

• LESSON 7 (February 12) •

The God Who Made a Promise to David

More than 400 years (1 Kings 6:1) after the descendants of Abraham were delivered from Egyptian bondage and entered into a covenant with God at Mt. Sinai, a man after God's own heart (1 Sam 13:14) named David was reigning as king over the now well-established nation of Israel.

Now when the king lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, the king said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent." And Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you."

But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, "Go and tell my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: Would you build me a house to dwell in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling. In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?"' (2 Sam 7:1-7)

- ❖ What was the "tent" that the ark of God was dwelling in at this point in history?
- ❖ What was "the ark of God" and most importantly, what was its significance? Exodus 25:10-22 may be a helpful passage to reference.
- ❖ In what way could Nathan have provided a better response to David than the one he offered in 2 Samuel 7:3?
- ❖ What valuable insight do we gain about God in 2 Samuel 7:7?

"Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. When your days are fulfilled and

you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men, but my steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.” In accordance with all these words, and in accordance with all this vision, Nathan spoke to David. (2 Sam 7:8-17)

- ❖ When the LORD promises that he will “make a house” of David (2 Sam 7:11), what does he mean?

- ❖ What important detail is attached to this promise in 2 Samuel 7:12?

- ❖ Imagine a typical Jew living in 1000 B.C. immediately after the reign of David. Who would that person most likely regard as the fulfillment of God’s promise to David in 2 Samuel 7:13?

- ❖ How do we know that the line of kings who follow in the royal footsteps of David have a part in the fulfillment of God’s promises to David in 2 Samuel 7?

- ❖ How do we know that there is much *more* to the fulfillment of God’s promises to David in 2 Samuel 7 than his sons, grandsons, and even great-grandsons?

A thousand years later, the first verse of the New Testament reads:

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. (Matt 1:1)

- ❖ Why is this verse relevant to our understanding of God’s promises in 2 Samuel 7? Consider also Gabriel’s words to Mary in Luke 1:30-33 and Zechariah’s prophecy in Luke 1:68-75.

- ❖ Finally, take the time to analyze what Peter preached in Acts 2:22-36. What is Peter claiming?