

# David: A Man After God's Own Heart

## **Lesson 7: From Shepherd to King: The Promise of an Everlasting Throne -- 2 Samuel 5:1–5; 2 Samuel 7:8–16**

It had been a long road from the sheepfold to the throne. Years before, a boy had been called in from the pasture with the smell of the flock still on him, and oil had run down over his head while his brothers watched. Then came the giant, the song, the spear, the cave, the wilderness, the long seasons of running and waiting while the promise seemed to recede further with every passing year. Now, at last, the elders of all Israel come to Hebron, and they say what David has waited a lifetime to hear: you are our shepherd, you are our king. They anoint him over all Israel, and the shepherd boy finally sits on the throne. God keeps His promises, but rarely on our timetable, and almost never by the road we would have chosen.

You might think the story reaches its summit there, with the crown finally on David's head. But the real summit comes later, and it comes as a surprise. David is settled in his palace, the wars are quieting, and it occurs to him that something is not right. Here he is in a house of cedar, while the ark of God sits in a tent. So David resolves to build God a house, a temple worthy of the Lord. It is a good and generous impulse. But God sends word through Nathan the prophet, and the word turns everything around. You want to build Me a house? No. I am going to build you a house.

And then God makes a promise so large it can barely be contained in the words. He reminds David where he came from, taken from following the sheep to be prince over Israel. He promises to make David's name great and to give His people rest. And then the heart of it: when your days are over, I will raise up your offspring after you, and I will establish his kingdom. He will build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before Me. Your throne shall be established forever. Forever. That word hangs over the whole promise, and it reaches far beyond anything David could see from his palace window.

This is one of the great mountaintops of the whole Bible, and we need to climb it carefully, because the New Testament tells us exactly where the path leads. The promise of an everlasting throne was not finally about Solomon, and it was not about a political kingdom that would rise and fall like all the others. It was about great David's greater Son. The promise made to a shepherd in his palace finds its fulfillment in Jesus Christ, the Son of David, who was raised from the dead and seated at the right hand of God, reigning now over His kingdom. When we read this chapter, we are not merely watching a king receive a dynasty. We are watching God lay the cornerstone of the everlasting kingdom of Christ.

**Group Discussion:** David wanted to build a house for God, and God responded by promising to build a house (a lasting dynasty) for David, a promise that would ultimately be fulfilled in Christ.

Why do you think we are so often more eager to do something for God than to receive what God wants to give us? What does it reveal about God that He is so much more the giver than the receiver in this story?

**Personal Reflection:** David waited many years, through danger and disappointment, before God's promise to make him king came true. Think about a promise of God you are waiting on, or a long season in which His timing has not matched yours. How has the waiting tested your trust, and where do you need to believe that God keeps His word even when He seems slow?

*Read 2 Samuel 5:1–5; 2 Samuel 7:8–16*

## Study Questions

1. God reminds David, "I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel" (7:8), and recounts how He had been with him all along. What does this opening of the promise teach us about God as the true author of David's rise, and about who deserves the credit when His people are lifted up and used?
2. God had carried David all the way from the sheepfold to the throne, working through every hidden and hard season. As you look back over your own life, where can you see God's hand carrying you, even through times you could not understand at the moment? How does remembering this shape the way you face your present uncertainties?
3. When David wanted to build God a house, God turned it around: "the LORD will make you a house," a lasting dynasty (7:11). What does this reversal teach us about the nature of God's grace, that He is fundamentally the giver and we the receivers, and how does this guard us against thinking we can put God in our debt by what we do for Him?
4. Many of us relate to God mainly through what we are doing for Him, and can quietly slip into thinking He owes us for our service. Where have you been trying to earn God's favor or put Him in your debt rather than receiving His grace as a gift? What would change if you approached Him first as a grateful receiver?
5. God promised, "I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever... your throne shall be established forever" (7:13, 16). What does the word "forever" tell us about the kind of kingdom God was promising, and why could no merely human king or earthly political throne ever fulfill a promise like this?
6. God's promise to David rested entirely on God's own faithfulness, not on the worthiness of David's descendants, many of whom proved faithless. How does it strengthen your confidence to know that God's great promises are secured by His character rather than by human performance? Where do you need to lean on God's faithfulness rather than your own this week?
7. God said of David's offspring, "He shall build a house for my name" (7:13). In the nearer sense this pointed to Solomon, who built the temple, but the promise of a throne established forever reached far beyond Solomon to a greater Son. Why can the promise not stop at Solomon or any earthly successor, and how does the "forever" of the promise press us to look beyond David's immediate descendants?

8. It is easy to settle for small, near horizons and miss the larger purposes God is working out across generations. How does seeing that God was weaving a centuries-long plan through David's family enlarge your view of what God may be doing through your own life, family, or congregation, even in ways you will not live to see?
9. The New Testament tells us plainly how God kept this promise. Peter declares that God had sworn to set one of David's descendants on his throne, and that this was fulfilled when God raised Jesus from the dead and seated Him at His right hand (Acts 2:29–36); Paul proclaims Jesus as the promised Son of David (Acts 13:22–23); and the angel told Mary that God would give Jesus "the throne of his father David" and that "he will reign... forever" (Luke 1:32–33). According to these passages, where is the throne of David now, who is sitting on it, and over what kingdom is He reigning? How does the New Testament teach us to understand the fulfillment of God's promise to David?
10. Look back across both passages, the shepherd made king and the promise of an everlasting throne. Name one specific way you sense Jesus, the reigning Son of David, forming you through this part of David's story. What is the single truth about God's faithfulness, or about Christ's present reign, that you most need to carry into this week?

### **Now or Later**

Reflect on these passages: Acts 2:29–36, Peter declaring that God raised Jesus and seated Him on David's throne at His right hand; Acts 13:22–23, Paul proclaiming Jesus as the promised Savior from David's line; Luke 1:32–33, the angel promising Jesus the throne of David and a reign without end; Daniel 2:44, the God of heaven setting up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed; Colossians 1:13, our being transferred into the kingdom of God's beloved Son; Psalm 89:3–4, 34–37, God's sworn covenant to establish David's throne for all generations