

Introduction

1. Last week we looked at David's plans to build a temple for the LORD and how the LORD rejected those plans because He had a more significant and glorious plan of his own
2. In 2 Samuel 7:1-17 God spelled out this plan in what we refer to as the Davidic Covenant:
 - a. God would make David's name great
 - b. He would permanently settle Israel safely and securely in its own land
 - c. And He would establish an eternal kingdom through David's descendant
3. We saw how some of these things were partially fulfilled in Solomon, but how all of them will be permanently fulfilled in Jesus Christ
4. Today, we are going to look at David's response to the LORD and again see what made him a man after God's own heart

A. David reflects on the LORD's favor (READ 18-22):

1. We see David do something here that is a bit unusual, at least from a Scriptural standpoint (18):
 - a. The Law didn't mandate exactly how one was to pray, and the Bible describes everything from standing, raising hands, looking up, looking toward the temple, bowing, and even crouching down with one's head between his knees like Elijah did
 - b. Generally, postures like these when praying were signs of reverence and respect
 - c. Here, however, we are told that David "**went in and sat before the LORD**" (18a):
 - 1) "**went in**" indicates that David went from his palace (where Nathan had just communicated God's promises to him) into the tent that he setup in Jerusalem to house the ark of the covenant (1 Chronicles 16 states that he did this when he moved the ark, but he left the tabernacle in Gibeon where the Levites continued to offer sacrifices on the altar)
 - 2) If this is true, "**before the LORD**" suggests that David was likely sitting in front the ark of the covenant, and therefore literally and physically sitting in the presence of the LORD
 - a) READ Exodus 25:17-22
 - b) In David's day the LORD still enthroned Himself above the mercy seat (READ 2 Samuel 6:2)
 - 3) We should be careful to not make too much out of the fact that David was sitting, but it certainly presents a picture of humility, contemplation and awe on David's behalf
 - a) Can you imagine what that must have been like for David, sitting on the floor, staring up at the golden mercy seat with its two cherubim, wings spread wide, and imagining the LORD's presence hovering over the mercy seat?
 - b) What might we be thinking?
 - c) We know what David was thinking about...
2. There were two things that captivated his thoughts:
 - a. The first was the LORD's undeserved FAVOR towards him personally (18-22):
 - 1) He reminisced about what the LORD had done for him up to this point (18):

- a) Notice the humility in David's prayer: (18b): **"Who am I, O Lord God, and what is my house..."**
- This wasn't a feigned humility (pretend) or a self-deprecating statement (belittling himself or thinking himself worthless)
 - It was an honest expression of humility where David recognized his humble beginnings as a shepherd boy, the youngest in his family, who was now King over all Israel and living in a beautiful palace
- b) Notice also that he attributed all of this to God, not his own merit or abilities (18b): **"that You have brought me this far?"**
- 2) David also reflected on what the LORD promised to do for him in the future (19): **"And yet this was insignificant in Your eyes, O Lord GOD, for You have spoken also of the house of Your servant concerning the distant future. And this is the custom of man, O Lord GOD."**
- a) As awesome as God's favor was to David up to this point, it paled in comparison to the future promises the LORD had made to him (NET: **"And you didn't stop there"**; NIV: **"And as if this were not enough"**):
- The LORD would build David a **"house"** (e.g. a dynasty)
 - The LORD would raise up a descendant to David who would become king over an eternal kingdom
 - And this descendent would build a **"house"** for the LORD that would endure forever (e.g. an eternal temple)
- b) The phrase **"and this is the custom of man"** is difficult and there is no consensus on a proper rendering (every English translation treats it differently):
- The parallel passage, 1 Chronicles 17:17 doesn't help much; it has different Hebrew but is just as ambiguous (lit. **"and you see me like the searching of man, that which is upward."**)
 - However, based on the context, I believe the NIV probably renders the proper idea: **"and this decree, Sovereign LORD, is for a mere human!"**
 - This parallels David's attitude above, **"Who am I that you..."**
 - In other words, we might paraphrase David's words this way, "Lord, I am amazed at what you have done for me because I haven't deserved it, but even more than this, you have promised me even more and revealed the future to a mere man such as I!"
- 3) As David wondered about all this, it nearly left him speechless (20-22): **"Again what more can David say to You? For You know Your servant, O Lord God!"**
- a) These things reflected God's TRUSTWORTHINESS (21): **"For the sake of Your word, and according to Your own heart, You have done all this greatness to let Your servant know."**
- b) These things also reflected God's GREATNESS (22): **"For this reason You are great, O Lord God; for there is none like You, and there is no God besides You, according to all that we have heard with our ears."**

- 4) ****So the first thing that captivated David's thought as he sat and prayed before the Ark was the unmerited favor the Lord had showed upon him personally**
- b. The second thing that captivated David's thoughts was the LORD's FAVOR toward His people, Israel (READ 23-24):
- 1) Essentially, Israel is a privileged nation because out of all the nations of the earth, the LORD chose to redeem them and make a name for Himself through His mighty acts on their behalf
 - 2) He had established Israel as His people, and He as their God, for all eternity
 - 3) No other nation on earth has been so favored or blessed by the LORD (including the U.S.)!
3. Practical Application:
- a. Let me ask, when was the last time you sat and really thought about all that the LORD has done for you?
 - 1) We obviously have the earthly blessings like a home, food, jobs, families, friends, etc.
 - 2) But as if that wasn't enough, we have eternal blessings--The Bible says that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us and made us alive in Him
 - 3) There are at least eleven things mentioned in Ephesians 1 alone that God has done for us: God has blessed us, chosen us, adopted us, bestowed grace upon us, redeemed us, forgiven us, lavished riches on us, made know his mysteries to us, given us an eternal inheritance, predestined us according to His purpose and given us the Holy Spirit!
 - 4) Paul adds in chapter 2 that we've been saved, made a live together with Christ, raised up with Him, and seated with Him in the heavenly places
 - b. When was the last time you thought about what the LORD has promised us for our future?:
 - 1) 2Ti 4:6-8: **"For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; 8 in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing."**
 - 2) 1Co 9:25: **"Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable."**
 - 3) Jam 1:12: **"Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him."**
 - 4) 1Pe 5:4: **"And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory."**
 - 5) Rev 2:10: **"Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, so that you will be tested, and you will have tribulation for ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life."**
 - c. When David pondered what the LORD had done for him, and what the Lord had in store for him in the future, it almost left him speechless; how much more us?

B. David calls on the LORD to fulfill His promises (25-29):

1. After reflecting on all these things, David now calls on the LORD to do two things:

- a. The first is to fulfill what He had promised: (25): **“Now therefore, O LORD God, the word that You have spoken concerning Your servant and his house, confirm it forever, and do as You have spoken,”**
 - b. The second is to bless David’s house (jump down to v. 29): **“Now therefore, may it please You to bless the house of Your servant, that it may continue forever before You. For You, O Lord GOD, have spoken; and with Your blessing may the house of Your servant be blessed forever.”**
2. Essentially, what we have here is not only David’s declaration of submission to the LORD’s purpose and plan for his life, but a desire to be used by God to fulfill His plan (26-29):
- a. Did you notice how many times David refers to himself as a servant here (eleven; 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26, 27x2, 28, 29x2)?
 - b. David’s desire to see God fulfill His promises is based not on how it benefits him, but rather on how it benefits God and fulfills His purpose (26): **“that Your name may be magnified forever, by saying, 'The LORD of hosts is God over Israel'; and may the house of Your servant David be established before You.”**
 - c. David’s words here also reveal the faith and trust that he placed on God’s word (27-28): **“For You, O LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, have made a revelation to Your servant, saying, 'I will build you a house'; therefore Your servant has found courage to pray this prayer to You. 28 Now, O Lord GOD, You are God, and Your words are truth, and You have promised this good thing to Your servant.”**
3. Practical Application:
- a. When you think about your life, how much of your prayer life is spent praying for your needs and wants (something God certainly wants us to do) vs. asking the LORD to use your life to further His purpose?
 - b. Do you focus more on God what God can do for you or how God can use you for His glory?