

Exegetical Notes – 2 Samuel 7:1-17
Prepared by Charles H. Jensen for Cornerstone Fellowship
101 Kyllies Road, Coatesville, PA 19320
610-384-1375
charleshjensen@aol.com

2 Samuel 7:1-17

Verses 1-3

¹ After the king was settled in his palace and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ² he said to Nathan the prophet, “Here I am, living in a house of cedar, while the ark of God remains in a tent.”

³ Nathan replied to the king, “Whatever you have in mind, go ahead and do it, for the LORD is with you.”

- After the kingdom was settled under David’s rule and at peace, David said to Nathan the prophet, his spiritual advisor that it seemed wrong that he lived in a palace while the ark of God was kept in a tent.
- While David made no specific suggestion about this apparent inequity, Nathan seems to have agreed with David and assumes that David has a plan that will resolve it. So he tells David to go ahead with his plan to solve the problem.

Verses 4-11

⁴ But that night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, saying:

⁵ “Go and tell my servant David, ‘This is what the LORD says: Are you the one to build me a house to dwell in? ⁶ I have not dwelt in a house from the day I brought the Israelites up out of Egypt to this day. I have been moving from place to place with a tent as my dwelling. ⁷ Wherever I have moved with all the Israelites, did I ever say to any of their rulers whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?””

⁸ “Now then, tell my servant David, ‘This is what the LORD Almighty says: I took you from the pasture, from tending the flock, and appointed you ruler over my people Israel. ⁹ I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men on earth. ¹⁰ And I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed. Wicked people will not oppress them anymore, as they did

at the beginning¹¹ and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders over my people Israel. I will also give you rest from all your enemies.

“The LORD declares to you that the LORD himself will establish a house for you:

- That night, Nathan received instructions from God. He was told to go to David and tell him what God had said to him.
- God says several things to David through Nathan. First, God asked David who had told him that he was the person who should build a house for God? The idea was apparently David’s and not God’s. Second, God reminds David that He had never lived in a house. God reminds David that from the time He delivered Israel from Egypt until that moment, He had lived in a tent so that He could move with His people from place to place. Third, God reminds David that He never requested anyone who led Israel to build Him a house. Fourth, God reminds David that He lifted David up and put him on Israel’s throne. Fifth, God promises to continue to be with David, to make David’s name great. Sixth, God tells David that He will provide a place for Israel to dwell and that He will give Israel peace.
- Then through Nathan, God promises that He will establish the house of David.

Verses 12-16

¹² When your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³ He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. ¹⁴ I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with a rod wielded by men, with floggings inflicted by human hands. ¹⁵ But my love will never be taken away from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. ¹⁶ Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.”

- God promises David that when David dies his offspring will sit on his throne and rule Israel.
- God promises David that his son who rules after David will be the one who builds God a house to dwell in.
- God promises to bless the reign of David’s son guiding him as a father would, with blessing and punishments.
- God promises David that his descendants will sit on the throne of David forever.

- Solomon was the son of David who followed his father to the throne. Solomon did build the temple, a house for God. Through Jesus Christ who was descendant from King David by his human lineage and now reigns forever on David's throne, the last promise is also fulfilled.

Verse 17

¹⁷ Nathan reported to David all the words of this entire revelation.

- The role of the prophet is to tell the people what God said. In fulfillment of his obligation to God as prophet, Nathan told David everything God had said.

(These exegetical notes are the foundational study for the sermon based on 2 Samuel 7:1-17. They have been prepared by the Reverend Doctor Charles H. Jensen. All rights are reserved by Cornerstone Fellowship & The Reverend Doctor Charles H. Jensen. They are used here by permission.)