

**1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel**  
**God's Covenant with David**  
**Lesson Text: 2nd Samuel 7:1-13**

**Aim for Change**

By the end of the lesson, students should be able to **LIST** components of God's covenant with David, **ADMIRE** the impact of God's covenant with David, and **BECOME MOTIVATED** to walk in covenant with God this week.

**In Focus**

Today's lesson tells us why we can trust God's covenantal promises. We are reminded God's promises outlast any problem or difficult circumstance we face.

**Keep In Mind**

*"When King David was settled in his palace and the LORD had given him rest from all the surrounding enemies "2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel 7:1 (NLT)*

**Lesson Text**  
**2nd Samuel 7:1-13 (NKJV)**

1 And it came to pass, when the king sat in his house and the Lord had given him rest roundabout from all his enemies,

**2 that the king said unto Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwelleth within curtains."**

3 And Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in thine heart, for the Lord is with thee."

**4 And it came to pass that night that the word of the Lord came unto Nathan, saying,**

5 "Go and tell My servant David, 'Thus saith the Lord: Shalt thou build Me a house for Me to dwell in?"

**6 For I have not dwelt in any house since the time that I brought up the children of Israel out of Egypt even to this day, but have walked in a tent and in a tabernacle.**

7 In all the places wherein I have walked with all the children of Israel, spoke I a word with any of the tribes of Israel, whom I commanded to feed My people Israel, saying, "Why build ye not Me a house of cedar?"

**8 Now therefore, so shalt thou say unto My servant David, ‘Thus saith the Lord of hosts: I took thee from the shepcote, from following the sheep, to be ruler over My people, over Israel.**

9 And I was with thee whithersoever thou wentest, and have cut off all thine enemies out of thy sight, and have made thee a great name, like unto the name of the great men who are on the earth.

**10 Moreover I will appoint a place for My people Israel, and will plant them, that they may dwell in a place of their own and move no more; neither shall the children of wickedness afflict them anymore, as before,**

11 and as since the time that I commanded judges to be over My people Israel and have caused thee to rest from all thine enemies. “Also the Lord telleth thee that He will make thee a house.

**12 And when thy days be fulfilled and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, who shall proceed out of thy loins, and I will establish his kingdom.**

13 He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom for ever.

## **The Lesson**

### **The People, Places and Times**

**Nathan:** The name Nathan means “gift of God.” Nathan was a prophet in David’s court. Three significant events are recorded about David in Scripture: (1) In 2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel 7 (also 1<sup>st</sup> Chronicles 17), David consulted with Nathan on his plan to build a temple for the Ark of the Covenant (1<sup>st</sup> Chronicles 17. 1–13). After David committed adultery with Bathsheba and arranged Uriah’s death, God sent Nathan to rebuke David (2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel 12). (2) In 1<sup>st</sup> Kings 1, Nathan becomes the “king maker,” setting the stage and directing the dialogue to convince David to crown Solomon as his successor (1<sup>st</sup> Kings 1:13–14). (3) Nathan is mentioned as the writer of part of the Book of Chronicles (1<sup>st</sup> Chronicles 29:29; 2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles 9:29) and partly attributes to his authority the musical role of the Levites in the temple (2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles 29:25).

## **Background**

In last week’s lesson, David moved his family and soldiers to Hebron where he became king of Judah. After the civil war between Judah and Israel, the elders of the northern tribes came to David and submitted themselves to him. Consequently, David became king of both Judah and Israel for 40 years. God was with Israel’s new king since David’s first conquest as king over all Israel was to capture Jerusalem and name it the City of David (2 Samuel 5:6–10). David goes on to defeat the Philistines with the blessings of the Lord (2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel 5:17–26). The third act of King David was to return the Ark of the Covenant to Israel and settle it in Jerusalem. David was so excited when he brought the ark back to the nation, he leaped and danced before all the people, which caused his wife Michal to despise him. Michal was the daughter of Saul who

remained childless because she criticized the king. On one occasion, while David sat in his house, the thought occurred to him to “bless” the Lord because of God’s faithfulness to him.

## **In Depth**

**1. David Wants to Build A House for God (2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel 7:1-4)** After subduing the Philistines (2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel 5:17-25), and bringing the ark of God back to Israel (2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel 6:1–23), King David had an opportunity to sit back and reflect on all that he had accomplished in a short period of time. While reflecting, David realized a significant point. The ark of God did not have a permanent place to reside in Israel as did the king.

The ark represented God’s presence among His people. When David retrieved the ark from Obed-edom’s house, he set it in the tabernacle behind a curtain (see 2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel 6:17). According to Mosaic Law, the ark was to rest behind the curtain or veil which separated the holy and most holy places of the tabernacle (Exodus 26:33). David was given the responsibility to return the ark to Jerusalem, the king knew the God He served deserved more than a temporary structure for the ark to reside. After all, God had prospered the king and provided cedar for a house to be built for him (2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 6:11–16). Shouldn’t the king do more for His God? Perhaps, David felt guilty because of the apparent “inadequacy” between him and God. Or, maybe David felt the need to reciprocate to God what he had received. Whatever the reason, David confided in the Prophet Nathan about his concern. Convinced the king’s heart was right, Nathan encouraged David to proceed with his plans, assuring him of God’s presence and protection every step of the way.

The old song tells us we can’t beat God’s giving, no matter how we try. God blessed us with material resources and benefits, and we can give to Him by being generous to those less fortunate than we (Proverbs 19:17). Scripture proclaims two important principles correlate with King David: (1) the king’s heart is in God’s hand who turns it wherever God wants the heart to go, and; (2) we may have our own plan, but God is the One who searches and weighs the heart of people (Proverbs 21:1–2).

David’s request was noble and honorable, God never asked the king to build Him a house. To clarify what the prophet Nathan was speaking his own desire to please the king, rather than for Him, God came at night to Nathan in a vision and gave him a specific word to give to the king.

**2. God Responds to David's Request (2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel 7:5–11)** The first word God told Nathan to give to the king came in the form of a question. In essence, God wanted to know why David desired to build a house for Him. Next, God gave the king a history lesson which reflected both His character and His desire. God reminded David He carried the people from their place of bondage in Egypt to the Promised Land. In fact, the Scriptures declare that “the LORD went before [Israel] by day in a pillar of cloud, to lead them the way, and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night . . . before the people” (Exodus 13:21–22). Second, Moses affirmed the “cloud of the LORD” lifted from the tabernacle of Moses when the Children of Israel went on their journey home. The cloud symbolized God's presence (Exodus 40:34–38). Never once did God ask or command the Children of Israel, or anyone else for that matter, to build Him a permanent dwelling place. Third, Nathan was told to remind the king of his own history. From all of Jesse's sons, God selected David who was feeding sheep to be His choice to replace Saul (1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 16:1–13) and to rule over both the reunited northern and southern kingdoms (2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel 5:1–5). Finally, God told the king that He had been with him every step of the way, from the time when Saul made several attempts to take his life to David's victories over the Philistines.

Through everything David experienced, from the time he was anointed until he was firmly established as king, God's desire and purpose was to make David's reign part of an everlasting kingdom. It was through David's loins the Messiah would be born to redeem the world. God made it clear David would not build a house for Him (see 1<sup>st</sup> Chronicles 28:3). God did not want David to take credit for building Him a house. However, God promised He would select the place for Israel to dwell and would plant them so they would never have to move again or be afflicted by their enemies (2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel 7:10).

Where would God “plant” Israel? Through Jesus Christ, God's people would be in Him (John 12:26; 15:5) so the wicked one cannot touch us. Once we accept Jesus Christ as our personal Lord and Savior, we have a covenant relationship and are assured of a permanent place with God (John 14:3).

We can never understand the mind of God. He reminds David no human being can really build Him a house. God is the only One who builds “houses.” God built an earthly tabernacle in the womb of Mary and dwelt among us full of grace and truth (John 1:14). Paul affirms if our earthly “house” passes away, God Himself has already built for us an eternal “house” so we can be with Him forever (2 Corinthians 5:1). God's “houses” are surer than any we can build for Him. It is clear from His Word and through the prophet Nathan that God had a higher, eternal plan for His people was greater than King David could imagine.

**3. God's Promise to David Will Stand (2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel 7: 12–13)** The final word God gave Nathan to convey to the king was God's house would be permanent and last longer than David. Long after David was dead and buried, two things would happen: (1) Solomon, David's son by Bathsheba and Israel's third king, would be responsible for building an enormous temple where Israel would worship (1 Kings 6:12); and (2) David's other "Son," Jesus Christ, would rule and reign over Israel forever (Luke 1:31–33; Acts 2:25–35).

Our God is eternal. His covenant will stand forever. We can be confident of our hope of salvation because Jesus Christ is the same today and forever (Hebrew 13:8). When we put our trust in Jesus as Savior and Lord, we too are recipients of the New Covenant and are assured of a beautiful house where we will dwell with Him forever (John 14:3).

### **Liberating Lesson**

What can we learn from today's lesson can help us reinforce covenant relationships in our families, communities, cities, and nation? Make a commitment to help people who may not attend church to understand God's New Covenant and apply these truths in their lives.

### **Application for Activation**

This week, focus on God's covenant to you as a believer in Jesus Christ. Remind yourself that God's promises are more sure than any problem or difficult circumstance we face. Spend time praising God for His Word, His promises, and His love for you.

### **Take Aways**

### **Closing Prayer**

**Week of 15 Oct 2023**  
**Daily Bible Readings**



**Monday** ~ Numbers: 18-20

**Tuesday** ~ Numbers: 21-22

**Wednesday** Numbers: 23-25

**Thursday** ~ Numbers: 26-27

**Friday** ~ Numbers: 28-30

**Saturday** ~ Numbers: 31-32

**Sunday** ~ Numbers: 33-34