

Sunday Night Message

April 26, 2020

2 Samuel 7 – God’s Perfect Will (I’ll Build You a House, David?)

Topics – David; Building the Temple

Series – *2 Samuel*

Text – 2 Samuel 7 (Parallel Passage – 1 Chronicles 17)

Introduction

In chapter seven, we see that David gets at least a temporary reprieve from fighting against his enemies, and he seeks permission to build a permanent structure for God to dwell in, as He did in the Tabernacle when the people of God were wandering in the wilderness after being delivered from Egypt. David wanted permission to build God “a House,” but instead God tells David that He will build David “an house” (v. 11), meaning that God was going to build a kingdom through David’s family; a lineage of descendants that would ultimately give birth to the Lord Jesus Christ, Israel’s Messiah.

2 Samuel Seven would serve as the opening reference in Peter’s message at Pentecost.

Note – it is believed that this chapter actually references events that take place toward the end of David’s reign.

I. David Seeks Nathan’s Counsel (vs. 1 – 3)

Because God is not blessing Israel, the enemies of God’s people have all been defeated, or at least driven back. Saul faced enemies throughout his reign as king, but David very quickly removes the enemies from within the borders of Israel.

David sees what he perceives to be a big injustice. He has a beautiful home, while the ark of God, which has historically been a place where God met with His people, was inside of a tent. He thought it was time, God had a permanent house.

It is important for us to remember that although God did manifest His presence in Old Testament Israel in both the Tabernacle and the Temple, neither of those places could contain God. God is omni-present. See Psalm 139.

Illustrate – If I go out to the Atlantic Ocean and fill up a bucket with water, I may have ocean in the bucket, but I don’t have all of the ocean in the bucket. Neither the Tabernacle nor the Temple could ever contain all of God.

Paul told the Athenians on Mars Hill:

"God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things; And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us: For in him we

live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring." (Acts 17:24-28)

Stephen said nearly the same thing in his message to the religious leaders:

"Howbeit the most High dwelleth not in temples made with hands; as saith the prophet, Heaven is my throne, and earth is my footstool: what house will ye build me? saith the Lord: or what is the place of my rest? Hath not my hand made all these things?" (Acts 7:48-50)

Nathan's first reaction was to tell David to do it, but he will soon have to make a retraction.

II. Nathan Reveals God's Will (vs. 4 – 11)

Notice that Nathan gave David the green light without first checking with God. He just assumed because David was a good man, and that building the Temple was a good thing, that it must have been God's will. He was wrong; and that very night, God came to Nathan and straightened him out.

Practical Point – As ministers, we must be sure about God's will before we give people advice. Nathan should have checked with God first.

The Bible later gives us the reasons that David would not be the one to build the Temple:

"And David said to Solomon, My son, as for me, it was in my mind to build an house unto the name of the LORD my God: But the word of the LORD came to me, saying, Thou hast shed blood abundantly, and hast made great wars: thou shalt not build an house unto my name, because thou hast shed much blood upon the earth in my sight. Behold, a son shall be born to thee, who shall be a man of rest; and I will give him rest from all his enemies round about: for his name shall be Solomon, and I will give peace and quietness unto Israel in his days. He shall build an house for my name; and he shall be my son, and I will be his father; and I will establish the throne of his kingdom over Israel for ever." (1 Chronicles 22:7-10; see also 1 Chronicles 28:1 - 7)

III. God Certifies His Covenant (vs. 12 – 17)

The word, "covenant," is not used here, but David does use that word referring to this promise in 2 Samuel 23:5.

God reveals to David that He is going to build David an House through David's descendants. God also promises that this covenant is unconditional. He took the kingdom away from Saul, but He will never remove it from David. David is referenced fifty-nine times in the New Testament, many of those dealing with Christ being the fulfillment of God's promise to David found here in 2 Samuel 7.

See Psalm 89:20 – 37.

"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)

"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." (Revelation 22:16)

The ultimate fulfillment of this covenant will be in the Millennial Kingdom when Christ is ruling and reigning on the earth, sitting on the throne of David.

This is the fourth of 5 irrevocable, unconditional covenants made by God. The first 3 include: 1) the Noahic Covenant (Gen. 9:8–17); 2) the Abrahamic Covenant (Gen. 15:12–21); and 3) the Levitic or Priestly Covenant (Num. 3:1–18; 18:1–20; 25; 10–13). The New Covenant, which actually provided redemption, was revealed later through Jeremiah (Jer. 31:31–34) and accomplished by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.¹

IV. David Offers God's Praise (vs. 18 – 29)

David's prayer not only expresses appreciation to the Lord for His covenant promise, but also reveals that David had no hard feelings toward God about not letting him build the Temple.

Conclusion

Determining the Will of God

- 1. We first go to the Word of God** – check to see what the Bible says about what you want to do. Just about every possible scenario is covered by Biblical principle. Let's say for example that a young lady wanted to know if it was OK to get involved with a young man who is not a dedicated Christian. She could look into the Word and see that it says that she is not to be "unequally yoked" together with an unbeliever. She would also see that the Scripture says that she cannot "walk together" with someone whom she is not in agreement with. And there are many other passages of Scripture, which would advise her against what she wants to do. The bottom line is that if the thing we want to do is in violation of sound Biblical principle, we should not do it.
- 2. We go to God in prayer.** We ask God to reveal to us personally His will regarding the matter. I believe that if a person is really concerned about the will of God, He will direct them. When I was praying about where to serve God after Bible college, God revealed to me precisely that He wanted my family to serve Him here in Galloway, NJ.
- 3. We get advice.** The Bible is clear that there is safety in a multitude of counselors. Find some people with godly wisdom that you can go to for counsel regarding your decision, and give them some time to pray first before they give you an answer.

God's will is always the best. We may not always get God to agree with our will, so it is best for us just to seek God's will.

Illustrate – Compare David to Saul's, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" (Acts 9:6).

¹ John MacArthur Jr., ed., *The MacArthur Study Bible*, electronic ed. (Nashville, TN: Word Pub., 1997), 436.