

THE GOSPEL PROJECT – CHRONOLOGICAL

A KINGDOM *established*

GOD THE KING

A King of Promise

Andre Crouch in his song, My Tribute, asks the question, “How can I say thanks for the things you have done for me, things so undeserved, yet you give to prove your love for me?” Ultimately, the answer to this question is, “we can never thank God enough for the things He has done for us.” Today, we come to the portion of scripture where we find King David desiring to express his gratitude and humility to God for the things the LORD had done for him.

In the ancient world, it was a common practice for rulers to build their god a house – in exchange for something. For example, King Tut built a temple for the Egyptian god Amon-Ra and in exchange Tut was supposed to rule a kingdom that would span the globe and last for millions of years. In hindsight we know King Tut’s closest claim to fame was the discovery of his intact tomb and his remains being viewed by millions.

King David was at the pinnacle of his success. He was now king over his own tribe of Judah and all of Israel. He had captured Jerusalem and made it his capital. He had built his own palace and moved the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem. God had given David victory over his enemies and a well-deserved rest from fighting. David became concerned that the Ark of God was being kept in a tent. **2 Samuel 7:2 (ESV)** ² *the king said to Nathan the prophet, “See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent.”* Samuel had died while Saul was still king. A prophet named Gad had advised David as he fled from Saul. This is the first mention of Nathan the prophet.

As Nathan heard David’s words, he thought David’s dream to build a temple was a “great idea.” We can learn from Nathan’s experience that what we may think is not necessarily what God ‘thinks’! After Nathan gave his blessing to the building project, God spoke with Nathan and explained that David’s building of the temple was **not** part of God’s plan. David’s desire, though honorable, was not God’s desire. It was David who said in **Psalms 37:4 (ESV)** ⁴ *Delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart.* As we move forward in the story, we will see that David did delight in the LORD’s promises.

David had a passionate heart. His desire was to bring glory to God. But, at this moment, his heart was misguided and Nathan’s heart had been misguided too. It does not appear that either man had sought the ‘mind of the LORD’ regarding this matter. It became Nathan’s responsibility to reveal God’s will to David.

Read 2 Samuel 7:4-7 (ESV) ⁴ *But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan,* ⁵ *“Go and tell my servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD: Would you build me a house to dwell in?’ ⁶ I have not lived in a*

house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling.⁷ In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?””

Nathan was willing to speak God’s truth to the king. He would become a trusted friend and advisor. Through Nathan the LORD explained to David that a building was not important to God. David’s heart desired to DO SOMETHING for the LORD and his first thought was to build a building! Are we any different? Are the things we desire to do for God, things that God really wants? He is concerned with what we DO inside our hearts. **John 4:24 (ESV)**²⁴ *God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.*” David desired to ‘do something’ for God but God desired to ‘do something’ for David instead.

God promises to give His people eternal rest.

Read 2 Samuel 7:8-11a (ESV)⁸ *Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel.⁹ And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth.¹⁰ And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly,^{11a} from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies...*

The LORD began by reminding David how he got to where he was. God not David was the Provider. It is the same for us today, **Philippians 4:19 (ESV)**¹⁹ *And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.* Every step of the way from the pasture to the palace the LORD was orchestrating David’s life. Again, it is the same for us today. **Psalms 37:23 (ESV)**²³ *The steps of a man are established by the LORD, when he delights in his way.*

God’s Presence was with His people when the Ark was in a tent. Although the structure didn’t matter to God, David was bothered that God’s dwelling place was contained in something portable. However, from the ‘portable’ Ark we see a beautiful picture of the coming Messiah – God’s Presence that would come to dwell on earth through a descendant of David. The Son of God would literally walk this earth dwelling in the ‘tent’ of His own fleshly body.

David, the shepherd boy who God anointed king of Israel, dreamed of building God a house and instead God promised to build David a house – a house that will stand forever.

Read 2 Samuel 7:11b-17 (ESV)^{11b} *...Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house.¹² When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring*

after you, who shall 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. ¹⁴ I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men, ¹⁵ but my steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. ¹⁶ And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.” ¹⁷ In accordance with all these words, and in accordance with all this vision, Nathan spoke to David.

This prophecy of God, like many biblical prophecies, is fulfilled in phases. I have mentioned in lessons past how understanding a prophecy is often like looking through a telescope and seeing mountain peaks with valleys in between. Through the telescope you see mountain peaks but the valleys are hidden from view. Such is the case with this prophecy given to David known as the Davidic Covenant. Although the word ‘covenant’ is not mentioned here, it is found in **Psalm 89:3 (ESV)** ³ *You have said, “I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn to David my servant.*

One of the major emphases of the Davidic covenant is eternity. David had wanted to build for God what he considered to be a permanent dwelling place, but God instead promised that He would establish for David a permanent dynasty.

The immediate fulfillment (the first mountain peak) of the promise would be that David’s son, Solomon, would build an earthly temple – his would be a kingdom of peace. The LORD did not plan for a warrior to build His temple. David said in **1 Chronicles 22:8 (ESV)** ⁸ *But the word of the LORD came to me, saying, ‘You have shed much blood and have waged great wars. You shall not build a house to my name, because you have shed so much blood before me on the earth.*

But, Solomon’s kingdom, although a kingdom of earthly peace, would not be the permanent dynasty. King Solomon’s reign would contain iniquity and would be subject to God’s discipline. And most of the kings who would follow would be so disobedient the kingdom itself would eventually fall. So how could the prophecy ever come to pass: *Your throne shall be established forever?* From the angel’s announcement to Mary, we find the descendant who would establish David’s throne forever. **Luke 1:32 (ESV)** ³² *He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David. Jesus, the Messiah, currently reigns in the hearts of His children but He will one day literally reign on the throne of David.*

We respond to God’s promise with gratitude and humility.

Read 2 Samuel 7:18-21 (ESV) ¹⁸ *Then King David went in and sat before the LORD and said, “Who am I, O Lord GOD, and what is my house, that you have brought me thus far? ¹⁹ And yet this was a small thing in your eyes, O Lord GOD. You have spoken also of your servant’s house for a great while to come, and this is instruction for mankind, O Lord GOD! ²⁰ And what more can David say to you? For you know your*

servant, O Lord GOD! ²¹ *Because of your promise, and according to your own heart, you have brought about all this greatness, to make your servant know it.*

David is overwhelmed with the promise that the coming Messiah would be from his own bloodline. We are not told what he said to Nathan; but we are told that David took his response to God and did not send it by the prophet. David *sat before the LORD*. This indicates that David went to that tent that he had wanted to replace which held the Ark of the Covenant – the symbol of God’s Presence but that building project now was far from his mind.

Read 2 Samuel 7:22-26 (ESV) ²² *Therefore you are great, O LORD God. For there is none like you, and there is no God besides you, according to all that we have heard with our ears.* ²³ *And who is like your people Israel, the one nation on earth whom God went to redeem to be his people, making himself a name and doing for them great and awesome things by driving out before your people, whom you redeemed for yourself from Egypt, a nation and its gods?* ²⁴ *And you established for yourself your people Israel to be your people forever. And you, O LORD, became their God.* ²⁵ *And now, O LORD God, confirm forever the word that you have spoken concerning your servant and concerning his house, and do as you have spoken.* ²⁶ *And your name will be magnified forever, saying, ‘The LORD of hosts is God over Israel,’ and the house of your servant David will be established before you.*

David’s response to God began with the present – giving his praise for the mercies the Sovereign Lord had bestowed upon him. Only a Sovereign God could fulfill the promises he just received. David knew it was God’s grace alone that had brought him to this point in his life. We too must praise God for His grace towards us. **Ephesians 2:8-9 (ESV)** ⁸ *For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,* ⁹ *not a result of works, so that no one may boast.* Thank God we are saved by grace and not works. We should be in awe of that!

David looked to the past and remembered God’s amazing love for Israel. The Lord chose Israel and He revealed Himself to Israel by giving the law at Mount Sinai and speaking the Word through His prophets. We can stand or sit in awe of God knowing that He chose us as well! Jesus said in **Matthew 25:34 (ESV)** ³⁴ *Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.* God chose even me!

David then looked to the future. Even though David would not build the temple here on earth, he looked forward to the coming of the promised kingdom. We should look forward to the coming of God’s kingdom as well. In fact, Jesus taught us to pray for the coming of the kingdom. Jesus said to pray: *Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.* **Matthew 6:10 (ESV)**

How did David respond to the death of his dream? He realized that what God had given him was much better than any dream he could have ever imagined. God’s gifts put man’s dreams to shame. Jesus is our King of Promise! **Psalms 150:6 (ESV)** ⁶ *Let everything that has breath praise the LORD! Praise the LORD!*