

## WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

July 17

### MONDAY

When peace finally came to the land, David told Nathan the prophet that as king, he was living in a fine palace made of cedar while the Ark of the Covenant was in only a tent. Nathan immediately assured David that building a temple for the Ark was a great idea. But later that night, God spoke to Nathan and told him that David was not the right person to build the Temple. God asked Nathan if He had ever demanded that a temple be built for Him? (It's a rhetorical question: the answer is no.)

#### **READ: II Samuel 7:1-7**

David seems to asked himself the question, "What shall I give unto the Lord?" David is a remarkable contrast to other Kings who, living in spender and majesty, take credit for all that has come to them, and who glory in their own greatness. He's a model for us. God has given us of the riches of His great treasures in Glory! Now what can I give unto Him? What can I give Him today? The answers to those questions say much about our hearts.

### TUESDAY

Nathan hears from the Lord and communicates that message to David: that it was God who raised David from shepherd to ruler. And He's not finished yet! He will make the people of Israel to be His own possession and He will one day set David's descendants on an eternal throne.

#### **READ: II Samuel 7:8-12**

Do you see the beauty of all this? God loves the Lord and offers to build for Him a house. But God turns it around and promises to build David a house! That "house" was David's family in generations yet unborn! God is saying that those who honor Me, I will honor! Jesus said that He will speak up before the Father for those who do not deny His name. Help us this day to profess Him, honor Him, and build Him a house with our lives, for we are the temple of God - the place where He dwells.

### WEDNESDAY

God promised David that a descendant will build a house for God, and that he will rule forever. David's descendants will be God's His own children and He will treat them accordingly: if they do evil, God will chastise them, and if they do good, He will reward them. But God's mercy (unlike King Saul's case) will always stay with David.

#### **READ: II Samuel 7:13-17**

The word *seed* here speaks of Solomon building the Temple; it speaks of Jesus Who will rule for ever and ever; and it speaks of the spiritual *seed* of David - ie. those who trust the Lord, and who continue under God's mercy despite the sin they might do and the chastisement He might bring upon them. Isn't it amazing that we read about the mercy of God and His chastisement upon us in the same breath? It's His mercy that takes us into the correction process, and it's His mercy that sees us through it!

### THURSDAY

David prayed to God in great humility, recognizing that he was a nobody whom God raised up and put upon the throne of Israel. Not only that, David prayed, but God has made great promises concerning future generations of my family. You know me, David

told God; you know that I have not sought these honors. It is all about God being the Giver.

#### **READ: II Samuel 7:18-21**

David states that God knows his heart, but here, we see something of the heart of David. He was truly accomplished in many areas. He sang and played, he wrote poetry, he conquered foreign lands and subdued enemies, he ruled a nation, and even killed a giant! The world viewed David as the greater giant - a giant among men! But David sees himself for what he is. "Without your hand on my life, Lord, I am nothing." The song writer put it this way: "All I have, and am, and ever hope to be, Lord, I owe it all to Thee." That must be my song, and yours!

### FRIDAY

David continued in prayer telling the Lord that there is none like Him. And there is no nation upon the earth as blessed as Israel: redeemed by God Himself from the years of captivity in Egypt, in order to represent Him on the earth, and to carry out His works.

#### **READ: II Samuel 7:22-23**

Even though it occurred almost 500 years before David's lifetime, he now recalls the Exodus - the great deliverance of the Jews from 430 years of captivity in Egypt. He calls it God redeeming Israel. That was true: the price was the blood of Jesus! No one in any generation has ever been redeemed in any other way. The blood splattered around the doors was simply a foreshadowing of what was to come. You and I have been bought by that same blood! And thru eternity, we'll still be talking about it and praising God! It will be our song for all eternity. "Redeemed - How I Love to Proclaim It!"

### SATURDAY

David prayed with thanksgiving, that God is the God of Israel and that they were His people. He asked the Lord to carry out everything which He has promised David. And he prayed that the Lord's name might be forever, and God might be remembered for His faithfulness to Israel and to David's family.

#### **READ: II Samuel 7:24-26**

We can learn a lot about how to pray from David. Here, David prays that the Lord will do what He has said He will do. We can do that. We can take what God has promised to do from the Word, and then plead with Him to do it. For example, we might pray, "Lord, in Isa.55:12, You promise that we will experience joy and peace as we walk with You. Please, Lord, give me that joy and that peace now. I need it in my life today!"

#39