

## Sunday 1 Nov 2020

Good Morning Friends

I trust you are all well. We are back from leave feeling much better thank you. Neither of us were in a good place before our leave, living with Covid 24/7 really got to us.

### **Doing for God.** **2 Samuel 7:1-14**

We all know the song “Dreams are good friends when you are lonely” It is a wonderful thing to dream of doing something to honour God. Now for the first time since ascending the throne David was in a position to do something that has probably been in his heart for a long time. He was in his own new house and secure from the Philistines. What should he do for God in this time of calm and peace. David wanted to use his time and resources and knowledge to honour God. I have known folk who have come to a place in their lives where they have wanted to do something special for God as David did.

Lets look and learn from David's attempt to do something, extravagant, extraordinary for his God.

- 1 Concern for God's House,
- 2.Heaven Sent Correction,
- 3.A Prophecy to Consider,
- 4.A Divine Covenant.

### **1. Concern for God's House.**

In the time of peace David had time to think what was the most important thing he could do for his God and the people. Verse 1 says “After the king was settled in his palace and the lord had give him rest from all the enemies around him....” His thoughts turned to the idea of building a permanent structure in which the Lord could live among His people.

David called his friend and confidant, the prophet Nathan to discuss his plans with him, In verse 2 “he said to Nathan the prophet,”Here I am living in a palace of Cedar while the ark of God remain in a tent.”

One of the factors that caused him declare his interest and intention to Nathan was the contrast between the palace he lived in and the tent that had been provided for the Ark of God. David felt this was no longer suitable. Not everyone is bothered by the contrast between their opulent lifestyles and the neglect of the church. David's plan would have made the prophet Haggi very happy. He was angry with the people

because they had built for themselves “panelled houses” while the temple lay in ruins. We can now see why Nathan was so impressed by David’s plans and gave him his blessing. Nathan said to David “Whatever is in your mind, go ahead and do it, for the Lord is with you.”

Good friends encourage each other. He knew David wanted to serve and please God. So Nathan encouraged him to do what was in his heart. Notice how godly David is that during the time of peace he is thinking about God. He then discusses his plans with another Godly man. The way a man or women spend the leisure time says a lot about them. In Psalm 119:63 David says that his friends were those who feared God.

## **2.Heaven Sent Correction.**

Nathan is sure that what David is doing is the right thing, but Nathan has jumped in too soon. He has made the mistake that many of us make, of assuming that just because something sounds like good idea, it must be what God wants, without asking God what He thinks. Nathan hadn't prayed about it, he wanted to encourage his friend. This doesn't mean Nathan is a false prophet. Nathan gets a shock when that night the word of the Lord came to him and no He does not want David to build Him a house.

God did not intend for David to build an earthly temple and he communicated the fact through Nathan. The Hebrew word “House” is used in this passage in two different ways. When it is used in verse 5 “are you the one to build me a house to dwell in?” It means a structure, home or in this case temple. Later in the passage we will see the other meaning for house which is descendants or dynasty that carries your name.

The main reason given here for not building the temple was that it was not necessary. God forbid it because David had shed too much blood and was involved in too many wars. Jesus' reign is a reign of peace. God reaches back in history in respect of His relationship with Israel. When they came out of Egypt the ark was housed in a tent and moved with the people. The good thing of the tent sanctuary was it was able to move with them to where they went. The wilderness tradition was significant for God. He didn't want them to lose the earthly pilgrimage aspect of their religious heritage.

If that earthly pilgrimage dynamic were lost there would be the danger of thinking that God could be captured in a building, that life was all about the here and now.

David's desire to build God a house was biblical we find in Deuteronomy 12 “God declares that there would come a time when He Himself would choose a spot in the Land of Promise where people could seek Him continually.” Like David, we can have visions and dreams that are biblical but that are not right for us. Like Nathan, we can say to others, “That’s a good idea. Go for it without seeking the Lord.” How important it is that we say, “Lord. I've got lots of good ideas, plans and dreams. I've got all kinds of thoughts to do big things for your glory, but only if they're part of

your plan. God's servants must learn to accept the disappointments of life, for as A.T. Pierson said, "Disappointments are God appointments."

### **3. Prophecy to Consider.**

God reminds David in verses 8-11 that a the lack of a permanent place hadn't prevented God from calling him and from blessing Israel. In verse 8 He tells David He has called him to be a shepherd, not a builder, "Now then, tell my servant David, "This is what the Lord almighty says: I took you from the pasture and from following the flock to be ruler over Israel."

God is not saying David is being sinful. He is simply redirecting David's plan so that it would be in accordance with His purpose for him. God says you are a Shepherd David. That's why I called you. That is what I saw in you. That is what I want you to be doing. You are not a builder of buildings, you are shepherd of the sheep. You cared for them, you went after them, you had a heart for them. That's who you are. That's where I found you. That is why I called you.

There is no reason for the temple to be built but not by David. He was allowed to make all the preparations, choosing the site, gathering the materials, finding skilled craftsman etc. David was prepared to do the ground work to enable someone else to do the building. The world has too many people who want plant trees unless they are going to be around to eat the apples. The church needs more people who are planning and praying for the future needs of the church. We can all be part of laying the ground work for God's future building with our children in mind.

### **A Divine Covenant.**

When God says no to our dreams to certain thing for Him. He often blesses us with greater blessings than what we could ever have expected or anticipated. In verse 11 God says to Nathan, " 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 in the beginning."

God's purpose was larger than David could have imagined. David simply wanted to build a house for the ark of the Lord, but God had a greater purpose. God's purpose involved something greater. David planned to build the temple. When Solomon did build the temple it would eventually be destroyed.

Gods plan involved something more lasting than a stone building. It involved a plan for salvation for the world. Verse 12 says, " I will raise up your offspring to succeed you who will come from your own body", and I will establish his Kingdom. The Messiah came as a descendent of David. Jesus is often referred to as the "Son of David". God's purpose in David's life involved the Saviour of the world .The temple is long gone but Jesus Is still on the throne.

Here begins the Davidic Covenant. God promises in verse 13 that there is a descendant of David's who will and eternally establish a house in God's name. "He is the one who will build a house for my Name, And I will establish the throne of his kingdom for ever." Who is this ? Its the seed of David, or the Son of David, Jesus Christ.

Nathan's message to David is a reminder that God's larger purpose isn't always tied up with our particular dreams Sometimes we try to make things happen that seem right which do not reflect God's priority.

Verses 16 and 17 says that God will build a spiritual house for David that will last forever."Your house and your kingdom shall endure for ever before me; your throne will be established for ever. From David's seed will come one whose "kingdom will be established forever." When God promised to establish David's house in verse 16, it means dynasty. In other words God's message to David is "I will not let you build ME a house, but I will build you a house(dynasty)."

God refused David's request only to grant him one far above all that he was able to ask or to think. How often does God not do that, How often when we feel our prayers are not being answered God is answering with something better and bigger. Often we don't see that immediately but much later.

Today we celebrate the coming of Jesus, the descendant of David as the Saviour of the world. God's plan was to offer salvation to all mankind. God made a covenant with David that the Messiah would come through his offspring. God offers us that covenant relationship through Jesus so that we might be saved from our sins. The spiritual blessings of God's kingdom are offered today in Jesus Christ to all who will trust Him.