

Bibles???

The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

This evening, we are continuing through our study in 2 Samuel.

We are going to finish chapter 7 and do all of chapter 8.

Let's pray...

So last week, we left off with David bring the Ark of the Covenant back to Jerusalem – he had a little set back because he had to learn to do it God's way and not man's way.

So the Ark is sitting in Jerusalem in a tent – David is in his palace – he might have been looking down at the tent wondering why he should live in such splendor while the Ark sits there in a tent.

So David comes up with an idea - he is going to build a house for the Ark of the Covenant – he is going to do something for God.

So he goes to Nathan and Nathan tells him to do what his heart desired – that he was sure that God would be ok with it.

The problem was that God was not ok with it.

He gives a revelation to Nathan that he is supposed to provide to David.

And we saw that part of the revelation was God telling David that it was not his purpose to build the temple.

So God told David – No!

David – that is not your purpose – you are a shepherd – your purpose is shepherding my people.

And then God proceeded to remind David all that he had done for him.

David wanted to build God a house and God told David that He was going to build a house for him – speaking about David's legacy.

So here in verse 12, God continues to expound on David's legacy.

[2Sa 7:12-29 NKJV] 12 "When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. 13 "He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

So here we have a twofold promise –

The first one is directed toward King Solomon.

Solomon is David's second son through Bathsheba.

He is the one that is going to rule Israel after the death of David. (I will set up your seed after you)

He is the one who God chose to build the temple for Him.

The second part of the promise is Jesus Christ –

The Messiah would be of the line of David. He is the Son of David, the Seed of David

He is going to reign on David's throne forever.

He is also building the Father a magnificent house – and that house is the church.

[Heb 3:3-6 NKJV] 3 For this One has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as He who built the house has more honor than the house. 4 For every house is built by someone, but He who built all things [is] God. 5 And Moses indeed [was] faithful in all His house as a servant, for a testimony of those things which would be spoken [afterward], 6 but Christ as a Son over His own house, **whose house we are if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end.**

This was must have been encouraging for David after seeing the sad events behind King Saul's dynasty that came to an abrupt end with all of his sons dying.

14 "I will be his Father, and he shall be My son. If he **commits iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men and with the blows of the sons of men. 15 "But My mercy shall not depart from him, as I took [it] from Saul, whom I removed from before you. 16 "And your house and your kingdom shall be established**

forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever." ' " 17 According to all these words and according to all this vision, so Nathan spoke to David.

When it speaks of David descendant committing iniquity – it is referring to Solomon and his descendants –

Unlike Saul who was rejected by God, David's descendants are not going to be rejected when they sin – God is going to chasten them instead – so there was a special relationship that God was promising to have with David descendants.

So Nathan proceeds to tell David the vision that God had given him.

Now let's see how David is going to react -

18 Then King David went in and sat before the LORD; and he said: "Who [am] I, O Lord GOD? And what is my house, that You have brought me this far?"

So right away, we see David displaying humility.

Even after the Lord revealed to him how he was going to bless him – he reflects back on his life and acknowledges that he didn't do anything to deserve this and didn't do anything to deserve what God was going to do for his legacy.

He was just a shepherd – he didn't have the qualifications to be a king – so notice that he gives all the credit to God.

Real “success” is all about God's work.

Church, we are called to be faithful, but we must remember that we are nothing without the work of God.

19 "And yet this was a small thing in Your sight, O Lord GOD; and You have also spoken of Your servant's house for a great while to come. [Is] this the manner of man, O Lord GOD?

David understands that his promise that he was given is going to affect things far into the future –

So he first offers praise for the promise.

20 "Now what more can David say to You? For You, Lord GOD, know Your servant.

David is at a lost for words here -

But did you notice that David refers to himself in the third person?

He was looking at his life, at himself, from outside of it as if to acknowledge that God was at work building it.

God was building “David,” the “David” who, when completed, would be so much like Jesus Christ.

21 "For Your word's sake, and according to Your own heart, You have done all these great things, to make Your servant know [them]. 22 "Therefore You are

great, O Lord GOD. For [there is] none like You, nor [is there any] God besides You, according to all that we have heard with our ears.

So in his prayer, he is continuing to offer praise.

23 "And who [is] like Your people, like Israel, the one nation on the earth whom God went to redeem for Himself as a people, to make for Himself a name--and to do for Yourself great and awesome deeds for Your land--before Your people whom You redeemed for Yourself from Egypt, the nations, and their gods? 24 "For You have made Your people Israel Your very own people forever; and You, LORD, have become their God. 25 "Now, O LORD God, the word which You have spoken concerning Your servant and concerning his house, **establish [it] forever and do as You have said.**

What David is doing here at the end of verse 25, he is appropriating God's promise.

"God, you promised that you will establish my kingdom and that my descendants will rule forever, I trust You that You will be faithful to Your word."

That is exactly what David is doing here – this is a bold prayer.

I believe that we need to have more prayers like David.

God is pleased to see us coming to Him with His promises for us.

26 "So let Your name be magnified forever, saying, 'The LORD of hosts [is] the God over Israel.' And let the house of Your servant David be established before You. 27 "For You, O LORD of hosts, God of Israel, have revealed [this] to Your servant, saying, 'I will build you a house.' Therefore Your servant has found it in his heart to pray this prayer to You. 28 "And now, O Lord GOD, You are God, and Your words are true, and You have promised this goodness to Your servant. 29 "Now therefore, let it please You to bless the house of Your servant, that it may continue before You forever; for You, O Lord GOD, have spoken [it], and with Your blessing let the house of **Your servant** be blessed forever."

I had you make a note of King David referring to himself as Your servant.

Nine times in these last 11 verse, we find that David refers to himself as a "servant". He doesn't call himself "THE KING", but he calls himself a "servant".

Here is this king that God is promising wonderful things to. God is promising to make David's lineage the lineage of the Kings of Israel. God is promising an everlasting kingdom to the Son of David. God is promising to David that he would be the ancestor to the Messiah. Jesus would have David's genes in Him.

I would think that David should be referring to himself as "God's King", or "God's Man of the Hour". But instead, he calls himself a servant.

This is why David was not angry when God told him that he was not going to build Him a house – he knew that his purpose was to fulfill what God had chosen for him – not what he had chosen for God.

So he responded by praying and giving Him praise.

[2Sa 8:1-18 NKJV] 1 After this it came to pass that David attacked the Philistines and subdued them. And David took Metheg Ammah from the hand of the Philistines.

This Philistine city is the city of Gath –

Apparently, Gath was considered the “mother of all cities” to the Philistines. It had been the home of David’s first conquest, Goliath. It had been the place where David had run to when he was hiding from Saul.

It was where David had befriended and served the king of Gath, Achish.

By taking this city, it seems that David is in control of the Philistines.

2 Then he defeated Moab. Forcing them down to the ground, he measured them off with a line. With two lines he measured off those to be put to death, and with one full line those to be kept alive. So the Moabites became David's servants, [and] brought tribute.

David's great grandmother, Ruth, was a Moabite.

That means David has Moabite blood in him.

Yet here David goes to war against Moab, and ends up putting to death two-thirds of their army.

Now we know that when David was on the run from King Saul, his parents were left under the care of the Moabites – and there are certain ancient Jewish writings that speculate that the Moabites might have been mistreated or they might have killed them.

Regarding what David is doing here with the measuring – some have speculated that what David is doing here is that he is measuring the Moabites and decided to kill those that were bigger and stronger – because they would be more of a threat than those that were physically smaller.

3 David also defeated Hadadezer the son of Rehob, king of Zobah, as he went to recover his territory at the River Euphrates. 4 David took from him one thousand [chariots], seven hundred horsemen, and twenty thousand foot soldiers. Also David hamstringed all the chariot [horses], except that he spared [enough] of them for one hundred chariots.

What David is doing here is that he is conquering the territory that God had promised to Abraham.

God had promised the land all the way to the Euphrates –

And in doing so – he is conquering some of the enemies that had been a thorn in the side of the Israelites for some time.

God is giving him victory in his battles much in the same way as He gives us victory in our battles.

Even those that have caused us problems for a long time.

It didn't matter how big the enemies army was or how well equipped they were – God gave him the victory.

So everyone always asks the question - Why did David hamstring the horses?

Isn't this barbaric? Why didn't he simply take the horses for himself?

First of all, it is not killing the horses.

Hamstringing the horses is the act of cutting the Achilles tendon so that they would not be able to pull the chariots.

He is making them useless so that the enemy doesn't use them against them in battle again.

Secondly, God commanded it.

In Deuteronomy 17:16 the Lord instructed the Israelites to not multiply horses to themselves.

You see, the horse and especially the horse drawn chariot were major weapons of war.

In those days it was like having a tank against foot soldiers.

The Lord did not want Israel to begin to trust in weapons but rather to put their trust in Him.

So this is the reason that David doesn't take the horses for himself – he did not want to depend on the horses for victory – he wanted to depend solely on the Lord for victory.

Plus he didn't have to take care of a bunch of horses -

5 When the Syrians of Damascus came to help Hadadezer king of Zobah, David killed twenty-two thousand of the Syrians. 6 Then David put garrisons in Syria of Damascus; and the Syrians became David's servants, [and] brought tribute. So the LORD preserved David wherever he went.

The Syrians were the nation directly north of Israel –

When they tried to help out the other tribes fight David, they were defeated as well.

And one of the things that David does so that the enemy will not grow strong again in his absence, he started to establish outposts and left soldiers there to guard his victories.

So no matter in what direction David went – God gave him victory.

7 And David took the shields of gold that had belonged to the servants of Hadadezer, and brought them to Jerusalem. 8 Also from Betah and from Berothai, cities of Hadadezer, King David took a large amount of bronze. 9 When Toi king of Hamath heard that David had defeated all the army of Hadadezer, 10 then Toi sent Joram his son to King David, to greet him and bless him, because he had fought against Hadadezer and defeated him (for Hadadezer had been at war with Toi); and [Joram] brought with him articles of silver, articles of gold, and articles of bronze. 11 King David also dedicated these to the LORD, along with the silver and gold that he had dedicated from all the nations which he had subdued-- 12 from Syria, from Moab, from the people of Ammon, from the Philistines, from Amalek, and from the spoil of Hadadezer the son of Rehob, king of Zobah.

The major emphasis in these verses is that David took the spoil he had won in these campaigns and “dedicated these to the Lord.”

King David is amassing a great treasury for the building of the future Temple by his son, Solomon.

You see, even though David could not build the temple himself – he didn’t pout – he didn’t quit – he didn’t get angry.

He simply set to work, gathering all the necessary supplies for Solomon to build the temple.

So he was still involved in a big way.

Far too I have personally seen the opposite occur within the church.

“If I am not allowed on the worship team – then I am just not going to sing during worship” – that will show them.

If I can’t be recognized or be utilized in the way I think I ought to be – then I am not going to do anything for the church.

I have seen individuals that go from church to church actively looking for a position as an elder or a deacon.

And when they don’t get it – they move on and then they complain about the church that they just left.

Church, David was used mightily because, even with all his faults and failures, he served the Lord every way he could.

I used to go to a church where if someone said, “God has put it in my heart to serve in ministry” – the first place where they were placed to serve was in the bathroom ministry.

If God really put it in their heart to serve – then it wouldn't matter where they were serving –

People will sometimes say – well, I wasn't called to be a pastor or a deacon or an elder – you could do the same thing that David did and work behind the scenes.

You can pray.

13 And David made [himself] a name when he returned from killing eighteen thousand Syrians in the Valley of Salt. 14 He also put garrisons in Edom; throughout all Edom he put garrisons, and all the Edomites became David's servants. And the LORD preserved David wherever he went.

This is the summary of this whole chapter. Every victory and every enemy subdued was a testimony to the LORD's preserving power in the life and reign of David.

I think this chapter provides us with a picture of the work that the Holy Spirit can do in our lives if we simply stop resisting.

We have this flawed mindset that all we have to do is to try harder – and when we fail, we get frustrated and want to quit.

May we should simply just stop trying so hard and surrender to the power of the Holy Spirit.

Never forget that the work that God did in David's life and the work that He does in our lives is not by might, nor by power but by His spirit – says the Lord.

15 So David reigned over all Israel; and David administered judgment and justice to all his people. 16 Joab the son of Zeruiah [was] over the army; Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud [was] recorder; 17 Zadok the son of Ahitub and Ahimelech the son of Abiathar [were] the priests; Seraiah [was] the scribe; 18 Benaiah the son of Jehoiada [was over] both the Cherethites and the Pelethites; and David's sons were chief ministers.

Here in the last four verses we have the organization of David's kingdom.

David put good men in place and delegated the work to them.

Part of David's success as a ruler was found in his ability to assemble, train, empower, and maintain such a team.

There is a limit to what we can be and what we can do for the LORD without order and organization. It isn't that order and organization are requirements for progress in the Christian life; they are progress in the Christian life, helping us become more like the LORD.

Amen -

Let's pray...