

## 2 Samuel 7: The Seed of David

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Have you ever had a perfect idea? You were convinced that this thing needed to be done. You were proud of your thoughtfulness, creativity, and ingenuity. It was a no-brainer. At least, that is what you thought about it. Then you shared it with someone else – maybe with your spouse, your best friend, a co-worker, or your boss. Immediately you could tell that they did not share your enthusiasm. In fact, they thought your perfect idea was, in actuality, a terrible idea.

If you have ever found yourself in the scenario described above, then maybe you can understand what David was feeling in the seventh chapter of 2 Samuel when his plan to build God a more permanent housing structure was rejected. David's logic was reasonable (2 Sam. 7:1-2). Since God had provided peace and safety in David's kingdom, and now that David was living in a "house of cedar," how could David leave the ark of God in a tent? Even Nathan, the great prophet of God, agreed with David's reasoning and encouraged him to proceed (7:3).

Then came the disappointment. That very night God revealed that David would not be allowed to follow through with his plans to build this house. Yet, the disappointment soon turned to hopeful anticipation as God continued to talk. In the revelation that was given that night, we find one of the greatest prophecies and series of promises found in the Old Testament.

Instead of David building a house for God, someone in David's lineage would build a house, a kingdom, and sit on a throne (7:12-13). For a man currently sitting on a throne in a time when kingdoms rose and fell like waves of the ocean, the rest of God's promise was encouraging and seemingly impossible. David's sin would not prevent this promise from coming true. God would chastise him for his mistakes, but He would not remove David's seed from the royal line (7:14-15). Finally, this promised kingdom would never succumb to military advances or internal treachery. This kingdom would stand forever. What a thrilling message this must have been for the king after God's own heart!

Lest we leave the impression that this was all about David and what God was doing for him, it should be noted that these promises were actually God's way of working through David to fulfill His scheme of redemption. The promises recorded in 2 Samuel 7 are an extension or continuation of the promises that began to be made just after the fall of man in the Garden. There, God promised a seed (Gen. 3:15). Later He identified Abraham as the one through whom that seed would come (Gen. 12:1-4). This time, God added the promise of a nation and a land to the original seed promise.

Now, in our assigned text, the seed line is narrowed again. The Savior of Genesis 3:15 would come through Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Judah, and David. Every new piece of information given to David is to be understood in light of what had already been promised and would later be aligned with what other prophets would reveal about this plan. Isaiah would reveal that the building location of this promised house would be Jerusalem (Isa. 2:2-3). Daniel would identify that this promised kingdom (the one that would never be destroyed and that would last forever)

would be built during the reign of the third ruling empire following the Babylonians (Dan. 2:44) – namely, the Roman Empire. Unlike any other plan ever devised recorded in any other book ever written, God’s plan from the time of Adam through Abraham and David would always be consistent. Its fulfillment was never in doubt.

2 Samuel 7 is not the first inspired prophecy concerning the Messianic age nor would it be the last on the pages of the Old Testament. It is, however, one of the most faith-building, soul-stirring promises ever made. Thanks be to God that we can read it, verify it, and benefit from it as we live in that kingdom promised so long ago.