

David's Zeal for the Lord

2 Samuel 7:1-3

1 Now it came to pass when the king was dwelling in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies all around, 2 that the king said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells inside tent curtains." 3 Then Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you." NKJV

David has defeated all those around him. He comes closest to controlling all the land that God had promised the descendants of Abraham.

The nation is beginning what will be its golden era. Solomon will benefit from his fathers wars of victory. And the glory of the nation and of Jerusalem and of the temple will be one of the most beautiful buildings of the ancient world.

“In the ancient world, what did kings do when they had no wars to fight? Nebuchadnezzar surveyed his city and boasted, "Is not this great Babylon, that I have built?" (Dan. 4:30). Solomon collected wealth and wives, entertained foreign guests, and wrote books, while Hezekiah seems to have supervised scholars who copied and preserved the Scriptures (Prov. 25:1). But it appears from 2 Samuel 7:1-3 that in David's leisure hours, the king thought about the Lord and conferred with his chaplain Nathan about improving the spiritual condition of the kingdom of Israel. David wasn't simply a ruler; he was a shepherd with a heart concern for his people. In rest, he thought of work he could do, and in success he thought of God and His goodness to him.” Bible Exposition Commentary (BE Series) - Old Testament - The Bible Exposition Commentary – History.

David had a deep relationship with God. We see that in the Psalms that he wrote.

David has a house of cedar, one of the most expensive woods then as now. His palace was no doubt opulent befitting a king of his standing.

And David has built a new tent for the articles of the tabernacle and moved the ark of the covenant to Jerusalem. But as he looks at that and he looks where he lives he begins to feel bad. He feels bad because he is but a servant of God and yet he has a better house than God does, so to speak.

- I. David acted as though God is real.
 - A. Many of God's people do not act in their lives like God is real.
 1. We have our religion all wrapped up in a nice little package that fits nicely on its own little shelf where it will not get in the way of the rest of our lives.
 2. As Wilbur Rees put it, “I would like to buy \$3 worth of God, please. Not enough to explode my soul or disturb my sleep, but just enough to equal a cup of warm milk or a snooze in the sunshine. I don't want enough of God to make me love a black man or pick beets with a migrant. I want ecstasy, not transformation. I want warmth of the womb, not a new birth. I want a pound of the Eternal in a paper sack. I would like to buy \$3 worth of God, please.” — Wilbur Rees

3. But David was not satisfied with \$3 worth of God, he wanted all of God.
- B. Many people do not act like God is their Lord and Master.
 - C. But to David God was just as real as the giant, that is why he was not afraid.
 - D. To David God was just as real as those who would persecute and kill him, therefore he calls out for God's protection.
 - E. Therefore David was concerned about God being degraded by having to occupy a tent while David lived in luxury.
 1. "It seemed inappropriate to David for an underling to be living in greater luxury than his divine master. Near Eastern kings throughout history—certainly long before David's time—had devoted national resources to the enhancement of temples in order to honor their gods and secure divine blessing for themselves and their kingdoms." Bergen, R. D. (1996). 1, 2 Samuel (Vol. 7, p. 335). Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.
 2. "Not everyone is bothered by the contrast between their opulent lifestyle and the neglect of the church. David's attitude would have thrilled the prophet Haggai who railed against God's people because they built for themselves "paneled houses" while the temple lay in ruins (Hag. 1:2–4). It isn't hard to see why Nathan was impressed by David's desire and gave his blessing to the project (v. 3)." Chafin, K. L., & Ogilvie, L. J. (1989). 1, 2 Samuel (Vol. 8, p. 259). Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Inc.
 - F. I heard a story once of a preacher that preached a powerful message about surrendering you all to God. When they sang the dedication song, "I Surrender All", a young man came forward very emotional. The preacher was trying to reassure the young man and he told him, "It's just a song."
 - G. That is our problem we go through life thinking all the things we are taught about God is just a song.
 - H. But to David God was real.
- II. David had a higher regard for God than he did for himself.
- A. After all, as he saw it, he was but the servant, not the master.
 1. That is where we get lost.
 2. We think that all that we have in this life is for us.
 3. We go about gathering up treasures for ourselves all the while forgetting the one who has blessed us with such wealth.
 - B. That is what worship is.
 1. It is a regard for God that is higher than it is for anything else.
 2. De 6:5 "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all

your soul, and with all your strength.

3. Mr 12:30 'And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This is the first commandment.

III. David had a desire to please God.

- A. Since David considered God real he desired to please God.
- B. He knew the commandments and did his best with them.
- C. But he want beyond the commandments.
 1. Some children do what they are told.
 2. Some do not do what they are told.
 3. Some try to anticipate what it is their parent want.

IV. David had a desire to go beyond what God had asked.

- A. He was looking for ways to serve his Lord.
 1. Wouldn't that be strange.
 2. Someone comes to the pastor and says, "I sure wish you had a Sunday School class for me to teach." The pastor would have a heart attack.
- B. David was very much into worship.
 1. Even though he will not be allowed to build the temple he will do many things to prepare it.
 2. He will gather the building supplies.
 3. He will make the musical instruments.
 4. He will assemble the singers and the orchestra and train them.
 5. He will set up the priests in their courses.
 6. He will develop the worship system that will be used.
- C. As a matter of fact he did almost everything to be done except actually building the temple.

V. The Lord's promise to David.

- A. 2Sa 7:11 "since the time that I commanded judges to be over My people Israel, and have caused you to rest from all your enemies. Also the LORD tells you that He will make you a house.
- B. God will establish his kingdom forever.
 1. We understand this to mean that Jesus would come to sit on the throne of His father David.

2. And He will, and will reign over the earth for a thousand years.
- C. “The Lord's words to Eli in 1 Samuel 2:30, "I will honor those who honor me," capture something of the relationship between 2 Samuel 6 and 7. While chapter 6 speaks of David's desire to honor the Lord by bringing the Ark of God to Zion, chapter 7 speaks of the Lord's desire to honor David by giving him the promise of a dynasty that will endure forever.” Cornerstone Biblical Commentary - Cornerstone Biblical Commentary – Volume 4a: 1-2 Samuel: 1 & 2 Samuel.

Chapter 7 opens with a description of David's consultation with the prophet Nathan concerning the advisability of building a permanent structure to house the Ark of God. David had come to the conclusion that the contrast between the beauty and permanence of his own residence and the simplicity and temporary character of the tent he had provided for the Ark of God (cf. 6:17) was unsuitable (7:1-2). If the Ark was the throne of the divine king (cf. endnote 2 on 1 Sam 4:1b-22; ch 6; Ps 132; and endnote 1 in the commentary on ch 6), did it not deserve a more fitting resting place? Nathan agreed with David's assessment and told him to do whatever he thought appropriate, assuring him that the Lord would be with him in his endeavor (7:3).

Cornerstone Biblical Commentary - Cornerstone Biblical Commentary – Volume 4a: 1-2 Samuel: 1 & 2 Samuel.

The divine declarations proclaimed here through the prophet Nathan are foundational for seven major New Testament teachings about Jesus: that he is (1) the son of David (cf. Matt 1:1; Acts 13:22–23; Rom 1:3; 2 Tim 2:8; Rev 22:16, etc.); (2) one who would rise from the dead (cf. Acts 2:30; 13:23); (3) the builder of the house for God (cf. John 2:19–22; Heb 3:3–4, etc.); (4) the possessor of a throne (cf. Heb 1:8; Rev 3:21, etc.); (5) the possessor of an eternal kingdom (cf. 1 Cor 15:24–25; Eph 5:5; Heb 1:8; 2 Pet 1:11, etc.); (6) the son of God (cf. Mark 1:1; John 20:31; Acts 9:20; Heb 4:14; Rev 2:18, etc.); and (7) the product of an immaculate conception, since he had God as his father (cf. Luke 1:32–35).

Bergen, R. D. (1996). 1, 2 Samuel (Vol. 7, pp. 337–338). Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

David was allowed to make many of the preparations—choosing the site, gathering materials, finding skilled craftsmen, and clearing the way with other officials. David's spirit is revealed in the fact that he was willing to lay foundations on which others would ultimately have the privilege of building. The world has too many people who won't plant trees unless they are going to be around to eat the apples. The church needs more people who are planning and praying with the future needs of the church in mind. There are many things we would like to do and can't, but all of us can be a part of laying the foundations for the future of our children.

Chafin, K. L., & Ogilvie, L. J. (1989). 1, 2 Samuel (Vol. 8, p. 260). Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Inc.

When the temple had been built and the ark was being brought to its new home, Solomon made a speech in which he told how God had blessed his father David because it was in his heart “to [build] a house for My name” (1 Kin 8:18). This is an early reminder that God’s interest is not just in our actions but in the interests of our hearts. The kingdom needs scores of people who fill their minds with things they would like to do for God.

Chafin, K. L., & Ogilvie, L. J. (1989). 1, 2 Samuel (Vol. 8, p. 260). Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Inc.

ARDENTLY desiring Jehovah’s glory, David is troubled at dwelling in a house of cedar, while Jehovah dwelt within curtains. He wishes to build Him a house—a good desire, yet one which God could not grant. The work of building the temple belonged to the Prince of Peace. David represented Christ as suffering and conquering, and, consequently, not as enjoying the earthly kingdom by undisputed right, and opening to all nations the gates of the temple in which the Lord of righteousness was to be worshipped.

Darby, J. N. (2008). Synopsis of the books of the Bible: Genesis to 2 Chronicles. (p. 502). Bellingham, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

God’s covenant with David followed his humble display before the Lord and the Jerusalem crowds. After securing his kingdom, David showed his concern for the reputation of the Lord, who dwelt in the wilderness tabernacle and not in an impressive temple structure.

The Lord, however, would build a “house” for David—not a building but a dynasty. The prophet Nathan instructed David in the Lord’s covenant. The Davidic covenant consisted of three eternal promises: a dynastic lineage, a kingdom, and a throne. The Lord would be as a father to David’s son, the Lord’s representative in the earth. If David’s descendants sinned, the Lord warned of chastening. But He promised never to annul His covenant.

Mathews, K. A. (1998). The Historical Books. In D. S. Dockery (Ed.), Holman concise Bible commentary (pp. 123–125). Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

