

The Life of David

The God of Promise - 2 Samuel 7:1-16

Good morning, Church Family... (2nd Service) & Welcome to those watching online.

We have a couple of announcements to make sure you know about some important events that are coming up.

First, on Sunday July 27th we are having **Child Dedications** during our services. Parents who are dedicating a child are making a promise to the Lord before the church congregation to do everything within their power to raise the child in a godly way, until the child can make a decision on his or her own to follow God. If you want to participate, please contact us today.

Second, **VBS starts tomorrow!!** Pray for VBS- the kids attending, the families of the kids attending, and the volunteers.

VBS Family Night on Thursday at 6pm. Everyone is invited to come back on Thursday night for that! Grab dinner from one of the food trucks, hear some of the songs the kids learned during VBS and meet someone new. There are many kids attending VBS who don't have a home church. Help us make this an inviting event for the parents. Think of this as a GO event, right in our parking lot. If the weather doesn't cooperate, the event will be moved inside.

Pray:

This morning we are continuing in our **Life of David** sermon series. Today we are going to be in **2 Samuel Chapter 7** so you can turn there in your Bibles or Bible Apps. This sermon is entitled **The God of Promise**.

Let me first start with a question: **Have you ever had someone break a promise to you?** Every hand should probably be up unless you have lived an extremely charmed life.

Maybe the promise broken was something small—like a friend who promised to help you move but then conveniently “forgot” when the U-Haul arrived.

Or perhaps it was something bigger... a parent who walked out, a spouse who betrayed a vow, or a leader who said one thing and did another. Whatever it was, I think we all know the sting of broken promises.

Now let’s flip that around—how many of you have ever made a promise YOU didn’t keep?

You meant the promise in the moment. You had every intention. But life happened... your priorities shifted... or maybe you just forgot. Here’s the thing: We live in a world full of **conditional commitments** and **broken promises**.

So, when we approach a passage like 2 Samuel 7—where God makes a covenant promise to David that He says will last **FOREVER**—it hits differently. Because this isn’t a politician’s promise. This isn’t a contract with fine print. This is **God’s Word**, sealed by His character.

And what we’re going to see today is that the **God of David is still the God of Promise**—and because of that, **you and I can trust Him**. We can trust Him with our FUTURE, with our WAITING, with our PAIN, and with our HOPE. Because when God makes a promise... **HE KEEPS IT!**

Now, as we look to **2 Samuel chapter 7**, let’s first get some context. David is finally in a good place. After years of running for his life, hiding in caves, dodging spears, and dealing with all manner of drama—he’s now firmly established as king. His enemies have been subdued, the nation is experiencing peace, and things are going well. ***David has rest. The people are prospering. For once, there’s no crisis.***

And it’s in that rare quiet moment that something starts stirring in David’s heart.

David's eyes fall across the city to a familiar sight: the **tabernacle**. The tabernacle is the ancient tent that housed the Ark of the Covenant, the very symbol of God's presence among His people.

And in that moment, it hits him:

“Why am I living in a house of cedar while God's dwelling is... a tent?”

[for context sake] David is sitting in this beautiful new palace—a house of cedar, which was a luxury material in that day. This would've been like moving into a custom home with all the bells and whistles: vaulted ceilings, imported hardwood floors, the works. He's surrounded by comfort, beauty, and peace for the first time in a long time.

In comparison the tabernacle by this point is old. Like *real* old. It was built hundreds of years earlier during the time of Moses, back in the wilderness. And though it had once been beautiful, I imagine it was showing its age—weathered fabric, sagging frame, patches on top of patches. It didn't match the glory of the God it represented.

David feels this tension deeply—and his desire is noble: **“God deserves better.”** But what unfolds next is one of the most remarkable moments in Scripture—not because of what David does, but because of what God **promises**.

Read: 2 Samuel 7:1-11 (NIV)

God's Promise to David

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.”

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 beginning 11 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:

And so here we see in our text...David wants to honor God. He wants to build Him a house—a permanent temple. It’s a noble idea. And Nathan, without even praying about it, says, *“Go ahead! Do all that’s in your heart. The Lord is with you.”*

But that night, God speaks to Nathan with a very different message.

God essentially tells Nathan, **“Tell David, ‘Thanks—but no thanks.’** I never asked for a house. I’ve been on the move with my people since day one. And instead of David building me a house... **I’m going to build *him* a house.”**

Let’s look at **verse 8 again because this is important to emphasize:**

“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.”

God takes David back to the beginning. **You weren't always king David. In fact you were a nobody out in the field. I'm the one who brought you here.** It's as if God is trying to underline the fact that there is nothing that you can do for me, because I am the God who has no needs.

And then in verses 9–11, God lays out what He's done—and what He *will* do:

- “I **have** been with you wherever you went.”
- “I **have** cut off all your enemies.”
- “I **will** make your name great.”
- “I **will** provide a place for my people.”
- “I **will** give you rest.”

This whole section is drenched in **God's initiative, not David's**. David wants to *do* something great for God—but God reminds him, “*I'm the one who's been doing great things for you.*”

And that brings us to our first point this morning:

God's Promises Begin with Grace, Not Our Greatness

Church, don't miss this—David's desire was good, but God's promise wasn't a reward for David's efforts. God's promise was **pure grace**.

David didn't earn this covenant. He didn't win God's favor by being impressive. In fact, God reminds him that he started out as a shepherd boy with the stench of sheep on him and sandals full of pasture mud. And *that's* who God chose to bless.

And the same is true for us.

So often we think we need to prove ourselves to God—earn His promises through hard work, spiritual performance, or moral track records. But that's not how God works.

God's promises don't flow from our greatness—they flow from His grace.

That means:

- You don't have to be impressive for God to love you.
- You don't have to build Him a house to earn His favor.
- You don't have to fix your life before you come to Him.

God didn't wait for David to get everything right. He didn't say, "*Once you finish the temple, then I'll bless you.*" No—He gave the promise **first**, and it was **undeserved**.

So let me ask you this morning—**where are you trying to earn something God has already given by grace?**

What if you stopped striving to prove yourself to God, and just rested in the truth that **He started this whole thing—and He's the one who will finish it?**

Church, I believe that a misunderstanding of the grace of God is one of the biggest factors that keeps human beings in bondage.

Illus:

In his book ***The Prodigal God***, the late great Pastor Tim Keller once told of a story he saw recorded in a documentary entitled Three Seasons. The documentary was about post war Vietnam and chronicled the lives of several people who were living lives of despair. One of the stories that was recorded was a love story between a rickshaw driver named Hai and the woman he is in love with Lan. The problem is that this wasn't your average love story because Lan is trapped in the cycle of prostitution. Lan lived in grinding poverty. She 'worked' in some of the wealthiest hotels, but never got to spend the night there. She hoped that the money she made through prostitution would be her means of escape, but instead the work brutalizes and enslaves her.

Hai (the man in love with Lan) enters a cyclo race and amazingly he wins the whole thing along with the top prize money, and with the money he brings Lan to a hotel. He pays for the night and pays her fee. Then, to

everyone's shock, he tells her he just wants to watch her fall asleep. Instead of using his power and new found wealth to use her, he spends it to purchase a place for her for one night in a normal world, to fulfill her desire to simply belong.

Here's the power of GRACE church.

Lan finds this act of grace deeply troubling at first, thinking that Hai has done this to control her. But when it becomes clear that he is using his power to serve rather than use her, it begins to transform her life.

Ultimately this beautiful act of **GRACE** wakes something up in Lan, so much so that she finds **it impossible to return to her life of prostitution.**

You see Church, when we truly understand His grace it accomplishes the same thing that it did in Lan. It sets us free of bondage. Some of you have experienced that, praise God, but too many of us are still trying to do it ourselves.

And here in our text David is trying to do a good thing, and God is saying, **I DON'T NEED ANYTHING FROM YOU.** And it's not that God is trying to be mean here, or dismissive, but that he wanted David to understand who he is dealing with.

And church the reason why this is humbling is because often we think God needs us. He needs our obedience, He needs our money, He needs our time, He needs our _____. NOPE.

IT IS ALL GRACE. FREELY GIVEN. YOU ARE CHOSEN.

The good works that spring forth from the believers life prove we are **HIS**, they are the evidence we are **REDEEMED**, but we are **REDEEMED** because of **GRACE**.

Moving in our text we are going to continue reading in verse 12. This is one of the most important passages in all of scripture...*(I'll unpack why in a minute)*

But first did you know that Jesus' most frequent title in the Gospels is "**Son of David**," the Gospel writer Matthew uses this title for Jesus 10x in his

Gospel alone. The point I'm trying to underline is that **to understand Jesus, you have to understand David**, and this passage makes the Jesus-David connection clearer than any other.

2 Samuel 7:12-15 (NIV)

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.

Now, this might sound like God is just making a promise about Solomon building a future temple. But church, this is so much bigger than a building project. As I said a moment ago..**this is one of the most important passages in all of Scripture. Why?**

Because in these verses we get what theologians call the **Davidic Covenant**. It's a divine promise that becomes the backbone of the entire biblical story from this point forward.

- This promise is why the people of Israel started looking for a Messiah.
- This promise is why Jesus is called the *Son of David*.
- This promise is echoed all throughout the prophets, and it explodes into fulfillment in the opening pages of the New Testament.

Look again at verse 12:

"When your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you... and I will establish his kingdom."

This is a **dual-layered promise**. Yes, God is talking about Solomon—David's literal son—who would become king and build the temple. That's the near fulfillment. But there's also a **far fulfillment**, a

prophetic shadow that points forward to **Jesus**—the true King whose kingdom will have **no end**.

Look again at verse 13:

“He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.”

That word “forever” ought to stop us dead in our tracks. Solomon’s kingdom didn’t last forever. In fact, the whole monarchy crumbles just two generations later. So who is this king with a forever throne? IT IS JESUS.

God is promising that one day, through David’s line, **a greater King would come**—a King who would not just build a house of stone and wood, but a **spiritual house**, made up of people from every tribe, tongue, and nation.

And then in verse 14, God adds this:

“I will be his father, and he will be my son.”

Yes, this applied to Solomon in part—but it finds its full and perfect fulfillment in **Jesus**, the only begotten Son of God, who would reign not just with authority but with righteousness and mercy.

And don’t miss verse 15:

“But my love will never be taken away from him, as I took it away from Saul...”

You remember Saul—he disobeyed, and the Spirit of God departed from him. God removed him from the throne. But now God says, *“That’s not how this is going to work anymore.”* He’s entering into a **covenant of enduring love**, a one-way, I-will-keep-this-even-if-you-fail kind of promise.

This is **grace on a whole new level**.

And Church, that leads us to the second truth we learn from this passage:

God’s Promises Rest on His Faithfulness, Not Our Performance

Illus:

How many of you use GPS to drive? I think most of us do. It's a part of the reason why nobody knows how to get anywhere anymore 😊. Do you ever miss a turn, and then your GPS says rerouting...rereouting. And then a couple of seconds later it's rerouted for you to make up for your mistake. Now what if the next time you drive and miss a turn your GPS said to you, "You know what I'm sick of you making mistakes, this is the third missed turn this week. Not only am I not giving your directions anymore but I don't know that I want to be your GPS anymore!"

Well obviously this would never happen, but I use this example to illustrate the fact that if our GPS can faithfully handle our mistakes and reroute us again and again, why is it that we struggle to believe that a Holy God is any less faithful.

God's Promises Rest on His Faithfulness, Not Our Performance

Let's be clear: this covenant that God makes with David—it's not a deal. It's not a "you do your part, and I'll do mine" kind of arrangement. This is a **promise anchored in God's own character**.

And that's what makes it so stunning.

Because David is not going to get it all right. His son Solomon is going to build the temple, yes—but he's also going to spiral into pride, compromise, and idolatry. And the kings who come after Solomon? Most of them will be a train wreck. The kingdom will eventually split. One side gets conquered by Assyria. The other is taken off to Babylon. It looked as though the whole promise fell apart.

But God's love didn't budge. Remember verse 15, *"My love will never be taken away from him..."*

That word "love" is the Hebrew word **chesed**—it means **Covenant Love. Loyal Love. Unbreakable Love**. It's the kind of love that says, *"Even when you're faithless, I'll still be faithful."*

And that's what makes this passage so good for our souls.

Because if we're being honest, most of us live with this constant, low-grade fear that God's promises to us are performance-based. That if we mess up, fall short, or stumble too many times, God's going to take His blessings and go home.

But that's not who God is.

God didn't say, *"If you never fail, then I'll love you forever."*
He said, *"Even when you fail, my love will remain."*

Church, that's the kind of promise we can build our lives on.

Some of us are carrying around guilt today—guilt over sins in our past, ways we have failed, things we wish we could take back. And we are here today wondering if God's still with us. Friend if that's you, He's still for you. He still has a plan for your life.

And this passage is God's answer to you: **"My love is not going anywhere."** You may have wandered. You may have messed up. But God's promises are not hanging on your perfection—they're anchored to **His faithfulness**.

And if you ever doubt that, just look to the cross.

Because that's where the Greater Son of David—Jesus—took on your punishment so you could receive the unshakable love of God. He took the rod and the flogging for your sin, so that you could be adopted as sons and daughters forever.

That's the heart of the gospel.

Illus:

How many of you have ever done Ancestry DNA or 23&Me to have genetic testing done? Many people are interested in this, especially if you aren't familiar with your ancestral lineage. Perhaps you were adopted, or only know of one half of your family tree etc. Now as a black American whose

ancestors miraculously survived the the Trans-Atlantic slave trade, I was intrigued a few year back when my mother-in-law got Kaely and I Ancestry DNA for Christmas.

Now, I know this means the Mormons have my DNA (the Mormons own Ancestry), if they clone me one day I guess I'm ok with that.

Here is my genetic map and breakdown. There were many surprising things in here, but the most surprising thing that I found out is that I'm 3% Ashkenazi Jewish. And I found this out right before my trip to the Holy Land in 2019, when I got off the plane in Tel Aviv I said, "My people I am Home!" A Hasidic Jew standing next to me looked at me a little oddly.

But here's the point:

We've all got this desire to know where we come from. We want to be part of a bigger story. We want to know we belong to something meaningful and lasting.

And that's exactly what God gives us in Jesus.

Because if you belong to Jesus—the Son of David, the King of Kings—then your **spiritual lineage never ends**. You're not just part of God's family... you're part of God's *kingdom*. A kingdom that cannot be shaken. A throne that cannot be toppled. A promise that cannot be broken.

Church, **you may be 3% this or 25% that... but if you are in Christ, you are 100% His**. Adopted. Redeemed. Royal. A citizen of a kingdom that will never end.

Let's look now look at verse 16—this final, climactic verse of the Davidic covenant:

"Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever."

This is **not** just a royal blessing. This is a **prophecy**—a prophetic guarantee that the throne of David will not just continue through Solomon... but that one day, it will be filled by a King whose rule will have **no end**.

Now at first glance, you'd think this promise failed. After all, the kingdom *did* fall. The throne of David was left empty. For centuries, there was no king sitting in Jerusalem. By the time Jesus is born, Israel is under Roman rule. No king. No throne. No freedom.

And yet...when the angel Gabriel comes to Mary in Luke chapter 1, what does he say?

*"He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High.
The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David,
and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever;
his kingdom will never end."
(Luke 1:32–33)*

Church, **Jesus is the fulfillment of 2 Samuel 7:16.**

He is the Greater Son of David.

He is the King whose throne will never be shaken.

He is the final and forever fulfillment of the promise God made to David.

And that leads us to our third and final point:

God's Promises Point Us to a Greater King

From the very beginning, this covenant wasn't ultimately about Solomon. It wasn't about a building. It wasn't about a political dynasty. It was about a **King** who would come and establish **an eternal kingdom**—one not built with human hands, but with the hearts of redeemed people.

Jesus didn't come to sit on a golden throne in a palace—He came to hang on a wooden cross on a hill.

And in doing so, He fulfilled every requirement of the law, He carried the weight of our sin, He secured an eternal kingdom for all who would put their trust in Him.

That's why this chapter is such a cornerstone of Scripture. Because if **God kept this promise to David**, through war, rebellion, exile, silence, and

centuries of waiting—then you can absolutely trust that He'll keep His promises to **you**.

When He says, *"I will never leave you nor forsake you"*—you can believe it.

When He says, *"I go to prepare a place for you"*—you can count on it.

When He says, *"All who call on the name of the Lord will be saved"*—you can rest in it.

So let me ask you this, Church family—**what promise are you holding onto today?**

- Maybe it's the promise that God is with you in your suffering.
- Maybe it's the promise that He will finish the good work He started in you.
- Maybe it's the promise of eternal life, and you're just clinging to hope through a dark season.

Whatever it is—remember: **we serve the God of Promise. Not** the God of wishful thinking. **Not** the God of "maybe someday."

Not the God who forgets or flakes or changes His mind.

We serve the God who made a covenant with David...Who sent His own Son to fulfill it...And who reigns today as King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

And so we've seen today that:

- **God's promises begin with grace, not our greatness.**
You don't have to earn His love—He chose you when you had nothing to offer.
- **God's promises rest on His faithfulness, not our performance.**
Even when we fall short, His covenant love—His *chesed*—holds us fast.
- **God's promises point us to a Greater King.**
Jesus, the Son of David, now reigns—and **if you belong to Him, you are part of His unshakable kingdom.**

Invitation:

If you've never bowed the knee to Jesus and said, *"I want to be part of Your kingdom"*—today is the day of your salvation friend.

You don't have to have it all together. You don't need a spiritual résumé. You just need to come to Him by faith and say,

"Jesus, I believe You are the Son of David, the Son of God, the Savior who died for me and rose again. I want to follow You."

If that's your heart this morning—please don't leave here without talking to someone or coming forward for prayer. We would love to walk with you as you step into the greatest promise ever made—and kept.

Pray:

Giving Moment: 1 Timothy 6:6-7 Message: Godliness with contentment is great gain. As we give, we remind ourselves that true wealth is found in Him.

Baptism Class in Pastor Nate's office immediately after we conclude. If you are staying to **help set up for VBS**, meet Kristi Pullig here at the front of the sanctuary right after we close. (Kristi should be standing at the front at that point.)

Prayer Team | Benediction

Church family, live your life this week with the firm knowledge that we serve the God of Promise!