helped the people of God enter his presence and not get destroyed. Priests mediate between God and the people.**

**God knew that because of sin and separation from him, people had lost the ability to be in his presence, to enjoy this relationship between creator and created. We couldn't walk hand in hand with God like Adam and Eve could in the garden before they doubted his goodness.**

**We have the foundation, which is the covenant with Abraham and then we have the first ground floor which is the covenant with Moses which initiates the actual nation of Israel living in the promised land.**

**They build on top of the other. You can't go back to the Abraham covenant and say this is God's promise to us, no it's part of it. The old covenant gives way to the new one. It no longer stands by itself. The covenant with Abraham did its job by getting the people to the covenant with Moses, the nation of priests. The foundation...The children of Abraham were the missionaries. The first floor is Moses...nation of priests. What that brings us to the next part of this house is...The 2nd floor...Covenant with David.**

**Remember that pause where David felt that God needed a fancy temple and God said, "No, I've got something better that I want to build. I want to build a house that will always have one of your descendants living it as king.**

**David's a musician, so he decides to write what God promised him in a song of praise. I will sing of the Lord's unfailing love forever! That's his hesed! Young and old will hear of your faithfulness. <sup>2</sup> Your unfailing love will last forever. Your faithfulness is as enduring as the heavens. <sup>3</sup> The Lord said, "I have made a covenant with David, my chosen servant. I have sworn this oath to him: <sup>4</sup> 'I will**

establish your descendants as kings forever; they will sit on your throne from now until eternity." Psalm 89:1-4

So, what is God doing with this promise to David? **Purpose: Create a dynasty that culminates in God taking the throne—Jesus** The Christ, King God in flesh...

**That means that Jesus is on the top floor with the great view where heaven and earth meet.** What got rolling with Abraham all leads to Jesus. But we had to build one on top of the other, **one covenant being realized in the next one until we get to Jesus.** God on his throne.

Indeed, as Christian readers, we accept the new covenant as the fulfillment, culmination, and extension of the Abrahamic-Mosaic-Davidic chain of covenants. The New Testament embraces Jesus as the heir to the Davidic promises and makes us heirs to the blessings and richness of all the covenants. The NIV Application Commentary, 489

**You see how things have come full circle.** When the people first asked for a king, they wanted to be like the nations around them. God said, but aren't I your king? But ok, if that's what you want, **but be ready, the power will cause them to conscript your men** into the army for their wars, will tax you and sometimes put you in forced labor. **These are things I will never do, but if you want a king, ok, I'll give you Saul.**

**What God was building through these covenants brought us to Jesus.** But now because Jesus is fully God and fully human, God himself is back on the throne ruling over his people. His people are now no longer a nation, but from all nations. And this fulfills the covenant of Abraham that it will be a blessing to all people.

<sup>6</sup> But now Jesus, our High Priest, has been given a ministry that is far superior to the old priesthood, for he is the one who mediates for us a **far better covenant with God, based on better promises.** <sup>7</sup> If the first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no need for a second covenant to replace it. Hebrews 8:6-7

**Each covenant falls short by itself. One builds on the next with the purpose of a house that has Jesus at the top.**

**God wanted more than a large family who could speak to the fact that he is the only God. God wanted more than just a nation called Israel who would help people see him for who he is. God wanted more than a dynasty of earthly kings. God wanted to come here himself, sit on his throne and reign, not over**

his people, but through his people. This is the kingdom of God, the restoration of God's loving rule over all things. The house wasn't complete until Jesus.

<sup>24</sup> You have come to Jesus, the one who mediates the new covenant between God and people, and to the sprinkled blood, which speaks of forgiveness instead of crying out for vengeance like the blood of Abel. <sup>25</sup> Be careful that you do not refuse to listen to the One who is speaking. For if the people of Israel did not escape when they refused to listen to Moses, the earthly messenger, we will certainly not escape if we reject the One who speaks to us from heaven! Hebrews 12:24-25

So, what do we call the top floor where Jesus is in the house God has been building? There's only one choice...Roof top garden...Jesus fulfills all the purposes of the other covenants. This brings us back to walking hand in hand with God. No, even better, he lives in us in our midst guiding us through his Holy Spirit. We are back to the garden and back to intimacy to the one who has been hewed, loving and faithful all along.

- He is the missionary because he came to us, we didn't find him.
- He is the priest, not because he offers sacrifices that need to be repeated, but because he offered himself as a sacrifice.
- He is the king in the dynasty of David.
- God is king of a different kind of kingdom.

Aligning my life to this story:

What if this story was your story? You joined what God has been doing from the very beginning, something bigger than anything you could generate on your own.

1. Challenge to follow King Jesus:

Maybe you've never made a commitment to Jesus as king. You want to be his disciple who learns from him and follows his lead. You've been reading the story and now God is speaking to your heart. It's time to surrender to King Jesus and join him in the garden.

How do we respond to the gospel of Jesus, the king who suffered, died, and rose from the dead in order to bridge the separation between us and this holy, pure God.

Repent or turn away from self-focus toward Jesus who was other focused...Believe or trust, no matter the cost, my allegiance is to you Jesus...Follow and I demonstrate that belief by following you obediently.

1. You are heirs to "infinitely more than we might ask or think" so act like it!

Start looking for the "immeasurably more" in His Kingdom.



**A dead pastor's daughter is sponsored...Sandra has an opportunity for complete restoration as an heir...Meeting Josiah...A 1 Year anniversary in Sanford...**

1. **Pray this prayer, send this prayer.**

We are going to read this prayer together that comes from Hebrews 13:20-21. The challenge is that you pray it for some people this week. **Maybe it's people who aren't following Jesus or they've forgotten that they are heirs** to the king intended to represent him. It could be the same person daily or different people. Whomever you think needs this prayer.

**Now may the God of peace—who brought up from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep, and ratified an eternal covenant with his blood—<sup>21</sup> may he equip you with all you need for doing his will. May he produce in you, through the power of Jesus Christ, every good thing that is pleasing to him. All glory to him forever and ever! Amen. Hebrews 13:20-21**

There's one more thing. I want you to text, IM, facebook, or copy it and hand it to them. Say that this prayer is for you.