

Second Samuel Chapter 7 - John Karmelich

There are certain bible spots that are (in my opinion) key to understanding who God is, and what is our eternal destiny. Let me begin with understanding what God cannot do! (That's supposed to shock us as God can do anything!) I'd argue God cannot learn (See Isaiah 46:10) because if He could learn, He can make mistakes. I believe He's perfect, so that rules our learning. I'd also argue He's incapable of lying. If He can lie, He can't be trusted. (See 1st Samuel 15:29.) Finally I'd argue He can't force us to love Him because if he could then we'd just be in effect a bunch of "robots" doing what we're programmed to do!

I open with that thought because God is going to make an unconditional promise to David in Chapter 7 that is essential to understanding His promise to us as believers! Remember an unconditional promise means there is nothing anyone can do to change that promise, there is no "conditions" on that promise. The promise in effect is he'll have many descendants who will be king, and one of his descendants will rule the world forever. To me forever means just that, forever! One of the reasons I believe the bible is God's Word is it is full of historical predictions that have come true. I have always argued the proof of the Bible as "His Word" is to study the history of the manuscripts, the archeology history of the Middle East, all of those Old Testament predictions about what Jesus has and will do and finally the statistical evidence that He (Jesus) is God not to mention all of the predictions about Israel as a nation. OK then, let's get back to this promise!

Chapter 7 is not a complicated chapter, yet the implications are rich enough not only to teach us what it is God will do through David to Jesus, but also gives us a good model of what to do with that news. It opens with David home in his palace as king thinking "OK, now what?" He has finished conquering all of Israel's enemies (at least those threatening them at that moment), he has a nice house to live in, there is no competition threats to be king, the most holy object of God the "ark" is now parked where He wants it be (in Jerusalem) so again he's thinking, "Now what?" Remember David has a heart for God. David is thinking what to do next and maybe I can do something great for God! David developed in his mind a desire to build a great palace for God to reside. Of course, he understood God is everywhere, but still David thought in effect, "Wouldn't it be great if God had this great palace so people will know where is the center of worship for Him! (There's a classic joke about an American president talking with Israel's Prime Minister. The American President reminded the Israel leader to pray for a big decision they had made. The Israel president said, "I'll pray from Jerusalem as it's a local call there!") That joke reminds us where God desires as His "world headquarters" to be located!

Meanwhile while David had these grand ideas in his head, there was another person in room, Nathan, a (biblical) prophet. Throughout the bible, God always separated the political leaders from their spiritual leaders since the days of Moses and his brother Aaron. Anyway, Nathan has a dream where God spoke to him and said in effect, "The Israelites have now lived in Israel for 500 years (an approximation), and have I (God) ever asked anyone to build a temple for Me? No and I'm not going to let David build one either. (Later in the book we discover that God didn't want David as a builder of His house because he is associated with war and God doesn't want people to think we got to physically conquer them to have to come to Him!) One of David's sons will be known as a man of peace (Solomon). He built the temple that David wanted to build! The bible says elsewhere that just because David couldn't build it, that did not stop him from "paying the bills for it"! David gathered much of the materials!

However, God was just warming up in what He wanted to unconditionally promise David. Nathan then told David that he'd have a long line of descendants as kings. If you studied those things, most of them

did not please God but again this promise to David is unconditional. The only reason that line ended is due to the fact they got so wicked in effect, God had to "put them in the punishment room" for a while!

I love to ask my nonbelieving friends how do you explain Israel's existence? In civilization's history no country was ever conquered, scattered, and then became a country again, except for Israel! It happened to them two times, the first is after the Babylonian conquest that lasted for 70 years and then again they became a country in 1948 after not being an independent nation from before the Babylonian conquest (except a brief time when they successfully rebelled against a Greek ruler!)

The reason for the history lesson is to emphasize that God keeps His word. Again, He promised there's coming a king from the line of David who will rule the world literally forever from Jerusalem. In what we call Jesus first coming, He never ruled as a king! Obviously, multitudes call Him lord of their lives, but Jesus was never a king when He came! That is one reason for the necessity of the Second Coming! There's an old Jewish joke that goes, when the Messiah comes, they will ask, "Is this your first visit or your second?" For the few of you who don't know the word "Christ" is based on the Greek word (for the Messiah). Bottom line is this unconditional promise ties to what Jesus will do when He returns!

Meanwhile back in 2nd Samuel Chapter 7 the final part of Nathan's message from God is He states that God will punish David's descendants when they mess up. It refers to when they collectively, become a bad witness for Him.

OK John, thanks for the lecture. Most of us know all of this although we probably didn't considered all of the details the way you did. So what? What now? How does any of this affect us? That is what the last half of the chapter is all about! David didn't want to ask God questions! David just wanted to give God the praise for this plan. I can just hear you thinking, "Well, good for David, but God isn't blessing me like He is blessing David! That is where you're wrong! Jesus clearly stated the least important man or woman in the kingdom of God (Christian church) is greater in status than any Old Testament saint. I believe the point is God has blessed us far greater than David! You might say, I'm not a king. You are right, but I should point out our eternal blessing in Jesus is far greater than all the rewards David had in his lifetime! (See Luke 7:28 on that!)

Yes I can give you more details about the prayers. I think the important thing is David had the reaction God is looking for in us! God desires praise not to fulfill His ego! It's to fill us with His love as we use our lives for His glory and let Him guide us, we praise God out of gratitude for what He's done for us. I am convinced that's the most important purpose in prayer: to express gratitude for whatever ways God has blessed our lives as we use it for His glory. If you get nothing else out of this lesson, it shouldn't be the historical lessons as much as the fact God loves you and desires that we express love to Him, as He has shown loves to us by choosing us to spend eternity with Him! So how do we know we are chosen? That's easy, if we believe Jesus is God, Lord of our lives and died for our sins and we are saved for just believing that, then we are saved, so "deal with it"

Again, I know this is old news for most of us. I realize I "preach to the choir" a lot! If nothing else, I'd like you to think of this chapter as a reminder to constantly show praise to God for all He's done for us! That is why He created us in the first place, to honor Him with our lives! Yes, I can go into more detail about David's prayer of gratitude but I think you get the idea by now!

If you liked this little study, I wrote a more detailed account about twenty years ago! If you'd like you can read the rest or stop now. Either way, I'm grateful for you reading this. To see the other one, click on one of the two links on this web page. Thanks again, John