

## GOD'S PROMISE TO DAVID

2 Samuel 7:1-29 (Key verse 16)

*"Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever."."*

In today's passage we are going to learn about God's promise to David. God revealed this promise to David, after David found it in his heart to build a house of cedar for the Ark of God. Instead of giving David a go-ahead, God gave David a promise that He will establish a house for him, a kingdom that will endure forever, a throne that will be established forever. We are therefore also going to learn about the house, the kingdom and the throne of David which will endure forever, what it means to us today and how we should respond to it. I pray that God may have mercy on us all to receive one word and be blessed by the promise of God to David.

The passage today begins with David who is finally settled in his palace, filled with God's rest from his enemies. It was a great thing that finally David found rest from the life of war, he no longer was on the run and lived in a luxurious house. David's life is what most of us desire today, we want to have rest, we want to live from restlessness from our enemies. The question is what do we do when God finally blesses us with such rest, and we are finally somewhat settled? When David was finally settled, he thought about God. In **verse 2** it says: *"he said to Nathan the prophet, "Here I am, living in a house of cedar, while the ark of God remains in a tent.""* David did not go on enjoying his life without God, but rather he was concerned about God, he wanted to do something for God. This was not just to appease God, but rather to honour God. What David desired to do was indeed commendable, it shows that he valued his relationship with God. David was filled with gratitude and concern for God's glory, that he wanted to do something special for God. When Nathan heard David's desire he was so moved by David's heart, he replied to David saying: *"Whatever you have in mind, go ahead and do it, for the Lord is with you."* What David shared with Nathan seemed good, and reasonable, a very beautiful thing to do for God.

After Israel's exodus from Egypt, God commanded Moses to build a tent of meeting according to specific patterns where the Ark would dwell, this made sense while the Israelites were on the move in the wilderness, but now Israel is finally settled. So Nathan must have thought it is a reasonable thing to build house of dwelling for the Ark and hence he said to David: *"Whatever you have in mind, go ahead and do it, for the Lord is with you."* However, on that very night after David shared his desires with Nathan, the word of the Lord came to Nathan. The word came, for God did not want David to do things without hearing from Him. In the past we learnt about David who enquired with the Lord. In this case too, it was very important for David to hear from God concerning his desires. In everything we do we should seek to hear from God, even when we want to do something to honour God, we should pray about it. So to help David and Nathan, the word of God came to Nathan concerning this matter. What then did God have to say about this commendable thing that David desires to do? In **verse 5-7** God said to Nathan:

*"Go and tell my servant David, 'This is what the Lord says: Are you the one to build me a house to dwell in? / I have not dwelt in a house from the day I brought the Israelites up out of Egypt to this day. I have been moving from place to place with a tent as my dwelling. / Wherever I have moved with all the Israelites, did I ever say to any of their rulers whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?""*

God was honoured by David's desires to build Him a house of cedar, he asked David: *"Are you the one to build me a house of cedar?"* God was also surprised by David's desire for none of his servants, whom he had called to shepherd his people Israel had offered to build the Ark of God a house of cedar, also God never asked them to do so, David's request was a first. The Ark of God had never dwelled in a house, it has always dwelled in a tent, but David found it in his heart not to settle to this normality, rather he was deeply concerned about God and wanted to honour God by building a house cedar for the Ark of God. Although God was honoured by David's desire, he did not want David to build the house of cedar for him. Why did God not want David to build the house of cedar for him?

God had other plans according to his will and purpose. What was God's plans? In **verse 11b** it says: *"The Lord declares to you that the Lord himself will establish a house for you."* What a surprise this must have been for David, instead of approving David's desire, God rather promises to build a house for David. God's priority is to rather build a house for David. But what does this mean? What kind of house is God talking about? David already lives in a palace, a very luxurious

palace, a house of cedar. In **verse 12** God said: *“When your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom.”* The house that God was talking about here, was David’s kingdom through his offspring, God will establish a dynasty for the house of David. God offered David much more than a temple for the Ark, he offered to establish something that will last longer. In **verse 9b** God said to David: *“Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men on earth.”* God was truly honoured by David’s heart and desires to build him a house of cedar and so he revealed his plans and promises to him, to establish his kingdom, to establish a dynasty that would last longer. Furthermore God promised David concerning his offspring in **verse 13** saying: *“He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.”* David’s offspring Solomon will build a house of cedar for the Ark of God, he is the one who will build the temple of God. Here God finally gave David an answer why it is not him who will build the temple of God, but his offspring Solomon. And indeed Solomon build a temple for the Lord.

In **2 Kings 25: 8-17**, we learn of the destruction of the temple of God by King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylonia. At this point the kingdom of Israel seemed to be destroyed, with the nation of Israel taken to exile. But God promised David in verse 16 saying: *“Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.”* How then is the kingdom enduring forever, and the throne established forever? Even with this destruction, the house and kingdom of David still endures forever, the throne is still established forever. This is because what God established through Solomon was only symbolic, pointing to Jesus Christ the Son of God. Through Jesus Christ God established a kingdom that endures forever, a throne established forever. In **Luke 1:30-33** the angel of the Lord Gabriel came to the virgin Mary and said:

*“...Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. /You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, 33 and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.”*

Indeed through Jesus Christ the throne of David is established forever, then kingdom of David endures forever. But now what is the kingdom that God promised to David like? What is it all about? In **verse 10** God promised David saying: *“And I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed. Wicked people will not oppress them anymore, as they did at the beginning”* Through the kingdom that God promised David, many people will be blessed. Through the kingdom of Jesus many people today are blessed and will continue to be blessed. Because of the kingdom of Jesus, we have a home in God, we are no longer lost, the wickedness of sin can no longer torment and oppress us when we believe in Jesus and his kingdom.

Many people today, very good people live miserable lives seeking a place in worldly kingdoms, a place to fit in a crowd on campus, a place to be recognised at the workplace, a place to be acknowledged by their families, a place to be accepted by friends. They remain miserable, because this worldly kingdoms cannot truly grant men peace, what we need is the kingdom of Jesus the descendant of David, the Son of Jesse. A kingdom that lasts forever, a throne that endures forever. In this world things change all the time, worldly kingdoms are unstable and do not endure forever, our friends change, our parents grow old, we grow apart with our siblings as we grow. But the kingdom of Jesus endures forever, let us therefore put our trust and hope in the kingdom of God.

When David heard God’s response to his desire to build a house of Cedar for the Ark of God, he humbly came to God and prayed. David did not say, that because he has been a good warrior who defended the people of Israel and granted the victory, then he deserves the promises of God, rather he humbled himself before God. David recognised himself as a sinner, who has been granted mercy and grace by God. In **verse 18b** David said: *“Who am I, Sovereign Lord, and what is my family, that you have brought me this far?”* We too should not consider how good we are, but rather we should search ourselves deeply, acknowledge our sins, come to Jesus in repentance and surrender ourselves to his kingdom which endures forever. Furthermore, in **verse 28** David said: *“Sovereign Lord, you are God! Your covenant is trustworthy, and you have promised these good things to your servant.”* David believed God’s promises, he had faith in God that he will fulfil his covenant. Let us also learn from David and have faith in the promises of the kingdom of Jesus, have faith that through the blood of Jesus we have been saved. Let us practically live our lives with this faith and not hold on to worldly kingdoms and promises but put our trust and hope in the kingdom of Jesus.

Lastly, when David heard the promises of God, he praised God, he praised God for what he has done for the people of Israel, he praised God for the kingdom that He will establish through him. In **verse 22** David said: *“How great you are, Sovereign Lord! There is no one like you, and there is no God but you, as we have heard with our own ears”* Like David, let us also praise God for establishing the kingdom of Jesus, for saving us from the power of sin and death, for granting us a new life, a life of meaning and purpose. It is quite incredible how God continued to raise the Wits UBF ministry, how our brothers and sisters could receive Jesus, be changed by his word, and grow as Jesus disciples. Let us praise God for this wonderful work of mercy and grace.

In conclusion, let us think about the nature of Jesus Christ and his kingdom, in **Isaiah 9:6-7** it says:

*For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. / Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David’s throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.*

Let us humble ourselves before this word, repent from our sins, come to Jesus, and surrender our lives to his rule and kingship, so that we too can be blessed by God’s promise to David.

Amen. / Key Verse.