



October 19, 2025
A Man After God's Heart
An Eternal Throne
2 Samuel 7:1-17

1. **Opening Discussion:** (You will probably want to use only one of these openers)

- a. Describe the most magnificent house you have ever been in. What made it stand out above other houses? Was it the kind of place you would want to live, or did it just seem too ostentatious?
- b. What is the most impressive church or cathedral you have visited? Did it engender a sense of worship or just seem to be a tribute to man's excesses? Conversely, what was the simplest church you have been in? In what ways was it similar and what ways different from the grand structures?
- c. When you were a teen, did you ever make plans to do something that you thought was obviously important, only to have the idea vetoed by your parents or a teacher? How did you respond?

2. **Prayer:**

- a. Adoration – Pray a Psalm or other Scripture to focus on praising God.
- b. Confession – Spend time confessing any known sins. 1 John 1:9
- c. Thanksgiving – Thank God for answered prayers, blessings, gifts, and opportunities to serve.
- d. Supplications
 - i. Pray for the activities of His Church locally and around the world.
 - ii. Pray for the spiritual and physical needs of others and yourself.
- e. Least Reached People Group: **Chachis of Ecuador** (*from the "Joshua Project" and IMB's "PeopleGroups.org" prayer guides.*)

“The Chachis of Ecuador, numbering 9,400, are Unengaged and Unreached. They are part of the South American Indigenous people cluster within the Latin-Caribbean Americans affinity bloc. This people group is found only in Ecuador, and most live in the northern coastal jungle along the Cayapas River system, previously reachable only by boat, although some roads are now available. Most Chachi villages range from 50 to 150 people and often consist of huts five or more feet above ground level due to frequent flooding. Food sources include hunting and fishing, bananas/plantains, and rice. The primary religion practiced by the Chachis is animism, a religious worldview that natural physical entities--including animals, plants, and even inanimate objects--possess a spiritual essence.”

3. **Sermon Key Points:**

- a. Sometimes God Says No to Very Good Ideas
 - i. David had the good idea to build a temple for God.
 - ii. God said no to David's good idea
 - iii. When you're excited about a good idea, slow down and discuss it with God

- b. When God Says No, He Has a Better Plan
 - i. God's priority was to bless David and all Israel through him and his descendants.
 - ii. Because of God's nature, you can trust He has better plans when He says no.
- c. Jesus Is the Fulfillment of God's Better Plan and Promise to David
 - i. God's better plan for David was the promise of an eternal king on an eternal throne.
 - ii. This is what David's life was leading and pointing toward – Jesus.

4. Bible Study:

- a. **Sunday Afternoon** – As soon as possible after the sermon, make time to consider:
 - i. What stood out to you the most in this sermon?
 - ii. What new truth did you learn, or what truth were you reminded of?
 - iii. Is there a particular Scripture passage you feel God is leading you to meditate on or commit to memory?
 - iv. What is one thing God is leading you to do after hearing this message?
 - v. Did God convict you of a need to make any changes in your life and walk with Him?
- b. **Monday:**
 - i. This week's focal passage, 2 Samuel 7:1-17, and the parallel passage in 1 Chronicles 17:1-15, are considered among the most important in the Old Testament as they record the establishment of God's covenant with David, which expands upon His covenants with Abraham and Moses, revealing more of His plan for the redemption of mankind. Start the week by reading and meditating on these two passages.
 - 1. To you today in 2025, what is the most reassuring thing about God's covenant with David?
 - 2. Read these verses from the Psalms: 18:40-49, 72:8-11, 89:1-4 & 30-37, and 132:10-12. How do these Psalms reinforce God's message to David?
 - ii. Read these passages establishing the Abrahamic covenant: Genesis 12:1-3 & 7, 13:14-17, 17:4-16, and 22:15-1. And these passages where God instituted His covenant with Moses and the Israelites: Exodus 19:3-6, 20:1-17, and 24:7-8. What did the covenant with David add to the covenants God had made with Abraham and Moses? Without this addition, where would we be today?
- c. **Tuesday:**
 - i. Today, focus your attention on 2 Samuel 7:1-3 and 1 Chronicles 17:1-2.
 - ii. How would you describe the condition David found himself in at the beginning of these passages?
 - 1. How do you think he must have felt after being on the run from Saul for 10 years and then spending almost as long consolidating his kingdom and establishing his capital in Jerusalem?
 - 2. What important condition does 2 Samuel 7:1 tell us God had provided?

- a. What do you think David did during the “spare time” he now found himself with?
- b. Where did the idea that David presents to Nathan likely originate (see Deuteronomy 12:10-11)?
- iii. This is the first time in Scripture that Nathan is mentioned.
 1. What is your initial impression of Nathan based just on the verses considered today?
 2. What does the relationship between David and Nathan seem to be? What does 2 Samuel 5:14-16 suggest about their relationship?
 3. What is Nathan’s initial reaction to David’s idea?
- d. **Wednesday:**
 - i. Read and meditate on 2 Samuel 7:4-7 and 1 Chronicles 17:3-6.
 - ii. What was God’s reaction to David’s idea? How long did He wait to correct David?
 - iii. How would you paraphrase God’s message to David in these verses?
 - iv. God’s message starts with a rhetorical question in 2 Samuel and with a statement in 1 Chronicles, but what difference is there in the message?
 - v. God gives several explanations for rejecting David’s offer.
 1. What explanation is provided in 2 Samuel 7:6? Once David’s son had built the temple, how did he acknowledge what God had said in this verse (see 1 Kings 8:15-16 & 27)?
 2. What explanation did God provide in the first part of 2 Samuel 7:7? In what way is this symbolic of what Christ will later do (see Matthew 1:23 and 28:20)?
 3. Finally, what explanation is included in the rhetorical question that ends verse 7 (consider Psalm 50:9-13 and Isaiah 66:1-2a)? In honesty, who is impressed by the magnificent structures we build and dedicate to God?
- e. **Thursday:**
 - i. Read and meditate on 2 Samuel 7:8-11a and 1 Chronicles 17:7-10a.
 - ii. Why do you think God reminded David about how he had come to be in this position? Why do you think we need to be reminded more of what God has done for us when things are going well than when we are in a difficult period?
 - iii. What promise did God make:
 1. To David?
 2. Concerning His people, Israel?
 3. To both? “Rest” is an important term referring to many different physical blessings in God’s plan for mankind. It is also an important spiritual term for what we experience in Christ (see Matthew 11:28-30 and Hebrews 3:11 - 4:11). If you have time, use a concordance or Bible program to trace the

concept from Genesis 2, where God rests after creation, through Revelation 14, where martyrs for Christ are given rest.

f. **Friday:**

- i. Read and meditate on 2 Samuel 7:11b-17?
- ii. How does God “flip” David’s plan?
 1. In God’s economy, who is always the “giver” and who is the “receiver”?
 2. What does that suggest about how we should view the various tasks we perform as Christians?
- iii. The term “house” is used 15 times in 2 Samuel 7. Initially, it refers to David’s palace (verse 1) and later to the temple David wants to build (verses 5-7). What does it refer to in verses 11 & 16?
- iv. These verses are among the great Old Testament prophecies that have both near-term partial fulfillment and later complete fulfillment. Which parts of 2 Samuel 7:11b-16 apply to David’s son Solomon? Which apply to Jesus? Which can clearly not apply to Jesus?
- v. How did Nathan respond to what God revealed to him? Comparing 2 Samuel 7:3 and 17, what lesson can we learn about how we should view whatever plans we make?

g. **Saturday:**

- i. Although not part of the focal passage for this week’s sermon, read and meditate on 2 Samuel 7:18-29.
- ii. How would you summarize David’s response to God?
 1. Is there any hint of disappointment in the fact that God has rejected his plans?
 2. What is David’s attitude about God as expressed in this prayer? What limits does David see in what God can do?
- iii. How does verse 29 demonstrate that David had an understanding of the unique nature of the covenant God has made with him?

5. Application:

- a. The covenant God establishes with David sets the stage for His greatest gift of Grace, Jesus. Just as we must accept that gift by faith, so did David. Although David was told he could not see their fulfillment (2 Samuel 7:12), his prayer shows that he had complete faith in their fulfillment. As Christians, we must have a similar faith that God will fulfil His many promises to us as surely as He fulfilled those to David.
- b. There are great lessons about giving embedded in this passage. God doesn’t need us or our gifts – He already owns it all. Nonetheless, we should always desire to give back to Him, but always with the right attitude – we cannot “buy God off”. And our best gift will always be to offer ourselves to God without reservation and be willing to do whatever He commands.
- c. We should always hold any plans we make loosely and be immediately willing (even desirous) to change when God shows us a different path. God doesn’t need (or want) a house “built by David for God,” but is anxious to give to His people a house “built by God for David.”