

2nd Samuel Ch 7

Though there's no such thing as a greater or lesser passage in the bible in that they're all great, because of my limited vocabulary all I know to say about this ch is it's one that definitely stands out. Maybe we could understand it as one of the highlighted ch's of the bible because it's in this ch that we see what's commonly called the "Davidic Covenant" being established. This is the ch that God promises to David that the Messiah would descend physically from him. J. Vernon McGee says of this portion of scripture, "God's covenant with David makes this one of the great chapters of the Bible. The message of the Bible from this point on rests upon this promise that God makes to David."

Now you recall there in Ch 6 we find David transporting the Ark of the Covenant from Baale Judah, (also known as Kirjath Jearim) back to Jerusalem, which turned out to be quite the educational escapade for David but ultimately he managed to get it back there in the manner that God desired it to be transported and there was this great celebration. Dancing and feasting and worshipping the Lord, and at the end of the day David thought, "Man I'm going to go home and bless my family" and it seems that anytime you have a high time in the Lord, the enemy always likes to counter with some sort of attack, be situational or circumstantial or whatever, but the desired end is to bring you low. And often times he likes to stir things up at home, and so David comes home and who meets him but (you remember) "Giggles the happy elf" Michal his wife, Saul's daughter. And she reprimanded him, humiliated him, told him he made of fool of himself dancing and worshipping, and associating with the common man, rather than maintaining his "Kingly, royal dignity."

And of course David gave her a lesson on what it means to worship the Lord, and how we do what we do, not for the approval of man, but to please the Lord, and to honor the Lord, and to humble ourselves and take our rightful position before the Lord, and Michal had no children because of that to the day of her death. Her life was "unfruitful" and that's the lesson there, if you refuse to humble yourself before the Lord, and worship Him, adore Him, and honor and praise Him you'll live a dry, barren, and unfruitful life. But now ch 7 picks up.

Vs1-3

Now because of the way vs 1 begins most people believe that this ch is chronologically out of order and that it in reality takes place after ch 8. Because there in Ch 8 you'll see David engaging in one epic battle after the next, the type of battles that make Hollywood movie makers jealous because they're just so magnanimous. But because of the context of what's happening in ch 6 and the focus that's placed upon the Ark, and David's relationship to God and dealings with the Ark, it's believed that this has been inserted here to keep us in tune with the flow regarding the Ark and David's desire to do the right thing by God by his treatment of the Ark. And we know that some time has passed since the establishing of Jerusalem as David's capital city because now his palace or whatever has been built and he lives in this beautiful home, and things of that nature don't get built over night.

But it's possible that this is just one of those rare seasons in David's life when he wasn't confronted or occupied by warfare, David was a man of war, but it could be that this is just a time of peace and ch 8 gets him back into the grind of warfare. But be that as it may, what we see here is that David had been doing some thinking. He'd taken inventory of how God had blessed his life, the rest that he'd entered into, all the things that he'd acquired, the platform God had placed him upon, the palatial estate that he lived in.

And then he took notice of the Ark, (that which spoke of God's presence) and the place that it inhabited, and he got to feeling a bit out of balance. And I'm sure we can all at times relate to this. We take inventory of our lives, how God has blessed us, how He satisfies our needs, has forgiven us, caused us to enter in to that rest that's found only in Jesus Christ, He's given us beauty for ashes, and the oil of praise for mourning, life where there was death and cleansing where there was filth. And we think, "Man God, You've blessed me so much, but what I have I really done for You? How am I really blessing You?" We just feel out of balance, God's just opened the windows of Heaven upon us, but what have we really done for Him? And David didn't think it was right that he should dwell in a nicer house than the very Ark of God. And as long as he did it would bother him, and so we read in Ps 132:1-5 where David had purposed in his heart to do something about that. We read there, "*LORD, remember David And all his afflictions; How he swore to the LORD, And vowed to the Mighty One of Jacob: "Surely I will not go into the chamber of my house, Or go up to the comfort of my bed; I will not give sleep to my eyes Or slumber to my eyelids, Until I find a place for the LORD, A dwelling place for the Mighty One of Jacob."*"

So David occupied whatever free time he had with how he might further serve and bless the Lord, what an awesome example for you and me, what do you think about in your spare time? David thought on how he might go above and beyond the call of duty, not satisfied with status quo, or doing as little as he thought was required of him, he was just consumed with how he might bless the Lord, and glorify Him. And so he was having this conference with Nathan (and this is the 1st time we see him) and he's going to play a very significant role in David's life, he's the same prophet who will bust David concerning his sin with Bathsheba. And of the children that David will wind up having with Bathsheba he'll actually name one of them Nathan. But he says to Nate here, "I just don't feel right about this, here I am in this incredible house, and the ark of God dwells in a tent, it just doesn't seem right." In other words, "I want to do something about it."

And so there in vs 3 Nate says, "Hey, sounds great, do all that's in your heart, for the Lord is with you." Question, did Nathan *seek* the Lord before he spoke *for* the Lord? No, he spoke presumptuously; he simply followed the natural reasoning. "Hey, sounds good. Israel's not wandering around in the wilderness anymore, there's no need for a mobile tent, Jerusalem is the HQ, and so sounds like the Lord to me, He must've given you the idea, go for it!" But we do well to speak *to* the Lord before we speak *for* the Lord.

In other words, “David; thanks, but no thanks.” God is in essence saying, “David I’m delighted that you would want to do this for Me, but I’m really not worried about it.” He created everything, every luxury of the earth was created by God, Heaven is His throne and the earth is His footstool. What am I going to place on the earth from the things of the earth that would ever do God justice or truly be able to contain the fullness of the Lord? But God gives David credit here and acknowledges his heart in desiring to go above and beyond the call of duty. He says, “Of all the people that I’ve ever raised up to lead and feed My people, I’ve never asked or required them to do anything of this nature for Me. And yet it’s in your heart, it’s not about how little you can do and still be acceptable to Me with you, you want to do more.”

But there’s a couple of lessons here, #1 We need to be careful not to fall prey to natural reasoning and presumption no matter how noble or godly the cause may seem. There was no sin in David’s desire, he wanted to do something that would glorify God, but it wasn’t God’s will for David to engage, or go down that particular avenue in his life.

And God doesn’t even tell him why at 1st. Now later on He’ll let him know that it’s because he’s been a man of war and much bloodshed, but He wants a man of peace to build His house. But as for now He just says, “No.” We can never assume that just because what we want to do seems naturally beneficial to God that He has it in mind for us to do it, we need to seek the Lord concerning each decision that we make, and make sure it’s His decision for us. #2 Although David wouldn’t be the man to build the temple, that didn’t detour him from doing all that he could to assist the work in whatever way he could. He didn’t just go, “Oh well, forget it then, I guess so much for that.” It’s called Solomon’s temple because he put the carpenters to work, but David did all the grunt work, and already had the blueprints, and the materials gathered up, all Solomon had to do was say, “Go.” So in reality it would probably be more factual to call it “David’s temple.” But because he was a man of war, God didn’t want his temple to be associated with war and bloodshed and so it’s identified with Solomon, a man of peace who actually saw the building of the Temple through. And maybe you have a heart for missions but for whatever reason God hasn’t given you the Ok to head out into the field, that doesn’t mean you can’t acquire resources for those who are in the field or whom God does send. Maybe you desire to be in a certain area of the ministry and God for now has said, “no”, but that doesn’t mean you can’t pray for those who are there and find other ways to get behind that ministry in the meantime.

And now we begin to see this awesome principle at work in the scriptures whereby you can’t out give God. God in essence says, “David you wanted to bless Me, but I’m going to bless you above and beyond anything you could ever imagine.” As Paul said to the Ephesians, “*Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.*” Eph 3:20-21 God is getting ready to blow David’s mind, to do more for him than he could ever ask or think, and if you’re heart is to truly bless God with no ulterior motive, or underlying self-serving agenda, God will bless your life as well.

And here God reminds David of his past, brings him to his present and then begins to unveil to Him information about his future.

Vs8-9

I took you from following the sheep to being shepherd over My people. The bible says, “*Before honor is humility.*” Prov 15:33. And so God reminds David of his humble beginnings, how he was least in his family, the little shepherd boy out in the field, nothing in and of himself and no ability to do anything about it. And yet God has exalted him, and given him the present position of ruler over His people. And you know this is the way that the Lord operates, God takes the humble and exalts them, and He takes the proud and humbles them, why? Because it needs to be clear that whatever noble and honorable thing that may come of or from my life is from the Lord. In me, that is in my flesh no good thing dwells, apart from Christ I can do nothing and I need to be sober concerning that reality, and so God reminds David of his past, speaks to him of his present and now He begins to speak to him regarding his future, that is, his lineage, what’s going to become of his name and his family.

Vs10-17

You just can’t out give God. David wanted to do something great for God, and God did something far greater for David. And though these things had partial fulfillment in Solomon, David understood very clearly that what God was saying was, “I’m going to bring the Messiah into the world through your offspring.”

When Peter stood up on the day of Pentecost and gave that oration to the people that wound up with 3,000 people getting saved, his base text was out of this chapter. He said, “*Men and brethren, let me speak freely to you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Therefore, being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his body, according to the flesh, He would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne..*” Acts 2:29-30. And he goes on to speak of the resurrection, but the point is that David understood what God was talking about and it went beyond a simple establishment of a monarchy.

Check it out; in vs 11 the last sentence, “The Lord tells you that He will make you a house” that is, a dynasty, and vs 12 lands the plane (and notice the “I wills” of God.) “I will set up your seed after you.” The Messiah will come from your blood, and of course you can trace the lineage of Christ in both Matthew and Luke and take it right back to David. Paul writes to the Rom and says, “*Jesus Christ our Lord, {who} was born of the seed of David according to the flesh.*” Rom 1:3 and Check it out (vs 13 read.)

Did Solomon build a physical Temple? Yes, but was the throne of his kingdom established forever? No, this is a reference to Jesus Christ the Prince of Peace who has build a temple for His father of living stones (you and me, the church) as Peter said, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone. And it’s the throne of His Kingdom that will be established forever.

Isaiah 9:6-7 says, *“For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.”*

And all over the scriptures we find references to the Savior of the world being identified with David, over and over in the gospels we see Jesus referred to as, “The Son of David.” Imagine that, what an unfathomable honor that the Savior of the world, God come in the flesh would choose to be most identified humanly speaking with you, would take your name as a Messianic title. “The Son of David” why, because David was a man who was after God’s heart, he pursued the Lord, wanted to lay hold of the Lord.

And in verse 14 we see the relationship between the seed of David and God, “I will be His Father, He shall be My Son.” Now this next part is sort of interesting because depending on how this word “iniquity” is translated it can mean the act of committing sin, or absorbing the punishment or ramifications of the sin. So that we can apply it to Solomon as he would commit the iniquity God would chasten him as He chastens every son whom He receives just like we spoke about Sunday morning, because whom the Lord loves He chastens. But as for this applies to Jesus Christ He would take upon Himself our sin, and receive the punishment on the behalf of our sin, and would be chastised with the rod of men and with the blows, or more literally the strokes of the sons of men. Isa 53:5, *“He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.”* And in vs 10, *“Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin.”* Isa 53:10
Vs 15, “But My mercy shall not depart from him,” and a confirmation in vs 16 (read), I want to read David’s response in it’s entirety because it’s just so beautiful and then we’ll talk about it.

Vs 18-29

2 Things that jump out at me in this time of David’s meditation and prayer; #1 His acknowledgment of the Lord as His God, and how many times he acknowledges God in His prayer. Not counting the times he may just reference the Lord, or God, he uses the phrase, “O Lord God” at least 8 times in this passage. And #2 I notice how God’s blessing doesn’t puff him up, but it humbles him. He refers to himself as God’s servant at least 10 times in this portion of scripture.

He realizes that God’s favor upon him has nothing to do with his greatness, and everything to do with God’s greatness. It wasn’t, “Even God blesses me.” It was, “I can’t believe that God would bless even me!” Vs 18 “Who am I, and what is my house that you have brought me this far?” God’s goodness and grace just humbled him, he knew who he was, where he’d been, what he’d done and that he’d done nothing to deserve this outpouring of God’s grace upon his life, and yet God is just blessing him.

And it's hard to receive God's grace gracefully, God has given us so much in Jesus Christ And none of us deserve it, what is my house that you have brought me this far?" What have I done to deserve God's goodness and mercies and grace? Nothing, yet God has just poured it out upon my life, and your life, God's grace imputed to us doesn't reflect our greatness, it reflects His greatness.

And I like vs 20, "What more can David say to you? For you, Lord God, know your servant." Underline that, God knows you altogether, what can you say but that He doesn't already know you, and your heart? But David is left speechless, no doubt one of the most articulate men in world history, crafting the Psalms in such a way that they express what I feel but don't know how to say. How his heart and soul thirsts for God as if he were in a dry and dusty place where there was no water, just utterly desperate for God. And he was just so articulate, and yet he's left speechless in the wake of God's goodness and grace, have you ever found yourself basking in God's goodness just beyond what words can say? And you're left there with nothing coming out of your mouth because there just aren't words adequate enough to match His goodness and graciousness. That's where David's at, and you wonder, "God why would you be so good to me?" Notice vs 21, 2 reasons.

#1 For Your word's sake, and #2 According to Your own heart. The Lord has said, "*I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.*" Ex 33:19

It wasn't because David was a great guy that God did this great work, it was for His own word's sake, and according to His own heart. And God has saved you and me, not because we're such great catches, but because of His Word's sake, and according to His own heart He has saved us, His grace is lavished upon us, not because of *our* goodness but because of *His* goodness.

And David points out 3 things that I'm not going to expound on but I want you to see in vs 22 concerning the Lord, and I trust that they don't need my help to make the point. #1 God is great, #2 There is none like Him, and #3 Nor is there any God besides Him.

In Vs 23 we see why God chose to make Israel His chosen people, and again it wasn't because they were such a great people. It was to make for Himself a name, and to do for Himself great and awesome deeds. Again God chooses the weak things of this world, the things that the world rejects God uses to confound the wise and the mighty. We read regarding Israel in Deut 7:7-8, "*The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples; but because the LORD loves you, and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers.*" In other words for His word's sake and according to His own heart, He chose the least to do the greatest work with, that's the way the Lord operates. Look at vs 25 (read).

God's promise was unconditional, all David had to do was accept it, step out of the way and let God do it.

Vs 27

Before we begin to move towards the close, notice in this vs that prayer isn't something we say, it's something we pray. Which is to say, (as David points out here) that prayer comes not from the head, but from the heart. "Your servant has found it in his heart to pray this prayer."

Vs 28-29

Notice in vs 25, "You have spoken" and in vs 28, "Your words are true", and "You have promised." David didn't base his faith on some noble premise of fiction that sounded really good to the rationale, His faith was based upon the unwavering foundation of the truth and promises of God's word. "God you said it and I trust in Your Word, now perform it according to your glory." And David laid hold of these promises and believed them.

You know you might have a million dollars in the bank, but until you lay hold of them and place them into circulation they're not doing you any good. And for lack of a better example, God's word is like money in the bank. It's there for you, it's a resource that you can draw upon and place into circulation in your life that you might benefit spiritually and otherwise from, but until you lay hold of His promises and His Word and place them into circulation by believing Him for it, they (those promises) won't do you any good.

God has promised you His peace, God has promised you forgiveness, guidance and growth, but it's critical that you know His promises concerning these things and you appropriate them or else they won't benefit you.

"God you promises that if I lacked wisdom, all I had to do was ask with out doubting and you'd supply liberally. I don't doubt that you can do it, and I need to know what to do here, I need your direction, God would you give me wisdom?" And He'll do it, "God you've promised that if I'll confess my sin to You, that You're faithful, You're just to forgive me of my sin and to cleanse me of all unrighteousness. And God I've blown it, I blew up at work, or at the house, or I'm jealous of so and so." Or whatever, "But God You've said You'll forgive me, now let Your Word be established, do it Lord, wash my sin away." And He'll do it, find out what God's word says, bring it before Him and allow Him to work in your life, for His words sake and according to His own heart He'll do it, that He might be magnified and glorified in your life.