

As David settled into his kingship over Israel, most of his rule was characterised by conflict and warfare. The Israelites had many enemies who persisted in trying to conquer them and some even wanted to wipe them off the map. The Philistines were one of their most dangerous enemies, and David spent the majority of his reign trying to overthrow their tyranny. In addition to foreign enemies, David also faced multiple rebellions from the Israelites themselves.

Despite this continual opposition to his rule, David never lost sight of the fact that all of his blessings had come from God. He longed to do something in return to demonstrate his love and gratitude for the Lord. In this frame of mind, David got the idea of building a beautiful temple in which the people of Israel could worship God.

As we discussed in the last study, the Lord had commanded the people to construct a portable tabernacle during their exodus from Egypt. This structure was made of cloth and animal skins and was designed to be set up and taken down easily as the people moved from place to place in the wilderness. The tabernacle housed the ark of the covenant, which was the nation's symbol of God's presence. The tabernacle itself was the figurative "dwelling place" of God among His people.

But now, with Israel's wilderness wanderings long since completed, David felt it was not right that he should live in a beautiful palace while God continued to dwell in a portable tent. So he devised a plan to build the temple. The idea itself was not wrong, and God would indeed lead another king to build a temple but not David. Nevertheless, the Lord blessed David immensely for the love behind his desire to build a permanent dwelling place for the Almighty.

Read 2 Samuel 7:1-29

1. Why is it critical for us to wait on God's timing when we do something—even if it obviously seems to us to be the right course of action?
2. Why did David want to build a temple for God? What does this reveal about David's character?
3. What did David and Nathan do wrong in their decision to build a temple? What would have been a better approach to the idea?
4. What did God promise to do for David? What covenant did He form with David? Is there any other time God has made an everlasting covenant?
5. What does David's prayer reveal about his attitude toward God's blessings? What does it reveal about his character? About God's character?
6. Why did God not want David to build Him a temple? What does this reveal about God's character? What does it reveal about the kingdom of Christ?
7. How do the promises God made to David connect to Christ? What elements of the promises were specifically referring to Jesus? What elements referred to Solomon and other kings?
8. Why did God pour out such blessings on David even though he and Nathan had failed to seek His guidance concerning the temple? What does this reveal about God's love? Has God ever blessed something you did beyond what was expected?
9. What is God's temple on earth today? Why did He choose such a "dwelling place"? What blessings does this bring to God's people?

Prayer Points

Please pray for Anne Bane, John Morton and June Allen as they all recover in hospital. Pray for God's love to assure and uphold each of them.

The BMS boat has been transporting church planters to preach the gospel in Sundarbans in the Bay of Bengal. Give thanks that 150 villages were reached with the gospel and more than 6,000 people were transported safely

Sermon Notes

David d_____

God's p_____



BIBLE STUDY

June 18th 2023

The Life of David: When good ideas are not God's ideas 2 Samuel 7:1-29

David is an extraordinary person in the Bible. He was a skilled musician, he was a formidable warrior who won a legendary battle against a great champion and he attracted the greatest soldiers of his day to serve under him. He was a poet, writing Psalms that expressed the deep longing of the human heart for God. His words were so personal and powerful that thousands of years later, they remain. As much as all the things listed earlier are impressive to other human beings, God was far more interested in David's heart. A close study of the life of David will open our eyes to both how much God cares about the condition of our hearts and the foreshadow of Jesus who truly redeems our hearts. The world spends a lot of time pressing us to focus on exterior issues but God looks on the inside.

If you would like to join a Connect Group, please contact the church office 01424 730001