

MAY 25

2 Samuel 7-8

2 Samuel 7

This is a big chapter in the Bible because of the Davidic Covenant. Basically, in this covenant God promises that someone from David's lineage will rule over Israel forever. This will be fulfilled in Jesus. Something interesting to note is that when Paul talked about the gospel he preached, it went like this: *Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, the offspring of David, as preached in my gospel.* (2 Timothy 2:8) This covenant is suddenly a very clear revelation of the next step forward in God's plan of redemption.

Vs. 1-2 David had a house built for him by Hiram. His days of living in tents and in caves were over. In thanking God for this, it must have made David think about the ark being in a tent. The tent represented God's presence and I doubt the tabernacle looked as good as the one Moses made in the wilderness.

V. 3 I find it kind of funny that Nathan thought that God would approve everything David did since He was blessing David in everything else. It was a good time, and I guess they were beginning to take God for granted.

Vs. 4-17 These are the words of the covenant God was making with David. Nathan was the prophet. Note in vs. 1-7 that God acknowledged David's heartfelt concern for God and His glory.

Vs. 8-12 This is what God had done with David and will still do with David. It is interesting that God took David from *following the sheep* to making him the shepherd of Israel. God said that He was responsible for protecting David and bringing blessing though him.

Vs. 13-17 In what God is saying to David here, there would be a near literal fulfillment. There would be a temple built by Solomon, and there would be a lineage of David. But there is also a future fulfillment that will be when Jesus sits on the throne in the Millennial Kingdom. The Davidic line would not rule unbroken, as obviously it hasn't. But that rule, when reestablished, will be resumed by a descendant of David, Jesus; and He will build God a house. (1 Peter 2:5)

Vs. 18-29 So what is faith? David talked to a man named Nathan. He said, "You know, I think I'll build a temple to the glory of God, to house the ark of the covenant." The guy, Nathan, said, "Go for it." A few hours later, Nathan came back and said, "By the way, God said not to do it, but instead He is going to establish your lineage into an eternal dynasty." So David, having heard this from this guy, went into the forecourt of the tabernacle, before the Lord, and prayed this. The faith really blows me away. Nathan could have made that up. David heard from a human, but understood the words were from God and poured out his heart in gratitude. Jesus said to Thomas in John 20:29, *"Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."*

This is a very impressive prayer and act of faith.

V. 29 What David understood and what awed him was *forever*. This is what awed Paul, and this is why everyone in the Gospels who cried out to the Son of David usually had saving faith.

2 Samuel 8

Vs. 1-8 All of this was the blessing of the Lord and fulfilling what God had said He would do for Israel and David. David would be established and have peace. What God was doing here not only involved victories, but He was giving David and his men the wisdom to organize and keep the nations in submission to him. At the same time, God was blessing the nation of Israel.

Vs. 9-12 God not only took care of David's enemies, but He gave David allies. We'll see in Chronicles that although David couldn't build the temple, he had all the materials stockpiled and he gave a set of blueprints to Solomon before he died.

Vs. 13-14 This might be mentioned because the Edomites lived in the rock and may have been thought to be invincible. David defeated them.

Vs. 15-18 So David and Israel got organized. David's sons were officials. We'll see later that this was a way kings began to train their sons. One son in particular will take his role as an official very seriously. That would be Absalom.

We'll be reading a lot more about David in Kings and Chronicles, and it is amazing how much David organized. It seems that as God expands His work and blesses what we do for Him, He also organizes us. I think some of the organizing David did came out of passions that God gave him. We can trust God to do this for us too in the harvest. If He blesses, He will help us get organized.

John 14:15-31

Remember from John 14:1 that being troubled of heart and afraid is the context here. This worry is because Jesus will be leaving them, now and in the future. This is mentioned several times.

Vs. 15-17 The Holy Spirit then will take Jesus' place both leading and comforting them in the mission. The Holy Spirit is not given primarily to comfort us when the car breaks or we're lonely. There is a purpose for us being left here on earth as witnesses of Christ, and the Holy Spirit comforts and enables us for that.

Vs. 18-24 Jesus speaks lots of comfort and encouragement here. Notice that the way for them, and us, to commune and connect with the Lord will be through His Word. The Holy Spirit enables this, but we respond in love to knowing and obeying the Word. Not only do the Father and Son dwell with us, but the Father confirms His love to us. And all of this is when we are following in the harvest. Verse 22 shows that this is all enabled by the Spirit.

Also, notice how often love is mentioned in these verses. Circle the word *love*. Loving Christ and obeying Him, following Him in the harvest, will result in the Son and the Father manifesting themselves to us and making their abode with us, all this via the Holy Spirit. So what is it that we are obedient to? This obeying is not general moral living or going to church or singing in worship and living harmless lives. This obedience is following Christ in the mission. We'll see this emphasis of mission in the next chapter, and it is important to grasp this to understand how the Holy Spirit will help us. If you think about what Jesus commanded His disciples, you'll see that much of it had to do with being fearless, anxiety-free followers in the harvest who were not ashamed to testify to His name. His commandments are summed up in the Great Commission.

Vs. 25-31 As Jesus introduced the ministry of the Spirit, He applied the Spirit's coming to their immediate need for comfort. They would also need the Spirit's comfort in their future ministry, as they stood for Jesus. There is the element of joy that Jesus was going to the Father. But they didn't understand what that would mean for the plan of redemption or the incredible message they would be taking into the world. They also didn't understand the power of the spiritual authorities that would be directed to them this night or in the future. In that too, the Spirit of God would be their Helper.

As disciples we need to see that the power and ministry of the Spirit is to aid and comfort and empower us as we are laboring in the harvest, reaching the lost and making disciples, who make disciples. Jesus told His disciples, *If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also*. Jesus is still seeking to save the lost and we need to be with Him in the harvest. Then we will know the power and wonder of the Spirit.

Psalm 119:33-48

Notice how many ways God's Word is referred to. Notice the pleas, petitions and cries for help. Isn't this amazing stuff with which to fill your heart? This is how we are to cry out and what we are to do, when we are being pressed by the stuff of this life. Our hope is only in God and His Word.

Vs. 33-40 This is David crying out to hold true to the Word. Notice the mention of *selfish gain*, *worthless things* and the reproach of others. Those are things that take us from the Word. David, here and elsewhere, expresses his delight and longing for the Word. When he had those, David was safe and thriving. That's the same with us.

Vs. 41-48 Here, the *steadfast love* of the Lord and remembrance of God saving David secured his heart in the Word, even when he was taunted. Notice the importance of meditation to David. Again, when David did this, he was a mighty man for God.

Proverbs 15:33

Amen. I wish I had really, really, really learned this in my 20's.