

Are we ready students? In 2 Samuel chapter 7 verses 1 through 17 last week, we met Nathan the Prophet, one of two prominent prophets in the nation of Israel at this time, serving as David's spiritual advisers, the other being Gad. It was the well-known passage of David communicating his desire to the Lord to build a house for the Lord, a fixed sanctuary, a temple in the holy city of Jerusalem. And Nathan's initial advice is probably what every single one of us would have said, his initial advice was, hey, great idea, David, great idea, go for it.

The Lord's with you, I just know he's going to bless that. But unfortunately later that night the Lord spoke to Nathan and even gave Nathan a vision as we read. And he was communicating to Nathan to communicate to David and let him know, David know I cannot allow you to do that. I can't let you be the one that builds the temple for me, which was a good reminder for us in the study that even when our ideas are like phenomenally good and super spiritual ideas, that does not mean that we should assume that the the Lord wants us to do them.

We still have to take the time to stop and pray before we act. I realize life does not always give you the time to stop and pray and take your time, wait to hear from the Lord. Sometimes decisions have to be by necessity of life's further moment. But if we do have the luxury of time, we should be praying people.

We should be praying before we act because the lesson was that we get in the habit of praying before acting so that in that process, regardless of how good our ideas are, that we can make sure that nonetheless it's God's will that's going to be done in God's ways and that it's going to be done in God's timing. So that was last week's lesson. The Lord then said to David, David, you can't build me a house, but here's what I'm going to do. I'm going to cut you a deal.

I'm going to build you a house, not a physical house. David was all set there. had a fancy house built by the finest craftsman of his day. God was going to do much better than a physical house.

God was going to build David a spiritual house, an eternal house. It was a covenant. That's where we call this the Davidic covenant. That's what the Lord was promising to David in those first 17 verses.

And it's the unconditional covenant that through David's royal lineage, through his son Solomon, you know, Solomon would come and be the king. By the way, he would be the one that would be given the green light to go ahead and build the temple of the Lord. But then eventually through David through Solomon would come, not just the king, but the king of kings, Jesus, the Messiah. So we covered that in full.

We read down to verse 17, which told us that Nathan did go ahead and share all of this with David, everything that the Lord had revealed to him. And the only thing we missed last week was David's response to that. And that's what we have in verses 18 through 29. That is all that we're going to take tonight.

We're just going to make this easy. We're just going to take verses 18 through 29 and call it an early night. Doesn't that sound good? Maybe a little too good to be true?

I don't know. We'll see, I think it sounds good. So we drop in at verse 18, let's read verse 18, then King David went in and sat before the Lord. So went in, underline that, sat before the Lord.

That is tabernacle terminology. So when we read that, that he went in, that he sat before the Lord, that's telling us that David has gone into the tabernacle to spend some time with the Lord to pray. And that's what he's going to do. He's in the Tabernacle to pray.

That was just the best and most special place to go to spend some prayer time with the Lord to have your devotions with the Lord because that was the place where the Lord said, this is where I'm going to

meet with my people, the Tabernacle. It is not that God was not omnipresent for them back then as he is for us now. Obviously, God has always been omnipresent. And then he didn't start being omnipresent at zero A.D.

at the coming of Christ. He's always been omnipresent. How could he not be? The heavens stretched to hold him, as the scriptures tell us.

So yes, he's everywhere. He's omnipresent. He tried to reveal that to Jacob as far back as Genesis chapter 28. God there just picked a nowhere spot.

He would eventually be called Bethel, but he picked a nowhere spot and he made Jacob aware of his presence in the middle of nowhere. And he even spoke these words to Jacob. He said, Jacob, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go. And you see the point of what the Lord was trying to get across to Jacob.

He was trying to give Jacob the revelation about God being omnipresent. That's what he was doing. Jacob, My presence is with you out here in Booneytown, the middle of nowhere. I'm promising you I'm going to go with you wherever you go.

Do you get the point, Jacob? Omni presence. I'm with you everywhere. Well, how did Jacob take that?

It got a little lost in translation, didn't it? Jacob had a little bit of a misunderstanding as far as what that encounter was all about. How did he take it? He thought, well, if the Lord has, if I had an encounter with the Lord right here, that must mean this is where the Lord lives.

This is the Lord's house. I found the Lord's dwelling place. Then I'll read this to you, Genesis chapter 28, verses 16 and 17. It says, then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, purely the Lord is in this place and I didn't know it.

And he was afraid and said, how awesome, not how awesome is the Lord, but how awesome is this place? This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven. I found it. I found where the Lord lives.

And so that's what he named the place. Bethel, bait, means house of El, the root for God, bait El, Bethel, it means the house of God. But no, Jacob, come on, buddy. a clue.

Bethel is not where God dwells. That wasn't the point of the encounter at all. And Jacob may have missed on that a little bit, but we've had progressive revelation over the years. And by the time period of David and even Solomon, we know that they did understand this.

Israel understood in general that God was omnipresent. And to sort of settle that for us. The belief that, yes, we understand that the tabernacle is special, but it's not that we believe that's God's house, that that's where God dwells. Not even that that's his headquarters.

We know that God does not dwell in temples made with hands, as Stephen would say in Acts chapter 7. But Solomon, when he's given the speech of dedication for his temple, Solomon's temple, the one that David was wanting to build. Solomon there made it abundantly clear where Israel stood on this issue of God's omnipresence. Here's what he said in 1 Kings chapter 8 verse 27, Solomon said, But will God indeed dwell on the earth?

Is that what we're doing by building the temple or like building a house for the Lord to live in? Will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, the heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you how much less this house that I have built. So you see that Solomon understood.

God does not live here. He can't be contained in our little temple no matter how big and how fancy we make it. They understood that in David's day it's just that they are following the commands of the Lord. written all throughout the law of Moses, three different times in Exodus, once in Leviticus, that the tabernacle was the meeting place.

Over and over the Lord said, this is where I will meet with the nation of Israel, and then of course most precisely at the mercy seat, you know, the inmost partition of the tabernacle structure itself, the holy of Holies, the Ark of the Covenant, the mercy seat, the lid of the Ark on top of it. That was precisely the place, but in general, that tabernacle structure, that was the meeting place for the Lord and His people. And it's not all that difficult really in Christianity. And then we have a different emphasis to this.

But the major difference in Christianity is that Christians don't gather into an already sanctified location, but rather it is the gathering together of the church, of the saints that sanctifies the location. So it's not the building that sanctifies the Christians. For us, it's the Christians that sanctify the location, but it does indeed sanctify the location. God takes all of that into consideration when He sanctifies something, right?

God just means set it apart for God's use. So I would not dare say, and I think it's kind of silly to say, that God only sanctifies the believers and that the place is where we meet, the sanctuaries, the churches where we meet, those are just common, nothing special about them. I think that's silly to make statements like that, because I don't think God ever changed the way he feels about sanctifying stuff for his purposes. But we'll sanctify whatever it is that we dedicate to Him, so it doesn't matter what it is.

Whether it's a church building or a vehicle that we dedicate to God, and we say, God, I'm going to run and do evangelistic and mission work with this vehicle until the wheels fall off of it. Whatever it is that you dedicate to the Lord, He sanctifies that. He sets that apart. So yes, church, we're a holy people.

God has made it so, and when we gather together, that's special. But the Lord also sanctifies the locations where we're gathering together. I can throw a bunch of passages at you, Matthew 18, 20, 1 Corinthians 3, 16 and 17, 1 Peter chapter 2 verse 5, Ephesians chapter 2 verses 21 and 22, a lot of passages that would tell us that the sanctuary still gets sanctified even though it is truly about the sanctified people that are meeting in that location. reading on in verse 18.

And he said, Who am I, Lord God? And what is my house? What is my family that you have brought me thus far? David knows exactly where he came from.

He knows he was not born into royalty. He knows that he was not groomed for leadership. He was not fast-tracked to be the king in any sense. He wasn't the son of a famous warrior or a respected statesman.

He didn't have that kind of stuff on his resume. He was the youngest son in a quiet, unknown family in an unknown town Bethlehem. A family that was really so insignificant that when Samuel showed up into town to anointed King, they didn't even call David. They didn't even bring him in from the field.

And David, in his beginnings, they're very humble, he's got an obscure life and pretty much a forgettable life and yet God had taken that unknown and unnoticed shepherd boy and he had written a story that no one would have ever imagined in such a situation, it was a rags to riches story, as it was. And David is overwhelmed by that, he's overwhelmed by his own rags to riches story, he's looking back over the landscape of his life, he's realizing that every step of the way, every victory, every open door that he's gone through, every moment of deliverance that all of that has been God carrying him and working through him. So verse 19, and yet this, meaning all the past stuff, everything you've done for

me in the past, Lord, getting me to this point. Yet this was a small thing in your eyes.

Oh, Lord God, you have spoken also of your servant's house for a great while to come. Okay. So what he's doing here is he's comparing God's past faithfulness with this future promise that he now has from the Lord. You know, and he's overwhelmed by that.

Just the thought of it, everything that the Lord has done. And now the Lord is saying, you know, there's something even bigger and grander that's ahead of you. And the question for David is, how is this even possible? I mean, it's a pretty unbelievable thing.

Don't get me wrong, David believed it. But it's very easily an unbelievable thing. Is it possible for God to talk what is already done in David's life. Just look at some of those things.

God anointed a nobody shepherd to be a king over his holy nation. God stood in in David's faith fight with a giant Goliath. God gave David victory after victory over far more experienced and well better equipped soldiers, enemy soldiers. God preserved his life all of those years when he was on the Lamb running from King Saul and everyone that King Saul had engaged, seeking David's life.

And then, you know, God united the entire nation under David's leadership and established him on the throne of Israel. That's overwhelming stuff. That That list is crazy. Even just one of those things in anyone else's life, that's like enough to fill a lifetime with gratitude for God.

God, I still remember when you did this one thing for me, this huge, massive thing. And yet God now tells David that that was just the beginning. David, I'm just getting started. Everything prior to this, that earlier stuff, that's nothing.

What I'm going to do in your life is going to blow your mind. It's all the miracles, all the victories, all of the blessings, all of that just small stuff, small potatoes compared to what I intend to do next. So God is saying, David, I'm not done with you. I'm building something through you that's going to outlive you.

I'm writing a story that's not just pertinent to today, but it's going to stretch into all of eternity. And David is completely undone by that as he should be. Maybe the Holy Spirit would whisper something similar to you tonight, soak that very message into your heart. Maybe you look back over the course of your life and you can see the fingerprints of God.

You can see the single set of footprints where he carried you through life, right? Famous poem footprints. You remember how he has protected you, how he has provided for you, how he has rescued you, how he has redirected you in life, how he has blessed your life, all of that. You can see all of the ways that he brought you thus far as David has said of the Lord here.

But what if the Lord is saying to you tonight, all of that was just a small thing. That is all just small potatoes because I'm not finished with you. I have more to do in your life. I have more to make of you than you have yet to imagine.

Wouldn't that be amazing? Not necessarily more comfort or more ease or more success. Those things are less important but more purpose, more fruit, more depth with the Lord, more usefulness, more Christ-likeness, things that have kingdom impacts, eternal impacts. So it's just a wonderful thought.

It kind of thrills my heart tonight. What if the greatest chapters of your walk with the Lord are still ahead of you? I would love to believe that that is true for me. What if the best is yet to come?

But if the things that you thanked him for so far are nothing but the opening paragraphs of the story that he's writing with your life. What if the best is yet to come, not because life is going to get easier, but

because God is still working, still shaping, still building, still blessing, still fulfilling all of his purposes in your life. Does that move you like that moves me? Well, that's where David is fitting in this moment, overwhelmed by the grace behind him, overwhelmed by the grace before him.

And we read in verse 19, continuing on, and this instruction, pardon me, and this is instruction for mankind, O Lord God. So this really does affect everyone and everything. These weren't just blessings for David and his family, not even just for the nation of Israel. This thing has now gone from local to global.

This is something that's going to bless every single person in the world. It's something with eternal significance and consequence. All of that coming from just this one word, this one message from the Lord. And I want to re-emphasize this way that David knows that.

I shared that with you last week, sharing it with you again because you're seeing it in His prayer. He knows that. He knows this isn't just a personal blessing, just stuff that the Lord is promising Him. It's not about Him.

It's not about merely His own reign. It's not about merely His own dynasty. It's not about merely His own nation. This is revelation, truth, instruction for all of mankind.

God was basically just pulled back the curtain and given David a glimpse of his global plan for all mankind. The Hebrew phrase here actually does carry that meaning, carries the idea of revelation that becomes a charter or a blueprint for a plan moving forward in eternal plan. So David is not uninformed here. He knows exactly what the Lord has promised him.

He knows that God has just revealed that it's going to be through his line, it's going to eventually carry the hope of the entire world or as the scripture says the expectation of all the earth. That's Christ. You know that, right? Whether the world realizes it or not, he is the expectation of all the earth.

He's what we all need. He's what we all long for, whether we realize it or not. That king, that messiah, that savior, it's coming through David. And that's the message that he's got on his heart here from the Lord.

So with just that one word from the Lord, let me put it to you like this, David knows his story is going to go viral. From local to global, from temporal to eternal, David's story is going to go viral through Jesus. Verse 20, and David now speaking in the third person, I'm not sure how I feel about this, but it is what it is. And what What more can David say to you?

For you know your servant, O Lord God. So David is speechless, or so he says. He says I'm speechless. And if he was speechless, it was only for a moment.

I mean, come on, it's the Psalmist David, you really think he's going to be speechless for very long? Probably he had three songs written by chapter's end here. Even as he's praying, David was the poet. He was a prophet.

So yeah, even though he says, I don't even know what to say, Lord. He's going to say a bunch of stuff. You know people that do that, like they'll say, oh my goodness, I am so speechless. Or they'll say, I don't even know what to say.

But let me say this. And then they talk for like an hour, like what happened to being speechless? I thought you didn't know what to say. Seems like you knew what to say.

You did that. You just wasted an hour of my time. Well, that's pretty much what David's going to do here. Lord, I'm just speechless, but I would like to say a few things here.

And so here we have it, verse 21, because of your promise and according to your own heart, you have brought about all this greatness to make your servant know it. So God's past faithfulness establishes our faith and trust for the future. That's what David has just said there. past faithfulness establishes our faith for the future.

Verse 22, Therefore you are great, O Lord God, for there is none like you, and there is no God besides you. That's monotheistic belief, one God, in perfect keeping with the Shema, we said Deuteronomy 6, Deuteronomy 7, always get those confused. The great Shema, the Lord our hero Israel, the Lord our God is one Lord, one God. So there's no God besides you, according to all that we have heard with our ears.

So David is saying, God, you have exceeded, far exceeded our expectations. I mean, we heard the stories about what you did for Israel, and he's going to go into some of this, you know, what you've done for Israel in the early days, Egypt, out of Egypt, the Red Sea, the whole nine yards, Lord, you've done incredible things. We've heard incredible stories. Your reputation has preceded you, and yet, Lord, all that anyone's ever done with their mouth is undersell you.

You're greater than what we've even heard, what we've ever known, what we have ever even imagined. So, of course, that brought Ephesians chapter 3 verse 20 to mind, you know, famous passage, now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all we may ask or think. Like you just think as big, dream as big as you want and the Lord can just blow that out of the water. And that's what he's doing in David's life.

Verse 23. And who is like your people Israel, the one nation on earth whom God went to redeem to be his people, making himself a name and doing for them great and awesome things by driving out before your people whom you redeem for yourself from Egypt, nation and its gods. So yes the you know the past history for Israel that God delivered the nation of Israel who were slaves in Egypt and he set them free out of Egypt through the Ten Plagues. They crossed the Red Sea.

He swallowed up the Red Sea on Pharaoh and his armies. The Lord brought them eventually, though they chose to take the hard way, to the doorstep of the Promised Land and then and led them into the promised land in order to displace the inhabitants of Canaan. Think about this. This was an entire country of people.

An entire country. Just think about the statement from the Lord, basically the Lord saying, okay, you see all those people in Canaan? Yeah, I'm going to move them all out of there and I'm going to put you guys in there. That's what I'm going to do.

And God did. He pulled that off. And Israel did not make that easy, did they? went kicking and screaming most of the time.

There were quite a few moments of Israeli history where they were rebellious and disobedient. So there were starts and stops. But in the midst of all that, you know, there's time periods where God would lose the hearts of the nation. So there were starts and stops, but God would get their heart back.

And once he got the heart of the nation In fact, he would just keep on pecking away at that plan to completely displace the enemy there. And for all of its starts and stops and the brief time periods of disobedience, God used those brief time periods of obedience to pull this off and get them largely to the position in place that he wanted them to be. All the work of the Lord, through people, sure, but all the work of the Lord. Think about how many battles in Joshua, Judges, think about how many battles didn't

even really involve the fighting of the soldiers.

Just God doing stuff, you know. Just soldiers showing up in God doing stuff. This was God. David is pointing this out, verse 24, and you established for yourself, your people, Israel, to be your people for how long?

Forever and ever and ever. Not just until the New Testament Church came along and replaced them. God's nation forever. Replacement theology is a false teaching.

This church knows that well. The church does not replace Israel. The church does not become spiritual Israel and then collect all of Israel's promises. That's not how this works.

The nation of Israel, they are still and always will be God's holy chosen people. What are we as the church? Well, we're just Gentiles largely that God allowed to be grafted in with the nation of Israel. We're wild branches that the Lord accepted and He led us to be a part of this thing.

Now we as the church, we are the people of God as well, but we don't take Israel's place. Read Romans chapter 9, chapter 10, chapter 11. You'll see that. It's God through with the Jew.

No way. No way. The day is coming when all of Israel shall be saved. You can take it to the bank, the word of the Lord, promise of the Lord.

Verse 25. And now, O Lord God, confirm forever the word that you have spoken concerning your servant and concerning his house, his family, and do as you have spoken. So confirm forever. You know, look at these words.

Confirm forever. Do as you have spoken. Here's what David's saying. Please Lord, no take backs.

You said it, Lord. You promised it, Lord. Can you give me some further confirmation on that? What he's saying is, Lord, please don't ever change your mind about me.

Don't ever change your mind about me. Don't ever change the plan that you've just laid out before me, Lord. I love it. Don't let it all come down to me, but let it be purpose and determined in your heart.

What He's asking the Lord for is this to be an unconditional covenant. The better that you know yourself, the more grateful you should be that the Lord does not renege on His promises, especially those unconditional promises, right? That's why I'm always very enthused to point out the unconditional covenants, the unconditional promises that we see in the scriptures in the Bible because when a promise from God is conditional, when the results depend on some performance on our part, I mean, you can bet your bottom dollar, that's not going to work out. If it is up to us, we are going to fail, and you know my case then point with that would be the law of Moses.

That was a conditional covenant. You guys know that the conditions were this, if you do well, if you're obedient, If you don't violate and transgress the law of Moses, man, blessings are going to come in your way. You're going to do just fine. But if you are disobedient to the law, if you transgress the commandments, then cursing is going to come.

And what was the result of that? The result of that was a body of teaching, a body of rules, and a covenant whereby no one could be made righteous. You can read through early chapters of Romans, especially chapter 6, chapter 7, as Paul's talking about this. By the deeds of the law, there's no one that's going to be justified.

No one. All the law does is present us as guilty before the Lord, so a conditional covenant is based on our performance. Well then, we're in trouble. We're in big trouble.

And we had an honest Jew there in Acts chapter 15 admit as much when they were trying to decide what to do with Gentiles that were getting converted. The big question, the big issue for the meeting for the council session, was should we make converted Gentiles live according to the law of Moses? And Simon Peter stood up, and here's what he said in Acts chapter 15 verse 10, you guys know it well. He said, now therefore, why are you putting God to the test by placing a yoke on the neck of the disciples that neither our fathers or ancestors nor we have been able to bear.

He's talking about the law of Moses there. He's saying, why are you demanding or why are you wanting to demand that Gentiles live by a set of rules that we as a nation as Jews have never been able to live by ourselves? Not perfectly. All we've ever done is present ourselves guilty according to this law.

So, if I'm David, I think this is a very wise way to pray. It's saying, Lord, will you confirm with me that you're going to do this regardless of me, that this is an unconditional covenant. This is not based on my performance or my ability to be faithful, but this is based solely on your faithfulness, that you promised it, that you're going to be faithful to do it. I've shared it with you before.

I'll share it again. One of the most impactful things that anyone ever told me in my young, I don't know if I would say young adulthood, youth. I'll just say youth. One of the most impacting things that was ever said to me, having grown up in church and having come into a time period of my life where I was feeling myself pulling away from the beliefs that I always had, from my desire to be a Christian, to live a Christian life, and I was finding myself in those teenage years conflicted by the internal passions and being pulled toward those things.

And I can't even tell you how the entire conversation happened, but one day, my aunt Liz, who's no longer with us, we lost her during COVID, but she had a talk with me and I think I was most likely communicating to her that feeling of being pulled away and my concern over that. I was genuinely concerned because I knew the consequences of not being saved, I knew consequences of going after sin and rebelling against the Lord and whatever that conversation was, she made a statement to me. She showed me a scripture. I can't even really for sure tell you what scripture it was.

There's a scripture that talked about the Lord keeping us. And she showed me that scripture and she said, just make sure you're praying, Lord keep me. And that, wow, that just overwhelmed my heart. I didn't know the Bible taught anything like that.

If you ask me what the Bible taught at that time, I would tell you that the Bible taught that I'm fine as well as I don't mess up, but if I mess up, then God is done with me until I get things right again. That's what I believed. That's why I got saved I got saved 52 times a year, you know, every Sunday service. I got saved all the time, constantly.

That's what it felt like to me. I never knew that there was any such teaching in the Bible where you could actually say like real things like this, like, Lord, I don't trust myself. I don't know what my problem is. I don't know why I can't seem to keep myself on the straight and narrow.

I don't know why it feels like I'm loving sin more than I'm loving my relationship with you. Lord, I don't trust myself anymore to keep myself saved. And of course I didn't know it at the time but that's never something that works and that's never something that God expected. He never expected me to keep myself saved.

I didn't get myself saved, I can't keep myself saved. So that advice I took in, I prayed it. I'm afraid of the direction that I'm going in the course that I'm heading for and Lord, I'm asking for your mercy. Keep me.

Lord, don't let me be lost. I prayed that prayer and the Lord took me up on that prayer and I believe the Lord still honors that prayer and all prayers similar to it. Now if the wrong church leader had heard my aunt tell me that, I have a feeling she'd got scolded for that. It's not really what we taught there at that church that we could just depend on the Lord to keep us and that He would.

That was revolutionary to my faith and then years later I started to just explore that scripturally and see that all over the place in the Bible and that what I once thought the Bible taught it didn't. It didn't teach that at all. It taught that we can pray, Lord, save me, and let it be unconditional. Let it be about you.

Because if it's about my performance, I have no hope at this. But if it's all about you and your faithfulness, to forgive me, to cleanse me, to keep sanctifying me, and to present me to yourself faultless one day before the throne of your glory. If it's about that, then I know I'm good, I know I'm sad. Verse 26, and your name will be magnified forever saying, the Lord of Hosts is God over Israel and the house of your servant David will be established before you.

Verse 27, for you, O Lord of Hosts, the God of Israel, have made this revelation to your servant saying, I will build you a house. Therefore your servant has found courage to pray this prayer to you. So David's confidence in praying what he's praying came directly from his knowledge of God. That's what he's sharing here.

And I would say even more so for us in the New Testament error, our confidence in prayer, that should come from our knowledge of God. And we should have more knowledge of God than David did, right? Because we had Jesus the Christ, the Son of God, come in the flesh and show us the Father, right? John chapter 14 verse 9, Jesus said to Philip, whoever has seen me has seen the Father, I'm this fitting image, this is why I'm here.

I'm here to show you God the Father. Hebrews chapter 1 verse 3, He Jesus is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of its nature. And then John chapter 1 verse 18, the apostle John says, no one has ever seen God. I love this.

Listen to this closely. This is theologically deep. No one has ever seen God, God, the only Son, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known. So you can use that verse anytime that someone is trying to tell you that the Bible never ever claimed that Jesus is God.

What did we just read? God, the only Son. That's talking about Jesus. The Bible claims all over the place that Jesus is God.

In the Old Testament through prophecy and typology, in the New Testament by direct statements from Christ, from the apostles, from the writers of the New Testament. Yes, the Bible says this all over the place. This verse is all you need to combat someone that says the Bible never says that Jesus is God. I call hogwash.

It sure does. God, the only son who is at the Father's side. And again, you know, if you're combating those who don't believe in the Trinity and the Triune Godhead, well, here's a passage where we see Father and Son being distinguished once again. It's all over the place in the scriptures.

But more to the point. Now that we know God more thoroughly through the person of Jesus, through Jesus the Son revealing God the Father to us, now we get to pray through Jesus or in Jesus' name, right? That's what all of that was about, where Jesus taught us, through the disciples of course, to pray in His name. We've covered that a lot, so I won't belabor the point.

understand that when we say a prayer and then we close it with in Jesus' name or through Jesus Christ our Lord, amen. That's not like our abracadabra. That's not the Christian magic word to lock in whatever it is that you've asked for. Okay Lord, give it to me.

I said in Jesus' name, abracadabra. Do it Lord. That's not how we use that. When we say in Jesus' name, that's our way of saying we know God thorough enough to know because of how Jesus revealed him to us that what we just prayed, we can sign his name to it and say that we believe this prayer and everything that we asked for is Christ approved.

That's what we're saying. That's what we're communicating when we say in Jesus' name. We're saying this is prayer that is in accordance with the nature, the character and through the authority given to us by Jesus the Christ. That's what we mean when we pray in Jesus' name.

And again, just like David, that's where our confidence in prayer comes from. Verse 28. And now, oh, Lord God, you are God, and your words are true, and you have promised this good thing to your servant, verse 29. Now therefore, may it please you to bless the house of your servant So that it may continue forever before you, for you, O Lord God, have spoken, and with your blessings shall the house of your servant be blessed forever.

If you haven't noticed, David's bubbling over. Honestly, I think he's rambling a little bit. I think he's repeating himself a little bit. I think he's tripping all over his words.

Have you noticed how many times he said, O Lord God in here? Like constantly. So if you're one of those people that pray and like with every line you say Lord and Lord and Lord Well, don't feel bad David did it right here and and oh Lord God this and oh Lord God that and oh Lord God the other You know one after another Honestly, it's probably not the most beautiful prayer in the Bible He repeats himself. He's all over the place It's probably not the most beautiful prayer in the Bible Certainly not the most beautiful prayer that David would write, but he's not writing this, he's praying this, and here's what it is.

It's real. It's a real prayer from a real man that is experiencing the real overwhelm of the grace of God. Overwhelmed by the grace of God for his past. overwhelmed by the grace of God that is promised for his future.

In summary of these two studies that we've done now in first Samuel, or pardon me, second Samuel chapter 7, the greatest lesson that can be taken from this chapter is that sometimes we do have these wonderful proposals for the Lord. They come from great places, they're great ideas from great arts. And we present them to the Lord and the Lord says, no, we've talked about this even in our introduction, that even when we attached the name of Jesus to it, okay, Lord, I said in Jesus' name, let me have it, follow through with it, Lord, deliver on what I'm asking for, even when we do that correctly, praying in accordance with the things that Jesus would want us to be praying for, even in times like that, the Lord is still going unless they know. And when that happens, if the heart is truly in a good position, behind the proposals that we're making for the Lord, the Lord is always going to honor the heart even though he says no to the proposal.

And I can give you the words of Solomon for this in 1 Kings chapter 8 verses 18 and 19. Again, this is part of Solomon's dedication speech for the temple. And he's talking about his father here, his father David and his father David's plan to build the house of the Lord. The fact that the Lord told David no.

And he gives us more information about that exchange, about that prayer time between David and the Lord. Here's what he says. But the Lord said to David, my father, whereas it was in your heart to build a house for my name, you did well that it was in your heart. You did well.

It was a good thing to have in your heart. Nevertheless, not going to happen, David. Nevertheless, you shall not build the house. But your son, who shall be born to you, shall build the house for my name.

So that was not just Solomon's opinion. We would expect Solomon to be a little biased about his dad and be quick to say, well, the Lord didn't want my dad to do it, but the Lord loved my dad's heart behind the proposal. But it's not just a son being biased toward his father. This was conversation between David and the Lord that Solomon found out about.

And he knew that the Lord said this to David, David, great idea. I love the idea. I love where your heart's at. I love the motivation behind all of this, but no, I don't want you to do it.

I can't have you do it. It's not the time, it's not the right situation for the nation, but thank you. Do you have any idea how many phenomenal ideas that I have come up with for the Lord? How many phenomenal proposals that I have laid out for him, Lord, what if I did this for you?

Lord, what if I pursued this? Do you have any idea how many incredible ideas I've had? No, you don't, and you know why you don't? Because either the Lord didn't think they were so incredible, or it was one of these situations where the Lord loves the idea and He loves the heart behind it, but I wasn't the right person.

The situation wasn't the right situation and the timing wasn't the right timing. The Lord has said no to a lot of stuff that I have proposed to Him over the years, but this passage, last week, this week, 2 Samuel chapter 7, it's teaching us at any time that God says no, if our heart's in the right place, he commends the heart behind it and he's only saying no, you know this church, he's only saying no to your proposals now because he's planning for better things for you in the future. That is always the case. He's saying no to whatever it is now so that he can say yes to something bigger and better in the future.

So if you're in the middle of something like that right now, just hear the Lord speaking that to you. Just hear the Lord through the text here saying, I love your heart. I love where you're at. I love what you're wanting to do.

Your purpose is your intention. They're beautiful. Nevertheless, I've got something better in mind that's going to come in the future and in the future, you'll understand it better. And we've had this lesson before in our Old Testament studies, probably in our New Testament studies as well.

So, I'll leave it at that. I'll leave you with that word tonight. And let's stand and let's close in a word of prayer.