

## 2 Samuel 7

### God's Plan is Greater Than Anything We Could Ever Imagine

If I were to come up to you and ask you what would be the most amazing thing that could ever happen to you what would you say? What is that one thing that would mean that all of your dreams come true? If we were all honest here this morning we would all say that our answer to that question has probably changed over the course of the years. I am reminded of how far I have come when I listen to my own kids tell me their hopes and dreams especially this time of year (Christmas) and I discover that they really don't know what they want. Here's why: My house is a house of discovery. Everything is an experiment. We are constantly saying, "don't do this, do that." Just the other day my little girl discovered for the first time that the "S" on the shaker means that one is the salt. She has no capacity for knowing what she wants because she is at the age of discovery. She should grow out of this stage, but for now everything is discovery.

I am convinced that for the most part our world is filled with those who don't know what they want. They know they want something and desperately try to fill it with something. CS Lewis was right when he said, "If we find ourselves with a desire that nothing in this world can satisfy, the most probably explanation is that we were made for another world."

I want us to open the Bible to 2 Samuel 7 to look at a guy that some would say had just about everything - King David. In our passage today, David is going to come to the Lord with certain desire, a noble desire, but the Lord is going to do something for David that is greater than anything he could ever imagine.

#### READ TEXT

Did you hear it? David wanted to build the Lord a house, but God said he would build David a house. One house would ruin and decay over time, the other would stand forever. Which house would you rather have?

From this passage I want us to learn that God's plan is greater than anything we could ever imagine. And from this story in the life of David I want to give you two reasons to believe that God's plan is the greatest plan.

### **1. God Is Faithful Even When We Are Faithless**

The first thing that we should think of when we think of

David is - that he was a man after God's own heart - not

Bathsheba. What happened with Bathsheba is part of David's story, but what marks David is his God sized ambition. He was one of the first who expected great things from God and attempted great

things for him, remember Goliath? Even when David is at his worst moments, with Bathsheba, his heart for God eventually shines through, read Psalm 51.

But if there is anything that we know about David is that we shouldn't make him the hero of our story. When we tell our children about David we don't say go be just like David. If we do we have to tell them to be just like David, except when it's your time to go off to war please go, and if you don't go, please don't go strolling on your balcony. But God has a purpose for David and the purpose for David is more than he could ever do, more than he could have ever imagined.

Let's think for just a moment. 2 Samuel 7 is one of the most significant passages in all of the Bible. This passage is one of those passages that gives us a summary of what the story is about. If you just look at the Bible you can become overwhelmed to make sense of it all and to see how it all fits together. If we didn't have passages like 2 Samuel 7 and so many others peppered throughout we could come up with all sorts of things the Bible is about. But passages like 2 Samuel 7 assure us that God has a plan and he is working his plan.

Here is the best part of the story. God plan is greater than anything we could ever imagine and nothing will stop it from happening. I want to prove it to you. I want you to flip over just a few chapters to chapter 11. What is chapter 11? Did God make a covenant with David before Bathsheba or afterwards? Before! God knew what would happen with David and still chose to enter a covenant with him. Why is this? Only one answer will do - amazing grace. Where sin was great, grace was greater!

So the hero is not David, David is a hero but not the hero. The hero is mentioned for us as a Son of David. Now, who would most people say is the most famous Son of David? Solomon. But does he fit the bill? Let's look again to see what we are looking for, verse 17 - forever. Solomon doesn't fit the bill. The whole time we are reading the book of Kings and Chronicles we are hoping for his Son of David to come, longing for him to come. The prophets are full of anticipation. You will see David's name pop up all though the OT in places where David has been dead for hundreds of years. There is so much wickedness in the story of these kings but all during their wickedness there is an undercurrent of grace guiding the plan and purpose of God safe to shore.

I want to take you to one passage in Isaiah that captures this scenario well. Isaiah 10:33-11. (Turn here.) Listen to it. Even after the Lord has had to bring judgment upon the earth, judgment upon his own people, hope is inextinguishable, and from a smoldering forest a shoot will begin to bud from the root of an old forgotten tree from a long left unfulfilled prophecy. All that is left of the tree of Jesse is nothing more than a stump but a stump is all that God needs. And from that sprout from that stump will come the satisfaction of the earth.

And how God does this is the wonder of the entire Bible. Who is the Son of David? It isn't Solomon. Matthew opens in the first verse and says that Jesus Christ is the Son of David. Matthew keeps on going to tell us that a few men from the east come following a star specifically seeking specifically the

one who has been born king of the Jews. Who is this Baby that they are seeking? Here is the beauty - God himself. The Word becomes flesh and dwells amongst us.

Here is the bottom line. Write this down. This truth is the amazing truth of the gospel. Why would this God go through great lengths to bring us to him? He has intertwined our story with his own story.

## **2. He Is Faithful Because He Cannot Deny Himself**

Don't get the crazy idea that God is simply ebbing and flowing with history. Sure God responds to us but nothing takes him by surprise. It is not as if he says David I am going to make a covenant with you and then change my mind after you commit adultery with a woman and murder his husband. God knew David was going to do this and the amazing grace of it all is that David's actions didn't cancel out the purpose of God. His actions brought consequences, grave consequences, but the purpose of God remains. God knew that if he created the world in this way by giving us the power of choosing the contrary it would mean the Son coming to die, and yet he still did it anyway. Our actions have consequences but the consequence of our actions are never outside the purpose of God. He has chosen to make himself known through creating us to enjoy fellowship with himself

Our story is about us having fellowship with God. Don't miss this. It's not about him having fellowship with us as if he needs something. He needs nothing. Look at the passage closely. God is clear that there is nothing that David can do for him. This is the same idea, I think, behind Isaiah 66:1-2:

*Thus says the LORD: "Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool; what is the house that you would build for me, and what is the place of my rest? All these things my hand has made, and so all these things came to be, declares the LORD. But this is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word.*

God gives us all things and receives worship from us. We desire his favor, he delights in our worship of him.

This is the great truth that we proclaim: God has chosen freely to bring us into relationship with himself and the way that he has done it is by joining himself with our story. The author of the story jumps into the story and joins our life with his own life. The Son of David came and the Son of David was God himself. His perfection is now our perfection, his eternity is now our eternity, our lives are joined together inseparably. This is why death is no problem for the believer - Jesus died and was raised. If Jesus died and was raised then the promise is that all those who believe in him even though they die they will live. This is why we say we are in Christ. His life is our life. He has experienced everything we experienced except he changed the outcome. Tempted he overcame, died he lived.

Can you think of anything greater? Unending love; amazing grace; eternal fellowship with God. All this is ours not because we earn it but because he gives it to us and we receive what he has given to us by faith.

Every head bowed.

I just want you to simply be honest this AM. If you are pursuing anything other than Jesus, will you admit that it is less? Will you today begin to believe that what God has for you is greater than anything you could ever imagine?

But, as it is written,

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined,  
What God has prepared for those who love him”— these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.

(1 Corinthians 2:9-10 ESV)