

Third Presbyterian Church  
Midweek Bible Study  
2 Samuel - Chapter 7  
When God says No

**2 Samuel 7:1-29 (NIV)**

<sup>1</sup> After the king was settled in his palace and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, <sup>2</sup> he said to Nathan the prophet, "Here I am, living in a palace of cedar, while the ark of God remains in a tent." <sup>3</sup> Nathan replied to the king, "Whatever you have in mind, go ahead and do it, for the LORD is with you." <sup>4</sup> That night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, saying: <sup>5</sup> "Go and tell my servant David, 'This is what the LORD says: Are you the one to build me a house to dwell in?' <sup>6</sup> I 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. <sup>7</sup> Wherever 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?'" <sup>8</sup> "Now then, tell my servant David, 'This is what the LORD Almighty says: I took you from the pasture and from following the flock to be ruler over my people Israel. <sup>9</sup> I 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 of the earth. <sup>10</sup> And 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 <sup>11</sup> and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders over my people Israel. I will also give you rest from all your enemies.'"<sup>12</sup> The LORD declares to you that the LORD himself will establish a house for you: <sup>12</sup> When your days are over and you rest with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, who will come from your own body, and I will establish his kingdom. <sup>13</sup> He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. <sup>14</sup> I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with the rod of men, with floggings inflicted by men. <sup>15</sup> But my love will never be taken away from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. <sup>16</sup> Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever."<sup>17</sup> Nathan reported to David all the words of this entire revelation.

1. What freedoms or privileges does obedience bring that disobedience does not?
2. Discuss the following Statement: "our plans are not always God's plans, but God's plan is always our plan even when we have not realized it yet."
3. When has God told you no and what was your response to the no?
  - A. Discuss a time when you accepted the "no" and discuss a time where you were reluctant to receive the "no" from God.
4. Why do you think some are indifferent at their prosperity and the house of prayer is in need of repair?
5. When was the last time you did a spiritual inventory of the people you hang out with?
  - A. what does that process look like?
  - B. How do you help grow spiritually to the people who surround you?
6. God's NO is not rejection it is redirection.
  - A. Share a story of God's no being redirection for you.
7. After God has said no, how did your response equal or differ from David's response?
8. When has God told you no and you were expected to support the plan for someone else that you desired?
  - A. What impact did this have on your faith?

## 9. Share your main takeaway from the sermon and the lesson?

### **The Great Promises of God Given to David (The Davidic Covenant): God's Great Promise of Hope, the Coming Son of David, Christ Himself, 7:1-17**

**(7:1-17) Introduction:** this is one of the greatest chapters in all the Bible, one of the greatest promises ever given by God, covering the greatest hope ever given to the human race. This chapter covers the wonderful promises of God given to David and, through him, to the whole human race. J. Vernon McGee gives an excellent introduction to this chapter, an introduction that is well worth quoting in its entirety.

*Frankly, it is very difficult to understand the prophets from this point on without knowing about this covenant. One of the reasons many people find themselves so hopelessly confused in the study of prophecy is because they do not pay attention to a chapter like this. Second Samuel 7 is by far the most significant chapter thus far in the Old Testament. The New Testament opens with: "The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David...." That is important because the promises God made to David are to be fulfilled in prophecy.*

*When the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary, he said, "...Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shall call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the LORD God shall give unto him the throne of his father David" (Luke 1:30-32). You see, God is fulfilling His promise to David.*

*Peter began in 2 Samuel 7 when he preached on the day of Pentecost: "Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day. Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne" (Acts 2:29-30; see also Acts 2:25-31, 34-36). Peter is making reference to that which God promised to David.*

*Paul, in the Book of Romans, says, "Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God, (Which he had promised afore by his prophets in the holy scriptures,) Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our LORD, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh" (Romans 1:1-3).*

*The New Testament closes with the Lord Jesus Christ saying, "I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star" (Rev. 22:16). These are only a few of the fifty-nine references to David in the New Testament.*

*The Old Testament prophets based their message of the kingdom on the promise God gave to David in 2 Samuel 7. You will find that each of the Old Testament prophets goes back to David and God's promises to him concerning the kingdom. After all, what is the kingdom of heaven but the kingdom that God vouchsafed [bequeathed, endowed] to David? For example, listen to Jeremiah 23:5. "Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth." The kingdom became the theme song of the prophets.*

The theme of this chapter is: *The Great Promises of God Given to David (The Davidic Covenant): God's Great Promise of Hope, the Coming Son of David, Christ Himself, 7:1-17.*

**1. (7:1-3) Honor, of God, Example of— Temple, Desire to Build— David, Desire to Build the Temple:** there was the burning desire of David to build a temple to God's honor.

Throughout the years God had richly blessed David, giving him victory over all his enemies, empowering him to conquer Jerusalem and to establish it as the capital of Israel, and giving him the wealth to build a palace

fit for a king and his household. For some time David had been settled in his palace and the LORD had given peace to the nation, rest from all the enemies that surrounded Israel. But David was not satisfied, for he had a burning desire to build a temple for the LORD. The LORD had provided a wonderful rest for him, but he had a fervent zeal to provide a place where the presence of the LORD could rest (Hebrews 4:1-11). Because the LORD had blessed him so richly, David wanted to show his gratitude by building a temple for the Ark of God. Remember that the Ark was a symbol of God's very own presence, His presence that dwelt between the two cherubim or angelic beings. David was obviously disturbed, troubled over the fact that he was living in a palace while the Ark, the very symbol of God's holy presence, was being housed in a tent.

At some point in time, David shared his burning desire to build the temple with Nathan the prophet (2 Samuel 7:3). And Nathan immediately encouraged David because the LORD had always been with David in whatever he did. But note, Nathan was only encouraging David as a personal advisor, expressing his own feelings, not sharing specific instructions that had been given by the LORD.

This is the first mention of Nathan the prophet in Scripture. As a prophet in the royal court of the king, his task was to give spiritual and religious advice to David. Nathan was the prophet who corrected David when the king committed adultery with Bathsheba and had her husband killed (2 Samuel 12:1-15). At the end of David's life, he also helped Solomon secure the throne in obedience to David's wishes (1 Kings 1:10-45). Along with David and Gad, he helped arrange the music for the worship services in the temple (2 Chron. 29:25); he also recorded a history on the reign of David (1 Chron. 29:29) and on the reign of Solomon (2 Chron. 9:29).

**Thought 1.** Above all things, we must honor and glorify the LORD just as King David wished to do. It is the LORD who has created and who sustains the universe, who holds the earth and heavenly bodies together and keeps them functioning in an orderly fashion—all by the power of His word. As the Creator and Sustainer of the universe, the LORD is to be honored and praised. But there are other reasons for honoring and praising the LORD.

- ⇒ It is the LORD who saves us from sin, death, and hell.
- ⇒ It is the LORD who strengthens us either to conquer the trials and temptations of life or to walk through them victoriously and triumphantly. It is the LORD who helps us when we face some need or difficult circumstance.
- ⇒ It is the LORD who enables us to face hardship and misfortune such as severe disease or disabling accident.
- ⇒ It is the LORD who loves us when we are unlovely and who forgives us when we confess our sins and wickedness.
- ⇒ It is the LORD who stands by our side in moments of loneliness and in facing death.

For all these reasons and so many more, the LORD is to be honored and praised. This is the clear instruction of God's Holy Word:

**"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 5:16).**

**"Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples" (John 15:8).**

**"Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus: That ye may with one mind *and* one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 15:5-6).**

**"What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost *which is* in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's" (1 Cor. 6:19-20).**

**2. (7:4-11a) Blessings, of God, Example of— David, Blessed by God— David, Promises Given by God:** there were the blessings and promises of God during David's lifetime. The very night that David shared with Nathan his dream of building a temple for the LORD, the LORD gave Nathan a message for David, one of the most important messages ever given by God to a man. This particular message is also the longest recorded

speech by God since the days of Moses, which to some degree indicates its importance. Note the subject of God's message to David: it was...

- first, the blessings and promises of God to David *during* David's lifetime
- second, His blessings and promises that were to be fulfilled *after* David's death

Because of the importance of God's message, it is being divided into these two sections. Note the blessings and promises of God *during* David's lifetime.

1. Remember, Nathan had encouraged David to build the temple, but that very night God corrected Nathan, reversing his counsel to David (2 Samuel 7:5). The LORD's message to Nathan was to change the life of David and make a dramatic impact upon the world forever. Note that God did not speak to David directly, but rather sent His message to David through the prophet Nathan. By doing this, God was honoring the *office* of the prophet and teaching His people, including the kings, to hold the prophets of God in the highest esteem. The prophets of God were to be more highly esteemed than even the king himself.

2. God's instructions to David were clear: he was not the one who was to build the temple (2 Samuel 7:5-7). Actually God conveyed this fact by asking a question of David: "Are you the one chosen to build me a temple to live in?" God answered the question Himself by stating that He had never had a house built for His Presence. Since the LORD had brought the Israelites up out of Egypt, the LORD's dwelling place had always been a tent or the Tabernacle. And during all this time, God had never complained nor asked His shepherds [leaders] to build Him a temple or permanent sanctuary.

3. Having made it clear that David was not the person chosen to build the temple, the LORD now covered the blessings he was going to pour out upon David and gave him several significant promises—all of which were to take place *during* his life. Six blessings and promises were given by God:

- a. First, God had given David an astounding position of royalty and power throughout Israel (2 Samuel 7:8). The LORD had called David from the life of a shepherd to the life of a king, from overseeing sheep in a pasture to ruling over "God's people." Throughout Scripture rulers are sometimes referred to as the "shepherds" of their people; but, of course, the LORD Himself is the *Supreme Shepherd* who oversees and looks after His people, all those who trust and follow after Him.

**"I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep" (John 10:11).**

**"Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our LORD Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant" (Hebrews 13:20).**

**"For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls" (1 Peter 2:25).**

- b. Second, the LORD had blessed David with His presence and guidance throughout the years (2 Samuel 7:9). The LORD had been with David wherever he went, through the dark and difficult places of life as well as the clear and easy places.

**"Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, *that* shall he speak: and he will show you things to come" (John 16:13).**

**"And, behold, I *am* with thee, and will keep thee in all *places* whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done *that* which I have spoken to thee of" (Genesis 28:15).**

- c. Third, the LORD had blessed David by giving him the power to conquer all his enemies (2 Samuel 7:9). When the enemies surrounding Israel invaded the land, the LORD enabled David and his army to defeat the invaders. And when David set out to conquer more of the promised land, the LORD gave him victory over the enemies who stood in his way. By the power of God, David was able to conquer all enemies who opposed and attempted to destroy him and God's people. And now David and the Israelites had peace with all their surrounding neighbors, experiencing a God-given rest, both *physical* and *spiritual* rest.

**"These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33).**

**"And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with you. Amen" (Romans 16:20).**

- d. Fourth, the LORD promised to give David an honorable name and reputation (2 Samuel 7:9). David was to become famous, as famous as any ruler throughout the earth.

**"Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, *which is* new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name" (Rev. 3:12).**

**"Even unto them will I give in mine house and within my walls a place and a name better than of sons and of daughters: I will give them an everlasting name, that shall not be cut off" (Isaiah 56:5).**

- e. Fifth, the LORD repeated the wonderful promise of the promised land that was to be given to Israel, His people (2 Samuel 7:10). Throughout history, the LORD had promised that the day was coming when His people would no longer be pilgrims and sojourners upon earth, wandering about from place to place, always living as foreigners in a strange land. The day was coming when they would have a settled, permanent home and could live in peace, no longer being disturbed and threatened by enemies. Wicked people and nations would no longer oppress them as they had always done (2 Samuel 7:10). The day was coming when they would receive the inheritance of the promised land, and they would possess the promised land forever.

**"By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as *in* a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker *is* God" (Hebrews 11:8-10).**

**"These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of *them*, and embraced *them*, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country. And truly, if they had been mindful of that *country* from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned. But now they desire a better *country*, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city" (Hebrews 11:13-16).**

- f. Sixth, the LORD promised David a future rest from all his enemies, meaning both military rest and spiritual rest (2 Samuel 7:11). The day was coming when both David and God's people would be given permanent peace and rest from all their enemies. God's people would live in a state of permanent peace and rest, experiencing an unbroken sense of security and fullness of life.

The *rest of God* means peace of heart and mind, assurance and protection, purpose and meaning, fulfillment and satisfaction in life. Simply stated, God's rest means that we live *the victorious life* over all the enemies that try to defeat and destroy us day by day; that we know the security of God's presence, provision, guidance, and His victorious power over all the enemies in this life.

**"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls" (Matthew 11:28-29).**

**3. (7:11b-17) Blessings, of God, Example of— David, Blessed by God— David, Promises Given by God:** there were the blessings and promises of God to be fulfilled *after* David's death. Of all the promises ever made by the LORD, these are some of the most important. For these promises have a double meaning, pointing to both Solomon and the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. Note how clear and evident this is throughout this Scripture.

1. God promised to establish a house or dynasty, a kingdom for David (2 Samuel 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" (2 Samuel 7:11).**

David longed to build a house or temple for the LORD, but instead the LORD would build a house (dynasty) for David (2 Samuel 7:1-3, 11). God had just promised to make David's name great (2 Samuel 7:9); now God explains that David's name would become great because of the dynasty or kingdom God was going to establish for David.

2. God promised to give David a seed, a descendant or offspring who was to be raised up by God Himself (2 Samuel 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" (2 Samuel 7:12).**

Note that the promised son was to come from David's own body; that is, He was to be the direct descendant of David. After David's death, his son Solomon was raised up to succeed him as king. But this is also a clear reference to "Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham" (Matthew 1:1). Jesus Christ was the ultimate son (seed) of David who was raised up by God Himself to be the Messiah, the Savior of His people.

**"The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham" (Matthew 1:1).**

**"Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne" (Acts 2:30).**

3. God promised to give David a kingdom that was to be established by God Himself (2 Samuel 7:12b).

**"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" (2 Samuel 7:12).**

The uniqueness of David's kingdom was just this: it was not established by man but by God Himself. The promised seed or descendant of David was to rule a kingdom founded and built by God. Again, this is a reference to Solomon but especially to Christ who is the primary descendant of David.

**"And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life" (Matthew 19:28-29).**

4. God promised that this descendant would build a spiritual house of worship (2 Samuel 7:13a).

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

This is a clear reference to Solomon's building the temple in the city of Jerusalem (1 Kings 6:1-38). But this is also a clear reference to Christ's building the spiritual house of worship for God and His people.

**"And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the LORD: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit" (Ephes. 2:20-22).**

5. God made a most unique promise to David: namely, that He would establish his throne or kingdom *forever* (2 Samuel 7:13b).

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

But note this fact: David's descendants are not ruling Israel today. Solomon's kingdom did not last *forever*. Immediately after Solomon's death, his kingdom was torn apart, being split into two nations. Thus this reference to an eternal throne must be a reference to the eternal kingdom established by the ultimate Son of David, Christ Himself.

**"But unto the Son *he saith*, Thy throne, O God, *is* for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness *is* the sceptre of thy kingdom" (Hebrews 1:8).**

**"For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our LORD and Saviour Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 1:11).**

6. God promised David a descendant who would be God's very own Son (2 Samuel 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" (2 Samuel 7:14).**

God would be the Father, and the descendant would be the Son of God. There is no question about the ultimate fulfillment of this promise: it definitely points to the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. He is the Son of God.

**"He trusted in God; let him deliver him now, if he will have him: for he said, I am the Son of God" (Matthew 27:43).**

**"The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God" (Mark 1:1).**

**"And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the LORD God shall give unto him the throne of his father David" (Luke 1:31-32).**

7. God made an unusual promise to David: that He would chastise, punish the descendant for sin (2 Samuel 7:14b-15).

**"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" (2 Samuel 7:14).**

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

When Solomon did wrong, God did chastise and punish him (1 Kings 11:1-13; 1 Kings 11:31-38). In fact, it was because of Solomon's sin that the kingdom was torn from his hand and split into two nations (1 Kings 11:31-38). But this is also a reference to Christ who bore the punishment of sin in behalf of the human race. Note that David's descendant was to be inflicted with pain by men (Acts 2:22-23). But God's mercy and love for His Son would be unfailing (Matthew 12:18; Matthew 17:5; Mark 1:11; Ephes. 1:6; Col. 1:13; Hebrews 5:5).

**"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).**

**"Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed" (1 Peter 2:24).**

**"Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him" (Hebrews 5:8-9).**

8. Nathan concluded God's great revelation by simply repeating the promise of the eternal throne and kingdom that was to be established by God Himself (2 Samuel 7:16-17).

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

Note that the prophet shared the entire revelation with David, reporting word for word exactly what God had said. But the major point to see is God's promise of an eternal throne and kingdom that He Himself was to establish.

**"Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth" (Jeremiah 23:5).**

**"Hear now, O Joshua the high priest, thou, and thy fellows that sit before thee: for they are men wondered at: for, behold, I will bring forth my servant the BRANCH" (Zech. 3:8).**

**D. The Prayer and Thanksgiving of David: A Dynamic Example of Prayer and Praise, 7:18-29**



**(7:18-29) Introduction:** wonderful promises excite us—if the promises are kept. If an employer promises a sizable raise then fails to keep his promise, it is disappointing. But if the employer keeps his promise and gives us the raise, it excites us. If a young lady or man gives us the wonderful promise of love, it excites us. If a fellow worker, neighbor, friend, parent, child, or any other person makes us a wonderful promise—it always excites us. The very anticipation of the promise is exciting.

Some wonderful promises had just been given by God to David. In fact, the promises to David were so astounding that he was overwhelmed. These wonderful promises were seen in the former study of this chapter (2 Samuel 7:1-17). Awestruck by the incredible promises of God, David was gripped by a deep need to get alone with the LORD, a deep need to offer up thanksgiving and praise for such wonderful promises. This is the subject of the present passage of Scripture: *The Prayer and Thanksgiving of David: A Dynamic Example of Prayer and Praise, 7:18-29*.

1. David acknowledged the incredible goodness of God (v.18-20).
2. David declared three purposes for God's promises (v.21-24).
3. David made a bold request for God to fulfill His promises (v.25-29).

**1. (7:18-20) Goodness, of God— Names, of God, LORD God— Prayer, Example of, David— Praise, Example of, David— Thanksgiving, Example of, David— Acknowledgment, of God, Goodness of:** David acknowledged the incredible goodness of God. No greater promises could be given to a person than the promises given by God to David. For the promises given to David included the promise of an eternal kingdom that would be established by the Son of God Himself (2 Samuel 7:11-17). And the wonderful truth is that these very same promises are given to all believers through the Lord Jesus Christ, the Savior and Messiah of the world. Hearing the awesome promises of God, David was awestruck, overcome with emotion and gripped with a deep sense of unworthiness and of praise to God. As quickly as he could, he rushed into the Tabernacle to praise and give thanks to the LORD for His incredible goodness.

1. Note how David addressed the LORD: as the Sovereign LORD God (2 Samuel 7:18-20, 22, 25, 28-29). Throughout his prayer, David was acknowledging the LORD as the Sovereign Ruler and Supreme Master of the universe, as being before all and above all and over all. He was also acknowledging the LORD's supreme authority over all David's affairs. As the Sovereign LORD, God could bless David, look after and take care of him, giving him the fullness and joy of life. God had the power to provide for David and to meet all his needs. Consequently, David owed his life and obedience to the LORD God (see DEEPER STUDY #2—Genesis 15:2 for more discussion on the meaning of the name "LORD God.")

2. David was humbled before the LORD, sensing deeply his unworthiness to be so blessed by God. Expressing his unworthiness, David acknowledged that God was the One who had raised him up from a lowly shepherd to be king (2 Samuel 7:18). It was God and God alone who had brought him so far, taking him from an unknown family and exalting him to the very throne of Israel.

3. But God's goodness far exceeded David's exaltation as king. It was the LORD God who had given David incredible promises, promises that assured the future of his house, a future that included an eternal dynasty or kingdom (2 Samuel 7:19). Hearing the wonderful promise of an eternal kingdom that was to be established by the very Son of God Himself overwhelmed David (2 Samuel 7:13-14). He simply could not understand God's ways, His dealings with man, how God could so bless man.

4. God's promises were so wonderful that there was frankly nothing else David could request. God was the LORD God who knew David, knew exactly what he had needed to fulfill his life and joy. And God's promises had done just that: met his every need (2 Samuel 7:20).

Note this fact: throughout his prayer, David refers to himself as God's *servant*. Ten times he calls himself God's *servant* (2 Samuel 7:18-21, 25-29). Because of God's incredible goodness, David owed the LORD his life and service.

**Thought 1.** God is good, and His goodness is overwhelming. But we live in a wicked world, a world where evil men roam and commit acts of terror, violence, and lawlessness. In addition to evil men, the world is full of misfortune and hardship, temptation and trial. Yet in the midst of all the difficulties and problems of life, God's goodness shines through. For if we trust the LORD, He promises to save and deliver us and to meet our every need. No matter what the terrible circumstance, God will pour out His goodness upon us, strengthening and helping us to walk through any problem or difficulty. God is good, and He longs for us to trust Him. And if we trust Him, His goodness pours out the richest promises to us, promises that assure us of the most victorious and fruitful life imaginable. This is the wonderful promise of the incredible goodness of God:

**"And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? *there is none good but one, that is, God*: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments" (Matthew 19:17).**

**"Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance" (Romans 2:4).**

**"In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace" (Ephes. 1:7).**

**2. (7:21-24) Promises, of God, Purpose— God, Promises, Purpose— God, Greatness, Incomparable— Israel, Uniqueness of— Believer, Uniqueness of:** David declared three purposes for God's promises. Sitting there praying before the LORD, David realized that God's wonderful promises had been given for several very specific purposes. These purposes can be gleaned from David's words in these few verses.

1. The first purpose for God's promises focuses upon His Word (2 Samuel 7:21). God uses His promises to fulfill and magnify His Word and His will. When God makes a promise, it gives Him the opportunity to fulfill His promise. And by fulfilling His promise, He magnifies His Word and His will. The LORD means exactly what He says, and He is faithful to fulfill His promises. It was God's will to establish the eternal throne and kingdom of David through the Son of God Himself. For this reason God gave the wonderful promise to David, and by fulfilling the promise through Solomon and later through the Lord Jesus Christ, God's Word and will are both magnified. By fulfilling the wonderful promise given to David, God has proven that His Word is absolutely trustworthy.

**"For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled" (Matthew 5:18).**

**"Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away" (Luke 21:33).**

**"Blessed *be* the LORD, that hath given rest unto his people Israel, according to all that he promised: there hath not failed one word of all his good promise, which he promised by the hand of Moses his servant" (1 Kings 8:56).**

**"The works of his hands are verity and judgment; all his commandments are sure" (Psalms 111:7).**

**"For *I am* the LORD: I will speak, and the word that I shall speak shall come to pass..." (Ezekiel 12:25).**

2. The second purpose for God's promises focuses upon the greatness of God (2 Samuel 7:22). The promises of God arouse a person to praise the matchless greatness of God. David's heart just breaks out in praise to the LORD, declaring...

- that He is the Sovereign LORD God
- that He is incomparable: there is no one like Him
- that He is the only living and true God: there is no God other than Him

**"For who *is* God save the LORD? or who *is* a rock save our God" (Psalms 18:31).**

**"Bless the LORD, O my soul. O LORD my God, thou art very great; thou art clothed with honour and majesty" (Psalms 104:1).**

**"I, even I, am the LORD; and beside me *there is no saviour*. I have declared, and have saved, and I have showed, when *there was no strange god among you*: therefore ye *are my witnesses*, saith the LORD, that I *am God*. Yea, before the day *was I am he*; and *there is none that can deliver out of my hand*: I will work, and who shall let it" (Isaiah 43:11-13).**

3. The third purpose for God's promises focuses upon Israel, God's people (2 Samuel 7:23-24). God's promises stir praise for the uniqueness of Israel, God's people. All of a sudden David's thoughts turned to God's wonderful goodness showered upon all His people. David's heart broke out in praise to God for three very special blessings that God had poured out upon His people Israel:

- a. God had redeemed Israel, the one people He had chosen for Himself. He had chosen Israel to be His followers and to be a strong testimony of righteousness to the immoral and wicked of this earth.

**"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus" (Romans 3:23-24).**

**"Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed *is every one that hangeth on a tree*" (Galatians 3:13).**

- b. God used Israel to glorify His name, the name of the LORD (2 Samuel 7:23-24). David declared that God was glorified by giving Israel the promised land and by delivering them from Egypt and giving them victory over all their enemies.

**"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 5:16).**

**"For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope. Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus: That ye may with one mind *and one mouth glorify God*, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 15:4-6).**

c. David also praised God for establishing an eternal relationship [covenant] with His people Israel (2 Samuel 7:24). He had adopted them as His sons and daughters, making them His forever and becoming their God.

**"But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name" (John 1:12).**

**"Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the LORD, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the LORD Almighty" (2 Cor. 6:17-18).**

**3. (7:25-29) Promises, of God, Prayer for Fulfillment— Prayer, What to Pray— David, Prayer of:** David made a bold request for God to fulfill His promises. Sitting there amazed at God's incredible goodness to him and to Israel as a whole, David concluded his prayer with a very specific, bold request.

1. David wanted the LORD to fulfill His promise and to fulfill it forever. He wanted the LORD to keep the promise given to him regarding the eternal dynasty or kingdom (2 Samuel 7:25-26). For this reason he asked God to keep His word. But note why: so that God's name would be magnified forever, so that men would praise God for His great works through Israel and the establishment of David's dynasty (2 Samuel 7:26). Note that David addressed God as "the LORD of hosts" or "the LORD Almighty." God is LORD over all the hosts of heaven and earth, the LORD Almighty who has the power to do exactly what David was requesting.

2. David explained why he was making such a bold request: because he was grateful for the wonderful promise of God, the promise that God would build a dynasty for him. That is, David was boldly requesting just what God had already promised. He was praying *according to the LORD's will*. By faith, David was accepting exactly what the LORD had promised. Although the promise lay out in the future, David boldly asked God not to fail, but to fulfill His promise.

3. Having made the bold request, David now declared God's faithfulness (2 Samuel 7:28). He declared that God's Word was true and trustworthy.

4. In concluding his prayer, David made a second request for God to bless his house or dynasty, and to bless it forever. Note exactly what David asked: that his dynasty would continue forever before the *very face* of the LORD Himself. And then David declared the surety of his prayer being answered: because the LORD's Word had been spoken. And when the LORD gave the blessing of the promise, it meant that the promise would be fulfilled and the blessing would take place sometime in the future.

**Thought 1.** God is faithful. He keeps His promises. What God says, He will do. And God never fails to follow through. God is trustworthy. We can trust Him, knowing that He will keep every promise He has ever made. He will do exactly what He tells us. We can trust God's Word. This is the strong declaration of Holy Scripture:

**"For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled" (Matthew 5:18).**

**"Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away" (Luke 21:33).**

**"God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our LORD" (1 Cor. 1:9).**