



A BETTER KING

A SERIES IN 2 SAMUEL



2 Samuel 7:17-29 – Praying God's Promises

April 30, 2023

Background

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. 2 Samuel 7:12 (ESV)

He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. 2 Samuel 7:13 (ESV)

I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son... 2 Samuel 7:14 (ESV)

And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. 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, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Luke 1:31–33 (ESV)

In accordance with all these words, and in accordance with all this vision, Nathan spoke to David. 2 Samuel 7:17 (ESV)

Then King David went in and sat before the LORD... 2 Samuel 7:18 (ESV)

1. When we pray, we should thank God for what he has done.

A. We should thank God for how he has been good to us.

..."Who am I, O Lord GOD, and what is my house, that you have brought me thus far?
2 Samuel 7:18 (ESV)

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:6–8 (ESV)

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! 2 Samuel 7:19 (ESV)

I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed. Genesis 12:3 (ESV)

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,... Ephesians 1:3 (ESV)

...having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might...
Ephesians 1:18–19 (ESV)

*And what more can David say to you? For you know your servant, O Lord GOD!
2 Samuel 7:20 (ESV)*

Because of your promise, and according to your own heart, you have brought about all this greatness, to make your servant know it. 2 Samuel 7:21 (ESV)

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. 2 Samuel 7:22 (ESV)

B. We should thank God for how he was good to His people in history.

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? And you established for yourself your people Israel to be your people forever... 2 Samuel 7:23–24a (ESV)

...knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.

1 Peter 1:18–19 (ESV)

Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body. 1 Corinthians 6:19–20 (ESV)

...And you, O LORD, became their God. 2 Samuel 7:24b (ESV)

2. When we pray, we should pray for God to fulfill His promises.

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.

2 Samuel 7:25 (ESV)

And he said to them, “When you pray, say: “Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation.” Luke 11:2–4 (ESV)

And your name will be magnified [made great] forever, saying, ‘The LORD of hosts is God over Israel,’ and the house of your servant David will be established before you. For you, O LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, have made this revelation to your servant, saying, ‘I will build you a house.’ Therefore your servant has found courage to pray this prayer to you. And now, O Lord GOD, you are God, and your words are true, and you have promised this good thing to your servant. 2 Samuel 7:26–28 (ESV)

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Matthew 11:28–29 (ESV)

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9 (ESV)

Now therefore may it please you to bless the house of your servant, so that it may continue forever before you. For you, O Lord GOD, have spoken, and with your blessing shall the house of your servant be blessed forever." 2 Samuel 7:29 (ESV)

Applications

1. Gratitude for what God has done for us leads to humility.
2. Just as God blessed David beyond his wildest dreams, through Jesus, God has blessed us beyond our wildest dreams.
3. God's heart for us is not to condemn us but to save and do spiritual good for us through Jesus.
4. Just as God saved Israel from slavery in Egypt and committed himself to his people in love forever, God saves us from slavery to sin through Jesus and has chosen to love us forever so that we may live for God.
5. One of the best ways to pray is for the fulfillment of the promises God has already made to us.

Life Group Questions

1. **Read 2 Samuel 7.** What did you learn that was new? What parts of this message were a surprise?
2. What do you pray about? When do you pray?
3. David was overwhelmed by God's goodness in his past, but he was also blown away by the even greater goodness God promised to show to David's descendants in the future, one of whom would be Jesus. How has God been good to you in the past? What greater goodness has God promised to show you through Jesus in the future? **For ideas, see Romans 8:18, 23, 8:29-30, 32, and Ephesians 1:3.**
4. **Read 2 Samuel 7:21.** David reflected on the undeserved goodness God showed him in the past and the greater blessing God would show David's descendants in the future. That gave him a window into the heart of God to better understand God's love for His people. God has a great love for you. He desires to free us from the power and bondage of sin. He desires us to be His most precious possession. How does knowing that change your feelings about God and the Christian life? **See John 3:17, 10:10.**
5. **Read 2 Samuel 7:23-24a.** David talked of God's purposes for Israel. When God saved Israel from Egypt, he planned to make a great name for himself through their salvation. He also planned to bind himself to them in love forever. In the same way, through Jesus, God intends to make a great name for himself through the greatness of how he saves us. He plans to make a great name for himself by the way he transforms our lives both now and for eternity. How does knowing that God plans to make a great name for himself by how much he rescues and transforms us through Jesus give you more appetite to read the Bible?
6. David prayed for the fulfillment of the promises God made to him. What are some promises God made to us through Jesus? Choose one from the list or find one of your own and pray for God to fulfill his promise. **See 1 Timothy 2:8, Luke 6:27-28, Matthew 6:9-13, 2 Thessalonians 3:1**