

**Men's Sunday Night**  
**A Study in the Life of David**  
**A Man After God's Own Heart**  
**Lesson 7 – 2 Samuel 7**

Two phrases in this chapter summarize the main lesson: “*your seed*” (vs. 12) and “*your throne*” (vs. 16). In His covenant with Abraham, God had promised a seed, a land, and a blessing to all nations through Israel. In this covenant, God reveals that the promised Messiah would come through David’s line and would rule from David’s throne over the promised messianic kingdom. The days of exile and danger are over, and David is enjoying rest and blessing in his own house. He truly was “a man after God’s own heart,” for he had the Word of God and the house of God uppermost in his heart.

The terms of this covenant are important because they involve the purposes of God in sending Jesus Christ to the world. We must note, first, that some of this covenant was fulfilled in Solomon, David’s successor on the throne. God did put Solomon on the throne, in spite of the wicked plots of others in the family, and God did enable Solomon to build the beautiful temple. When Solomon and his descendants sinned, God kept His promise and chastened them. The ultimate fulfillment of these promises is in Jesus Christ.

David received a message from Nathan, then went in to pray, asking God to fulfill His Word. How much more we would receive from lessons and sermons if only we spent time with God afterward and “prayed the message in.” God enjoys giving His children “*exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think.*” David had asked permission to build an earthly temple, God responded by promising him an eternal kingdom. This tremendous act of grace left David humbled before the Lord, and in his prayer, the king praises the greatness of the Lord. He realized the privileged position of Israel. Oh, that God’s people today would understand how great God is and what great things He has done for His own. Yet David’s concern was not that his name be praised, but that the name of the Lord be magnified.

Was David disappointed because God would not permit him to build the house? Perhaps, however, it was not important to him who built it but that God’s will be done and God’s name be glorified.

**Read 2 Samuel 7:1-17 and answer the following questions:**

1. What two things are we told about David as we begin our study? In his newly acquired state of rest and prosperity, what is it that David has noticed and what is his desire to do?

2. What was Nathan's initial reaction to David's instinct to build a house for the ark of God? (7:3)

3. In verse 5, Nathan was told to go and speak God's word to David. What question does the Lord ask David in this verse? According to the word Nathan received from the Lord, how did God feel about the fact that no permanent house of worship had been built? (7:5-7)

4. What promise did God make concerning His people, Israel? What was God's covenant with the house of David? (7:10-12, 16)

5. What does it mean that God will establish a "*house of David*"?

6. How long did God promise to establish the throne of David? What relationship did God promise to have with David's son and his descendants?

**Read 2 Samuel 7:18-29 and answer the following questions:**

7. After David heard Nathan's word from God, what did he do? What was David's attitude toward the blessings he was currently enjoying? (7:18)

8. In verse 20, David acknowledges that God knows him completely. How does knowing that God understands you fully affect your relationship with Him and your openness in prayer?

9. Why did David find himself almost speechless before God? What attributes of God did David begin to praise? (7:20-22)

10. According to David, where did he find the courage to pray to God? (7:27)

11. How did David demonstrate his confidence in God and His word? (7:28-29)

12. How can you apply David's humility and obedience to God's will in your own life?

## **God's Steadfast Mercy**

### **2 Samuel 7:15**

God's covenant with David was based on His steadfast mercy, which He promised to continue with David's son Solomon. By mercy, He was speaking of His commitment and devotion to His Word, even though Solomon eventually turned away from the Lord. God judged him for his sin in a way that preserved His agreement with David.

Scripture shows the Lord to be a God of mercy. But what exactly does it mean by "mercy"? The Hebrew word for mercy (*chesed*) described not simply the emotion of pity, much less the ignoring, excusing, or indulging of wrongdoing. It implied that one could be counted on to faithfully carry out the promises made in a covenant or agreement. In the same way, God calls those who fear Him to show mercy in their dealings with others.