

Davidic Covenant

April 21, 2024

Lesson Summary

Main Passages

2 Samuel 7

Session Outline

1. David's Offer (2 Samuel 7:1-7)
2. God's Response (2 Samuel 7:8-11)
3. David's Reply (2 Samuel 7:12-17, 28-29)

Theological Theme

Even when we think we are honoring the Lord, we must trust His plans and timing over our own.

Call to Action

Repent and believe in Jesus Christ, the descendant of David, for the forgiveness of your sins.



Leader Guide

Davidic Covenant

Introduction

Most people recognize the importance of dreams and goals. If you google a question about the value dreams and goals have in our lives, you will find more responses than you could read. Some say dreams and goals are so valuable that when you stop dreaming about the future and setting goals, your life will suffer.

The difference for Christ followers is that when we set goals or dream about the future, we are not to consider only our desires but to primarily consider God's desires. We have a heavenly Father who has good plans for our lives and wants to bless us in extravagant and glorious ways when we trust Him and choose to live in the power of His Holy Spirit daily. Today we will see an example of how David needed to trust God even over his own desires to honor God.

- ❓ What is a dream or goal of yours that has been changed as you have grown over the years?
- ❓ What is one way your life has been influenced by one of your dreams or goals?
- ❓ How does trusting the Lord enable us to dream bigger?

Session Summary

Sometimes Christians have great ideas of ways to glorify the Lord. However, no matter the intention, it is a problem when we fail to consult the Lord about our plans. Just because something is a good idea doesn't necessarily mean it is part of God's will. David had great plans to build a permanent house for the ark of the covenant. When God denied David's request, David could have become upset, angry, or even depressed. Instead, David trusted the Lord and submitted to His plans.



God didn't reject David as a person even though he was not the right person to build the temple. Just because God says no to us doesn't mean He is rejecting or denying us personally. But we can always trust that His plans are better than ours. We can respond like David in prayer and thanksgiving as we humbly accept whatever God wants to bring our way.

1. David's Offer (2 Samuel 7:1-7)


David was living in an expensive, beautiful home, but when he looked around at all the furnishings he enjoyed, it bothered him that the house of the Lord consisted of tent curtains. David had the good intention of honoring the Lord by establishing a more permanent dwelling place for God's presence.

David proposed to build a permanent structure for the tabernacle. God had provided the plans for the tabernacle while the Israelites wandered the wilderness, so it would be portable. To this point, the Lord had not instructed anyone to modify the tabernacle into a permanent structure. But now that Jerusalem had been established, it made sense to David to build a permanent house for the Lord.

The prophet Nathan heard what David proposed to do for God, and it sounded good and reasonable to him, so he encouraged the king to do what was in his heart. But even if something is a good idea or makes sense to us, it may not line up with God's plans. There was nothing wrong with David's idea theoretically, and it is clear his heart was in the right place. But this serves as a reminder that we should always pray and seek the Lord instead of trusting our own hearts and minds, even when we want to do something *for* the Lord.

-  When have you seen the truth that a good thing meant to honor God may not always be God's will for that time or place?
-  What does this teach you about submitting to God's will and wisdom in every area of life?

God called Nathan out for encouraging David without consulting God first. Just because something is a good idea doesn't mean it lines up with the will of God or the timing of God's plans. We will see how God encouraged David about next steps even as He rejected David's proposal to build a temple. God's plans are most important and every detail matters, including when, where, who, and how.


-  Application: What is God teaching you about the timing of His plans for your life?

2. God's Response (2 Samuel 7:8-11)

God responded by recounting where it all started for David: as a shepherd for his father's sheep. God took David from the pasture to the throne with a lot of life lived along the way. Even though it was God's plan for David to succeed Saul as king, there was nothing easy about the process or the years that occurred between the anointing as a shepherd boy to his crowning as king.

 Why is it valuable to remember God's past work in your life?


The Lord reminded David how He had protected David from his enemies over the years. God had been with David and cut off the enemies that had come against him time and time again. God had been faithful to David throughout the years and this moment was no different. Though God rejected David's plan, David would end up where God desired him to be.

 When was a time you felt God saying no to one of your plans? How did you respond? What is challenging about these moments?

David was also reminded that God was the One who made his name great. It was the Lord that brought David to the most powerful position in the land, and it was the Lord who gave David power and influence.

In further affirmation, God promised David two things. God promised that under David's reign He would establish a permanent and secure Israel. David had shown concern for the welfare of his countrymen and the adversity they had already endured as they fought for a place to reside.


God also promised to build the house of David. God would establish a legacy for David, and his family would endure long after he was gone. While David's offer was denied, God promised to honor David by building him a "house" that would be more glorious than anything David could have planned for God. While we don't learn God's reasoning for denying David's request in this passage, God explained in 1 Chronicles 22:8-10 that David had been a man of war and God desired that a man of peace lead in building His temple. Sometimes we don't know the reasoning behind a decision by the Lord, but we can always trust that He knows and will do what is best.

 Application: Where is God calling you to trust Him over your own desires and plans?


3. David's Reply (2 Samuel 7:12-17, 28-29)

After promising to establish the house or dynasty of David, the Lord gave specifics of what that meant. Because David succeeded Saul instead of any of Saul's family, there was no precedent for a family monarchy. God promised David that his own offspring would sit on the throne after him. This was an important aspect of the legacy God promised for the house of David.

Regarding building a permanent dwelling place for the presence of the Lord, God promised that David's descendent would take the throne and be the one to build the temple. As part of His promise, God told David not only would his descendent build the temple, but God would also have a special relationship with this future king. If David's descendent sinned, God would not cut him off as He did Saul. Rather He was going to chasten and discipline him without rejecting him like a father to a son he loves. This reminds us of what it means to be loved by God.

 How have you experienced this kind of love from the Lord and how does it affect the way you love others?

David was assured of the role his family would play in leading Israel for generations to come. Solomon would be the son chosen by God to take over and build the temple following the reign of David. Although God didn't specify which of David's children He was speaking about, David was confident of what God promised. David could move forward in confidence, trusting God's promises over his own hopes and dreams. Though God spoke about David's immediate descendant, His words also pointed to David's ultimate descendant, Jesus, who would establish His throne forever.

 How did God's plans for David surpass David's plans for God?

David received this powerful promise as a gift from the Lord. In verses 28-29, David responded in trust of the Lord. David's prayer that followed this interaction shows the humility of the king as he continually referenced himself as "your servant." As king of Israel, he had every precedent to demand, command, and expect everyone else to submit to him.

The way that David willingly and humbly accepted the rejection of his idea from the Lord and accepted the promises of God regarding the future displayed his humility and heart for the things of God. It is easy to think

Hope of the Messiah

This covenant gave rise to the messianic hope in the Old Testament. Although David's descendants failed, the people clung to the hope of a Greater David. The angel Gabriel echoed the words of David's covenant when he announced the birth of Israel's King, Jesus the Savior (Luke 1:32-33)

because we have an idea to bring glory to God, we should immediately put it into action. The reality we learn from David is that we must recognize our own weakness and need for God and then willingly submit every aspect of our lives to Him as we trust His plans over our own.

- ❓ Application: How will you be more intentional about willingly and humbly submitting to the will of God in your life?

Conclusion

The more we grow in relationship with the Lord, the more we want to honor and please Him. David came up with a plan to bring honor to the Lord and it seemed right and good. But God rejected David's plan to build a temple as a permanent residence for the ark of the covenant. God would eventually approve the building of the temple, but not in the way and timing David suggested.

Instead, the Lord turned David's request into a promise encompassing his family for generations. God established the Davidic Covenant that ensured a legacy for this man after His own heart. His "house" would be a royal lineage that would eventually bring about the Messiah. Even though God said no to David's plan, He simultaneously said yes to even greater things for David and his family throughout the generations. That promise now extends to Christ followers, including us.

- ❓ Where do you need to trust the Lord with your plans, even if it means they get denied or changed?
- ❓ How does a posture of humility ensure that we don't miss God plans while pursuing ours?
- ❓ How might submitting to God's plans over your own give you greater opportunity for gospel conversations with others?

Prayer of Response

Thank the Lord that His plans are best. Ask for wisdom and courage to respond rightly when God's plans take priority over yours.

Memory Verse

He is the one who will build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. — 2 Samuel 7:13

Additional Resources

- *Exalting Jesus in 1 & 2 Samuel* by J.D. Greear, Heath Thomas
- *Be Restored* by Warren Wiersbe
- *2 Samuel for You* by Tim Chester

Disciples Multiplying Disciples



Historical Context of 2 Samuel

Purpose

The books of 1 and 2 Samuel describe Israel's transition from a loosely organized tribal league under God (a theocracy) to centralized leadership under a king who answered to God (a monarchy). Samuel's life and ministry greatly shaped this period of restructuring as he consistently pointed people back to God.

Author

Early tradition suggests 1 and 2 Samuel were originally one book. Some scholars believe Samuel was largely responsible for the material up to 1 Samuel 25, and that the prophets Nathan and Gad gave significant input to the rest (based on 1Ch 29:29). This proposal, however, must remain speculative because the books name no authors. First Samuel 27:6 suggests the book was not completed until perhaps a few generations after the division of the kingdom around 930 BC. This verse states that Achish gave the town of Ziklag to David. The writer goes on to say that, at the time he was writing, Ziklag still belonged to the kings of Judah. The reference to "kings of Judah" places the writing of 1 and 2 Samuel well after the kingdom divided.

Setting

After Israel's conquest of the land during the days of Joshua, Israel entered a time of apostasy. The book of Judges describes recurrences of a cycle with predictable phases. First, the people sinned against the Lord and fell into idolatry. Second, the Lord raised up an adversary to afflict them and turn them back to him. Third, the people cried out to the Lord in repentance. Fourth, the Lord brought deliverance for them through a judge whom he raised up. The famous verse in the book of Judges, "In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did whatever seemed right to him" (Jdg 21:25), aptly describes the period. The book of 1 Samuel picks up the historical record toward the end of those stormy days.

Special Features

The books of 1 and 2 Samuel highlight a significant transition time in Israel's history. As 1 Samuel begins, Israel is a loosely organized tribal league living under poor spiritual leadership. God's plan for his people nonetheless continued as he raised up Samuel to guide Israel's transition from a theocracy to a monarchy. Saul's kingship constitutes the remainder of 1 Samuel, while David's kingship is largely the focus of 2 Samuel.

Extended Commentary

2 Samuel 7

7:1 David had secured his borders and subdued all his enemies, resulting in the nation's enjoyment of rest on every side. However, all of this came through God's blessing.

7:2 David's words further revealed his heart for the Lord. It made no sense to him that he had so much and the ark of God was housed only by tent curtains.

7:3 Nathan is elsewhere called "the prophet Nathan" (1Kg 1:8, 10, 22–23). He apparently believed he did not need to consult the Lord about whether David should build God a temple, so he gave the king his blessing.

7:4–6 God had brought the Israelites out of Egypt over four hundred years earlier and had led them to Sinai, where he gave them his statutes. During all that time, he had chosen to make his dwelling place in a tent among his people.

7:7 God's question have I ever spoken a word implied it was his prerogative to have a temple or not. He determined how his people should worship him.

7:8 The Lord had taken David from the pasture ... to be ruler—from a very humble profession to the greatest position of leadership in the nation.

7:9 The expression in Hebrew, "make a great name for _____" occurs six times in the Old Testament. First Ch 17:8 is parallel to this passage, citizens of Babylon plan to do it for themselves in Gn 11:4, and the Lord has done it for himself in Neh 9:10; Jr 32:20; Dn 9:15. A slightly different Hebrew phrase, "your name will be exalted forever," used in 2Sm 7:26, is also used of Abraham in Gn 12:2, suggesting the similarities between the Abrahamic and Davidic covenants.

7:10 The Lord's promises of lasting security meant everything to people whose lives were subject to foreign invasions or raids by local tribes.

7:11 The Lord denied David's desire to build him a house (temple), but he rewarded David's heart by building the king a house (dynasty)—composed of David's descendants.

7:12 God promised David the permanent dynasty Saul could have had (1Sm 13:13–14).

7:13 The phrase I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever did not imply that David's descendants would live forever but that his dynasty and kingdom would.

7:14 The concept of discipline implies reproof or correction, but generally with good intent (Is 2:4; Hab 2:1).

7:15 God promised David his faithful love (Hb chesed). This is a rich term, encompassing all that would come to David's line because he belonged to God. On the other hand, the Lord had removed such love from Saul because of his misguided heart.

7:16–17 Ultimately God’s promise to David was fulfilled in the king’s most significant descendant, the Lord Jesus Christ, whose throne would be established forever (Lk 1:32–33).

7:18 David’s questions, Who am I . . . what is my house, reveal his amazement at God’s grace toward him and his family. The king also pondered such issues about humanity in general when he wrote Ps 8.

7:19 David affirmed that what the Lord God had done so far did not begin to challenge his power, and it was only the beginning of what he would do through David’s line. The king’s words this is a revelation for mankind can also be translated “this is instruction for mankind” or “this is the instruction of mankind,” suggesting David thought God’s work with him could be an example for all humanity. The Lord was willing to work through a surrendered heart.

7:20–21 David was aware of God’s grace on his life, and he affirmed all these great things the Lord had promised would happen only in light of God’s word and will (lit “heart”).

7:22 David’s affirmation of the Lord’s uniqueness contrasted sharply with the polytheistic views of the nations around him.

7:23 God established his covenant with Israel not only to redeem a people for himself, but to make a name for himself so other peoples could turn to him (Is 45:22). His great and awesome acts included his miracles performed in Egypt and during the journey to the promised land. God’s intent was to judge nations and their gods who lived in Canaan at the time Israel entered the land.

7:24 Israel’s special covenant relationship with God (You established your people . . . forever) did not preclude God using Israel to bless other nations (Gn 12:3). Nonetheless, Israel’s covenant with God provided them a great blessing (Rm 3:1–2).

7:25 David’s response shows that he believed and was trusting in God to fulfill his promises.

7:26 David wanted most of all that God’s name would be exalted forever through all he did for David’s house. Seeing the Lord of Armies receive his proper glory had long been on David’s heart (1Sm 17:26, 36, 45–47).

7:27 Like Daniel (Dn 9:2–5), David did not presume on God’s promises but prayed for God to graciously fulfill them despite the unworthiness of humanity.

7:28 David knew God’s words were true (the Hb word rendered “true” is related to the Eng word amen). God’s truth provided David a foundation for his life, just as it does for all believers (Jn 8:31–32).

7:29 Lasting blessing on David’s house would naturally benefit the king and his descendants, but David seemed most concerned with God’s honor. He truly was a man loyal to God (1Sm 13:14).¹

References

1. Bryan E. Beyer, “2 Samuel,” in *CSB Study Bible: Notes*, ed. Edwin A. Blum and Trevin Wax (Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers, 2017), 469–470.