

Lesson Text

2 Samuel 7:1-6, 8-10, 12-16 (NIV)

¹ After the king was settled in his palace and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ² he said to Nathan the prophet, “Here I am, living in a house of cedar, while the ark of God remains in a tent.”

³ Nathan replied to the king, “Whatever you have in mind, go ahead and do it, for the LORD is with you.”

⁴ But 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? ⁶ 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.’”

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. ⁹ 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 on earth. ¹⁰ 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.’”

¹² “When 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. ¹³ He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. ¹⁴ I 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. ¹⁵ But my love will never be taken away from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. ¹⁶ Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.”

Today’s Lesson Aims

- **Learning Fact:** To summarize the key points in God’s covenantal promise to David.
- **Biblical Principle:** To explain how Jesus brings that promise to its ultimate fulfillment.
- **Daily Application:** To express a personal desire to serve God and be open to His plans.

Power Hour Lesson
Summary for
October 22, 2017

“God’s Covenant with David”

Lesson Text:
2 Samuel 7:1-6, 8-10,
12-16

Background Scripture:
2 Samuel 7:1-16;
Psalm 89; 1
Chronicles 22:6-8

Devotional Reading:
Psalm 89:1-15

INTRODUCTION

Lasting Legacies

Presidents of the United States have many avenues for leaving legacies. One such is by means of the Presidential Libraries Act of 1955. This act established a system of libraries operated and maintained by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). At the beginning of 2016, the 13 presidential libraries that are maintained by the NARA contained over 400 million pages of printed materials, about 10 million photographs, over 15 million feet of motion-picture film, and nearly 100,000 hours of audio and video recordings.

It's natural to want to leave our mark on earth in some lasting way. King David himself had a plan as to how he would do that. But the fact that he had "shed blood abundantly" as a "man of war" (1 Chronicles 22:8; 28:3) meant that God had a different idea.

LESSON BACKGROUND

Time: about 1000 B.C.

Place: Jerusalem

David was in very ordinary surroundings when Samuel came to Bethlehem to anoint a replacement for King Saul. The youngest of eight brothers, David's viability as a candidate to be king was not seriously considered by his father, so Samuel pushed the issue: after none of David's seven brothers proved to be God's chosen, David was sent for and anointed as Israel's next king (1 Samuel 16:1-13).

After Saul's death, David became king of only the tribe of Judah, which he ruled for seven and a half years. When Saul's son Ishbosheth was murdered, the way became clear for David to become king over the entire nation (2 Samuel 5:1-5). David proceeded to conquer the city of Jerusalem and bring the ark of the covenant there (5:6-10; 6:12-23). He also defeated the Philistines who had been a thorn in Israel's side for some time (5:17-25).

While the above achievements were steps David took to solidify his reign, the lesson text records what God did to solidify that reign in a way David never could have imagined

What Do You Think?

- What should a genuine concern for things of God look like today?
- What are some ways to correct the wrong thinking of someone who has good intentions?

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- Why is it important to remember what one's condition was before becoming a Christian?
- What strategies can we use to ensure we stay focused on the spiritual nature of God's kingdom?

POINTS TO PONDER

- As the people of God, we should have a genuine concern for the things of God (2 Samuel 7:1-3).
- Our plans may be God-honoring, but they may not be God's plans (vs. 4-6).
- God's plans are infinitely greater than ours, and we can't beat God's giving! (vs. 8-10).
- God's kingdom is a spiritual one – established in Christ for all eternity! (vs. 12-13).
- We can be citizens of God's kingdom in Christ Jesus, Who will rule forever! (vs. 14-16).

CONCLUSION

We Are David

In a sense all Christians can say, "We are David." True, few of us have had any experience watching sheep or fighting wild animals in defense of sheep. But what the Lord said to David in 1 Samuel 7:8, 9 could be applied to His treatment of any of us. God took us from what we were (lost, sinful) and made us part of His family. We did nothing to deserve such a status; what we deserved was condemnation. But Jesus, who had done nothing to deserve death, gave His life for us at the cross.

Paul states the contrast first by describing humanity's sorry status: "dead in your transgressions and sins, . . . gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts" (Ephesians 2:1, 3). Then comes the welcome remedy: "God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ" (2:4, 5). This is the same mercy that took David from the humble task of watching sheep to become Israel's greatest king and the recipient of a very special covenant indeed.

While few of us have had any experience watching sheep, we have all had experience acting like sheep by "going astray" (1 Peter 2:25). And we have all been rescued by the good shepherd.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank You for the mercy You have shown us in Christ Jesus. We are so unworthy of such treatment; Your faithfulness is such a stark contrast to our unfaithfulness. May our lives each day reflect our awareness that we are not our own; we have been "bought with a price" (1 Corinthians 6:19, 20). In Jesus' name, amen.

THOUGHT TO REMEMBER

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What God builds with us endures. What we build without Him does not.

ANTICIPATING THE NEXT LESSON

Next week's lesson is **"God's Covenant with the Returned Exiles"** and tells how the returning exiles reflected on their past and recommitted to their covenant relationship with the Lord God. Study Nehemiah chapters 9 and 10.

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