

# GOD'S PROMISE OF A KING

Leader pages on pp. 124-127

**THE POINT:**  
GOD PROMISED AN  
ETERNAL KING AND  
KINGDOM.

## 2 SAMUEL 7:8-16

<sup>8</sup> “So now this is what you are to say to my servant David: ‘This is what the LORD of Armies says: I took you from the pasture, from tending the flock, to be ruler over my people Israel.

<sup>9</sup> I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have destroyed all your enemies before you. I will make a great name for you like that of the greatest on the earth.

.....

<sup>10</sup> I will designate a place for my people Israel and plant them, so that they may live there and not be disturbed again. Evildoers will not continue to oppress them as they have done

<sup>11</sup> ever since the day I ordered judges to be over my people Israel. I will give you rest from all your enemies. “The LORD declares to you: The LORD himself will make a house for you.

.....

<sup>12</sup> When your time comes and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up after you your descendant, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom.

<sup>13</sup> He is the one who will build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

<sup>14</sup> I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I will discipline him with a rod of men and blows from mortals.

<sup>15</sup> But my faithful love will never leave him as it did when I removed it from Saul, whom I removed from before you.

<sup>16</sup> **Your house and kingdom will endure before me forever, and your throne will be established forever.”**

+  
+  
+

### MEMORY VERSE

### KEYWORDS

**LORD of Armies (v. 8)**—This name for God “designates God as King and Ruler of Israel, its armies, its temple, and of the entire universe.

**I will (v. 9)**—God’s repeatedly stating “I will” throughout verses 9-16 emphasizes that it was God who was making this covenant

with David and His descendants, and it was God who would bring to pass the promises of the covenant.

**My name (v. 13)**—In biblical thought, an individual’s name referred to the essence of that individual. This term refers to the very essence of God.

# WHAT IMPACT DOES GOD'S PROMISED KING HAVE IN THE LIVES OF GOD'S PEOPLE?

Traveling to Israel on a pilgrimage to what many Christians refer to as “the Holy Land” may be on your “bucket list.” Visiting the actual places that are described in the Bible is said to be a life-changing, spiritual experience.

One of the highlights in the northern region of Galilee is Mount Arbel. From atop the mountain, one can see where the international highway ran right next to the mountain.

People from many different nations traveled that ancient highway. Powerful kings from Assyria, Babylon, Greece, and Rome led their armies through that area. Those kings were great, but now they're gone. Their kingdoms didn't last.

History has seen many empires, dynasties, and kingdoms come and go. At the height of their power and greatness, the leaders of those kingdoms might have thought they would remain on top of the world, but history has proven otherwise. Even a country as great as the United States has no guarantee its power will last. Ultimately, only one kingdom will stand forever—the kingdom over which Jesus Christ will rule.

King David was quite aware of God's blessing on his life. David had a plan to serve God well, but God had a greater plan for David.

## Access to His Presence //

### 2 Samuel 7:8-9

Second Samuel 5–6 records many significant moments in David's life when he became king over Israel:

- The people anointed him king at Hebron (5:1-5).
- David conquered Jerusalem and made it his capital (5:6-9).
- Hiram, king of Tyra, built David a beautiful palace (5:10-12).
- David defeated the Philistines, Israel's enemy along the Mediterranean coast (5:17-25).
- David brought the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem, making Jerusalem both the political and spiritual capital of Israel (6:1-19).

David recognized God's great blessing on his life (5:12). At the same time, God's blessing on his



## THE POINT: GOD PROMISED AN ETERNAL KING AND KINGDOM.

life created a spirit of discontentment within him. Why should he live in a beautiful palace when the ark of the covenant, the visible representation of God among His people, sat in a meager tent in Jerusalem (7:1-2)?

Nathan the prophet was one of David's trusted advisors, and Nathan encouraged the king to pursue whatever plans he had to honor God (7:3). Nathan likely assumed God would appreciate David building Him a temple.

However, perhaps to Nathan's surprise, God corrected his thinking (7:4-7). In the 450 years or more since God brought His people out of Egypt, He had never asked for a temple or scolded Israel's leaders for not building Him one. Nathan thought David could honor God by building Him a temple, but God would choose the way honor came to Him.

The word translated "so now" (v. 8) indicates God was about to reveal to Nathan the bottom line of what He wanted to communicate to His new king. God affirmed that David was His servant, which of course was a good thing. However, God had a different course of action for David than the one David wanted to pursue.

God had guided David's life since David's youth, when he pastured his father's flocks. God had brought about David's kingship, and God had delivered David from his enemies. David was quite aware of God's presence in his life (2 Sam. 5:12).

God also said He would make a great name for David, "like that of the greatest on the earth" (v. 9). David must have wondered why God would speak this way to him, but God wasn't finished.

### WHAT HAS HELPED YOU RECOGNIZE GOD'S WORK IN YOUR LIFE?

## Access to His Provision //

### 2 Samuel 7:10-11

God had made David king over Israel. However, God had not made David king merely so David alone could experience God's blessing. Rather, God would use David to bring great blessing to Israel's citizens as well, for they were both God's people and David's people. God confirmed He would create a secure place for His people to live. The blessing was ultimately God's doing, not David's.

The Lord said He would "plant" his people in the land (v. 10). The prophets Amos and Jeremiah would also use this image to describe God's tender care for His people (Amos 9:15; Jer. 31:28; 32:41).



## DIGGING DEEPER THE ARK OF THE COVENANT

According to 2 Samuel 6:1-2, David "assembled all the fit young men in Israel" to bring the ark of God from Baale-judah which was also known as Kiriath-jearim. The cherubim adorned the mercy seat atop the ark, stretching their wings toward each other (Ex. 25:20).<sup>14</sup> Winged beings of this sort were commissioned "to guard the way to the tree of life" (Gen. 3:24).<sup>15</sup> The more elaborate account of the manufacture and ornamentation of the ark by the craftsman Bezalel appears in Exodus 25:10-22; 31:2,7; 35:30-35; 37:1-9. It was planned during Moses's first sojourn on Sinai and built after the tabernacle specifications had been communicated and completed. The other account is found in Deuteronomy 10:1-5. After the sin of the golden calf and the breaking of the original Decalogue tablets, Moses made a plain box of acacia wood as a container to receive the new tablets of the law.<sup>16</sup> The Mercy Seat on the Ark was a symbolic foreshadowing of the blood of Christ shed on the cross for the remission of sins.

**How has Christ's sacrifice on the cross impacted your life?**

God wanted His people to live securely in the land He gave them and “not be disturbed again” (v. 10). The Israelites lived in a territory surrounded by enemies who would have loved to conquer them. Although some may argue this point, we in the United States often do not relate as well to God's promises of security for Israel because we do not live in a land as customarily volatile as God's people did in Old Testament times.

The Lord also referenced the period of Israel's judges (v. 11), an earlier time when Israel lacked good leadership and “everyone did whatever seemed right to him” (Judg. 21:25). This period was marked by a recurring four-part cycle:

- **Sin:** The people lapsed into idol worship.
- **Suffering:** The Lord sent suffering to turn His people back to Him. This suffering came through an oppressing people or nation.
- **Supplication:** The people cried out to God in repentance and begged for His intervention.
- **Salvation:** The Lord brought salvation (deliverance) through a judge He raised up to help His people.

God promised He would use David to end Israel's instability and give His people rest from their enemies. Nathan then told David, “The LORD himself will make a house for you” (v. 11).

### WHAT ATTRIBUTES OF GOD ARE REVEALED THROUGH THE PROMISES IN THIS PASSAGE?

## Access to Everlasting Life //

### 2 Samuel 7:12-16

David's heart for God prompted him to want to build God a house, a temple. God rejected David's request, but God rewarded David's attitude. He would build David a house instead—a house of people.

God made David an incredible promise; however, the fulfillment of God's promise would not occur in David's lifetime. This passage reminds us how God's purpose continues through history; people come and go, but God's work continues, and His word stands.



God told David that his descendant would build the temple. Furthermore, God declared, “I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever” (v. 13). God's purpose certainly exceeded David's expectations. The apostle Paul, writing to the New Testament church at Ephesus, echoed this sentiment when he described God as “able to do above and beyond all that we ask or think” (Eph. 3:20).

God declared that a father-son relationship would exist between Him and David's descendant (v. 14). The Bible speaks in many places of the relationship. As the Heavenly Father of David's descendant, God promised He would bring discipline upon David's descendant to turn him away from evil and wrongdoing. Such discipline reflected God's presence in the life of David's descendant, Israel's king. Discipline was a sign of a father's love.

God also promised, “My faithful love will never leave him” (v. 15). The Hebrew word translated “faithful love” is a rich theological term that often denotes God's special covenant love for His people. It is the word that appears over and over in Psalm 136 to highlight God's faithful love—“his faithful love endures forever.”

God referenced Saul, who served as Israel's first king. The prophet Samuel anointed Saul over all Israel (1 Sam. 10:1), but Saul failed God by being disobedient. Consequently, the Lord raised up David to take Saul's place. Saul became fearful of David and sought to kill him, but God was with

## THE POINT: GOD PROMISED AN ETERNAL KING AND KINGDOM.

David and protected him. In the end, Saul died in battle with the Philistines on Mount Gilboa (1 Sam. 31).

Again, the Lord affirmed to David, "Your house and kingdom will endure before me forever" (v. 16). God would place His king, David's descendant, over an everlasting kingdom. The text records how Nathan the prophet reported God's message to David, and David responded in utter gratitude and amazement that God should bless him so (2 Sam. 7:17-29). David had wanted to build God a house, but God said He would build David a house, a house of people, and planned for David's throne to last forever.

Gospel writers Matthew and Luke both point to Jesus as a descendant of David (Matt. 1:6-16; Luke 3:23-31). Jesus's birth in Bethlehem, the city of David, points to the fulfillment of God's promise to David (Luke 2:1-20; Matt. 2:1-11). Jesus, to be sure, is God's only Son, but His earthly lineage can be traced through David's line. As such, He perfectly fulfills God's promise to David. Jesus is the eternal King God has promised, the ultimate fulfillment of God's promise to David.

### HOW DOES THE ANTICIPATION OF CHRIST'S KINGDOM ENCOURAGE YOU FOR LIFE TODAY?

### DID YOU KNOW?

The fictional character Black Panther made his first appearance in Marvel Comics' "Fantastic 4" in 1966 and by 1977 was starring in his own comic. Creator Stan Lee and artist Jack Kirby birthed the Black Panther out of a desire to introduce a Black character because there were none in Kirby's strips. Fittingly, Black Panther emerged during the Civil Rights and Black Power Movements. The Black Panther was strong, intelligent, skillful, and a conscientious leader. "Wakanda forever," is the declaration of solidarity from this make-believe land and its people. Separating fact from fiction, only the reign of Jesus Christ and the Kingdom of God will stand forevermore. Christ is the true eternal King. When the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary to tell of the birth of Jesus, he said, "He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of his father David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and his kingdom will have no end" (Luke 33:32-33).

**Biblical Truth:** Earthly rulers will come and go, but Jesus, the eternal King, will reign forever.

**How does knowing Christ will return to reign over all give you hope now and for the future?**

## LIVE IT

### What does it mean to you that God has provided us an eternal King in Jesus?

"Kings and kingdoms will all pass away but there is something about that name." These lyrics refer to the lordship of Jesus standing after everything else falls. Hallelujah! God remains true to His word and is a promise keeper to every generation. Read through 2 Samuel 7. Try to put yourself in David's place as he heard God's promise through Nathan the prophet. Consider how God might use you in the following areas:

+ + +

- **God is at work in our lives.** What evidence do you see of God's hand on your life? Ask God to help you see more clearly the purpose He has for you.
- **God establishes His people.** God established Israel as a nation. He established His spiritual body as the church. How Ask God to reveal your role in His eternal kingdom?
- **God will place His King over an everlasting kingdom.** Knowing that Jesus will return one day to establish His eternal kingdom, identify ways you can live for the present and to invest your life in His future kingdom.

# DAILY READINGS

## 1. NOT MY WILL // 2 SAMUEL 7:12-13

Have you ever had a great idea for ministry that no one supported? Have you tried to demonstrate your love for God and could not get your plan started? While your heart for God is in the right place, God may have a different plan. I have been disappointed by God's "No" to what I thought were great ideas. Then God gave me eyes to see that my plans were not as good as His perfect will. In verses 12-13, God tells David his descendant will be the one to build God's home, not David. Identify areas where you are trying to force your ideas to fruition.

**Consider that God's will differs from yours and bow out gracefully.**

## 2. HOW TO RESPOND TO REJECTION // 2 SAMUEL 7:22

Imagine bringing a gift to a loved one and being rejected. It would not feel good, especially if it were a thoughtful gift and honored the person. Their rejection might disappoint you or even make you upset. Regretfully, people leave the church because of rejection. David shows us a better response. David had two responses after God rejected his plan to build God's home. First, he sat in God's presence. David drew closer to God and not away from him. Next, he worshipped God. Instead of focusing on himself and his disappointment, he focused on God's greatness. He affirmed that God is God alone. We all have disappointments, but we should not let that pull us away from our relationship with God.

**In your disappointments, draw near to God and worship him.**

## 3. FROM KEEPER TO KING // 2 SAMUEL 7:8

God gives Nathan a word to speak to David. In verse 8, God recalls the steps of David's leadership journey. God took him from serving in the pasture to caring for the flock to ruling over the people of Israel. It was a long time between Samuel anointing David as king and David serving in that

capacity. Sometimes, leaders are quickly thrust into positions. More often, circumstances and events prepare individuals over time. If you feel frustrated waiting for God to open doors to new opportunities, consider that He may use this time to prepare you. Don't get so focused on the future that you miss the opportunities in front of you today.

**Trust God's timing as He prepares you to do great things.**

## 4. THE POWER OF GOD'S WORDS // GENESIS 1:3-5; JEREMIAH 31:31

The writers of the Old Testament reveal God's sovereignty. In Genesis 1, God creates mankind and everything we see around us. God did not contract the job out or require the services of someone else. He spoke, and things came into existence. The power to create is in His words. Read through the list of all He spoke into existence. He created light and darkness, vegetation, stars, water and earth creatures, and man and woman. In Jeremiah 31:31, God speaks through the prophet to declare that a new covenant is coming.

**The prophet should be taken seriously because God's Words have power.**

## 5. PLEAS FOR FORGIVENESS // PSALM 6:1,4

We receive mercy from God when He does not discipline us as we deserve. Psalm 6 is a Psalm of David entitled, "A Prayer for Mercy." In verse one, David acknowledges how his behavior warrants God's wrath, anger, and discipline. In verse four, David quickly appeals to God's faithfulness. This Psalm is a reminder of all the times God was moved to forgive when his children came to him. What have you recently done to invoke the Lord's discipline? When did you last go before the Lord and ask for mercy? Trust that God is faithful to respond to our pleas for forgiveness.

**God's faithfulness allows mercy to spare us from the punishment we deserve.**