

## **God's Covenant With David - 2 Samuel 7:1-29**

### **Introduction:**

Over the years, people have made all kinds of promises to us. Some promises were almost too good to be true, and others were small but appreciated nonetheless. Some people kept their promises and, sadly, others did not.

What if God made a promise to you? What if that promise was almost as big as promising you the moon? What if the promise God made to you would include you, your children and your children's children for countless generations? Would you still be able to believe in that promise?

In his chapter God makes a covenant with David, and through that covenant relationship promises that David's family would always have a leader to rule God's people. Only a God who could see the future, and plan the future, could make such a promise.

How will David respond to such a promise by God? This is the heart of 2 Samuel 7.

### **David's Desire to Build a Temple – 2 Samuel 7:1-3**

1. Verse 1 describes what life was like for David after a few years of ruling. How were things going for the new king? What was the key to what was happening in the kingdom of Israel?
2. What discrepancy does David see according to verse 2? Does this ever happen today?
3. We are introduced to a new person in verses 2-3. He will become an important part of David's story. Who is he and what is his role?
4. What advice does Nathan give to King David (v. 3)? What does he mean by this?

## **God Responds to David's Proposal – 2 Samuel 7:4-11**

5. Nathan has given the king advice to do as he wanted. How soon does God step in and set the record straight (v. 4)?
6. What does God address David in verse 5?
7. What prophetic formula is used in verse 5 that makes it clear we are hearing God's message, not the message of a man? What will be the theme of what God is about to say according to this verse?
8. Verse 6 recounts Israel's history. What is noted in that history? What part of Israel's history is recalled?
9. Verse 7 moves to another segment of Israel's history. What era is recounted here? What was the point of God's message in this verse?
10. Starting in verse 8 God has a direct message for David. There are two very important events recounted here: David's moved from shepherd to king, and David's protection and victories over his enemies. Read carefully verse 8 and 9. Who is doing the action in these verses? Why is this important for David to remember?
11. In verse 9 we also shift from what God did in the past to what he will do in the future. What is the first thing God will do for David according to verse 9? Did he?
12. What is the second promise that God makes in verse 10? Who is this promise for? Did it happen?
13. What had been the lot of God's people since the time they entered the Promised Land (cf. vss. 10-11)? What lies ahead for his people (v. 11)?

## **Promises to David's Family – 2 Samuel 7:12-17**

14. David wants to build God a house, but in verse 11 God says He will build David a house. According to verse 12, what is this "house" God is referring to?

15. What word in verse 13 indicates that this promise is no ordinary promise, that something extra-ordinary must be happening here?
16. What will God's relationship be like to the descendants of David according to verse 14? How would that be perfectly fulfilled (cf. Matthew 10:32-33, Hebrews 1:1-3)?
17. What is the point about the discipline in verses 14-15?
18. What two things will last forever, according to verse 16? How could this be accomplished (cf. Hebrews 7:20-21)?

### **David's Response to God – 2 Samuel 7:18-29**

19. In verse 18 we read that David sat before the Lord. Likely he was sitting in the tabernacle before the curtain dividing the holy of holies from the holy area. What does he ask God?
20. How does God putting David in the position of king compare to the promises made to his family (v. 19)?
21. In verse 22 David compares God to the gods that are known to the people of that area. How does God of Israel compare?
22. According to verse 23-24 what makes Israel special from all the other nations?
23. What does David ask for in verse 25?
24. What has God promised to do according to verse 27? How does that fit with what David wanted to do (v. 2)?
25. What does David pray in verses 28-29? What is the mood of this prayer?

## **Conclusion:**

The chapter begins with an important lesson about vision and ministry. When the battles ceased and David was settled, then he had a vision to build a temple for the Lord. Would that not also be true in the setting of the church? When all the energy is being spent to deal with conflicts and strife within the church, how can the leadership and people have any vision for building the church? Maybe too many churches remain ineffective in ministry because all their efforts are spent on internal conflicts.

But the chapter ends with David in complete awe at the promises of God. God has promised to bless his family not just for the immediate time but for all time: forever! Though David may not be able to imagine how that could even be, he trusts God and takes Him at His word. Only God could make a promise that would stretch into the unseen future for generations to come. And only God could make that promise come true.

One of the great messages found in the incarnation and ministry of Jesus is the fact that these promises made to David were fulfilled! An everlasting kingdom ruled by a descendent of David came in Jesus! This kingdom will never end, for it will outlast time itself!

Our response must be like that of David's: reverent awe.