



LESSON TWO

David's Care for God's Habitation on the Earth

Scripture Reading:

2 Samuel 6:1 (Section 1 and 2)

- 6:1 And David again gathered all the chosen men of Israel, thirty thousand.
- 6:2 And David rose up and went with all the people who were with him from Baale-judah to bring up from there the Ark of God, which is called by the Name, the name of Jehovah of hosts, who is enthroned between the cherubim.
- 6:3 And they set the Ark of God upon a new cart and brought it out of the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill. And Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, drove the new cart.
- 6:4 And they brought it with the Ark of God out of the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill; and Ahio went before the ark.
- 6:5 And David and all the house of Israel played before Jehovah on all manner of instruments of cypress wood, with lyres and with harps and with tambourines and with sistrums and with cymbals.
- 6:6 And when they came to Nachon's threshing floor, Uzzah reached out for the Ark of God and took hold of it; for the oxen had stumbled.
- 6:7 And the anger of Jehovah was kindled against Uzzah, and God struck him there for his error; and he died there by the Ark of God.
- 6:8 And David was angry because Jehovah had broken forth with an outburst upon Uzzah; and that place has been called Perez-uzzah to this day.
- 6:9 And David was afraid of Jehovah that day; and he said, How shall the Ark of Jehovah come to me?
- 6:10 So David did not want to remove the Ark of Jehovah to himself in the city of David. But David carried it aside to the house of Obed-edom the Gittite.
- 6:11 And the Ark of Jehovah remained in the house of Obed-edom the Gittite three months; and Jehovah blessed Obed-edom and all his household.
- 6:12 And it was told King David, saying, Jehovah has blessed the house of Obed-edom and all that he has because of the Ark of God. So David went and brought up the Ark of God from the house of Obed-edom into the city of David with rejoicing.
- 6:13 And when those who bore the Ark of Jehovah had gone six paces, he sacrificed an ox and a fatling.
- 6:14 And David danced with all his might before Jehovah; and David was girded with a linen ephod.
- 6:15 So David and all the house of Israel brought up the Ark of Jehovah with shouting and with the sound of the trumpet.
- 6:16 And when the Ark of Jehovah came into the city of David, Michal the daughter of Saul looked down through a window and saw King David leaping and dancing before Jehovah; and she despised him in her heart.
- 6:17 And they brought in the Ark of Jehovah and set it in its place in the midst of the tent that David had pitched for it. And David offered up burnt offerings and peace offerings before Jehovah.
- 6:18 And when David finished offering up the burnt offerings and the peace offerings, he blessed the people in the name of Jehovah of hosts.
- 6:19 And he apportioned to all the people, to the whole multitude of Israel, to both men and women, to each one, a cake of bread and a portion of meat and a cake of raisins. And all the people went away, each to his own house.
- 6:20 Then David returned to bless his household. And Michal the daughter of Saul went forth to meet David; and she said, How the king of Israel has made himself honorable today, uncovering himself today in the sight of the maids of his servants as some worthless fellow might shamelessly uncover himself!
- 6:21 And David said to Michal, It was before Jehovah, who chose me above your father and above all his house, to appoint me ruler over the people of Jehovah, over Israel; so I played before Jehovah.

- 6:22 And I will yet be more lightly esteemed than this, and I will be base in my own sight; but by the female servants of whom you have spoken, by them will I be honored.
- 6:23 And Michal the daughter of Saul had no child until the day of her death.

2 Samuel 7 (Section 3 and 4)

- 7:1 And as the king dwelt in his house and Jehovah gave him rest all around from all his enemies,
- 7:2 The king said to Nathan the prophet, See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the Ark of God dwells within curtains.
- 7:3 And Nathan said to the king, All that is in your heart go and do, for Jehovah is with you.
- 7:4 And in that night the word of Jehovah came to Nathan, saying,
- 7:5 Go and say to My servant David, Thus says Jehovah, Is it you who will build Me a house for Me to dwell in?
- 7:6 For I have not dwelt in a house, since the day I brought the children of Israel up out of Egypt to this day; but I went about in a tent and in a tabernacle.
- 7:7 In all My going about among all the children of Israel, did I ever speak a word to any of the tribes of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd My people Israel, saying, Why have you not built Me a house of cedar?
- 7:8 And now thus shall you say to My servant David, Thus says Jehovah of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you might be ruler over My people, over Israel;
- 7:9 And I have been with you in every place that you have gone and have cut off all your enemies before you; and I will make a great name for you, like the name of the great ones who are on the earth.
- 7:10 And I will appoint a place for My people Israel and will plant them there, that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more; and the sons of wickedness will ill-treat them no more as before,
- 7:11 Even since the time when I commanded that there be judges over My people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover Jehovah declares to you that Jehovah will make you a house.
- 7:12 When your days are fulfilled and you sleep with your fathers, I will raise up your seed after you, which will come forth from your body, and I will establish his kingdom.
- 7:13 It is he who will build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.
- 7:14 I will be his Father, and he will be My son. If he commits iniquity, I will strike him with the rod of men and with the stripes of the sons of men;
- 7:15 But My lovingkindness will not depart from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I put away before you.
- 7:16 And your house and your kingdom will be made sure forever before you; your throne will be established forever.
- 7:17 According to all these words and according to this whole vision did Nathan speak to David.
- 7:18 Then King David went and sat before Jehovah; and he said, Who am I, O Lord Jehovah, and what is my house that You have brought me this far?
- 7:19 And this was yet a small thing in Your sight, O Lord Jehovah; but You have spoken also of the house of Your servant for a great while to come; and is this the custom for man, O Lord Jehovah?
- 7:20 And what more can David say to You? For You know Your servant, O Lord Jehovah.
- 7:21 For Your word's sake and according to Your own heart, You have done all this greatness to make Your servant know it.
- 7:22 Therefore You are great, O Lord Jehovah; for there is none like You, nor is there any God besides You, according to all that we have heard with our ears.
- 7:23 And who is like Your people Israel, a nation unique on the earth, which God went to redeem to Himself as a people in order to make a name for Himself and to do for You what is great and awesome for Your land and before Your people, whom You have redeemed to Yourself out of Egypt, from the nations and their gods?
- 7:24 And You have established Your people Israel to be a people to You forever, and You, O Jehovah, became their God.
- 7:25 And now, O Jehovah God, confirm forever the word which You have spoken concerning Your servant and concerning his house, and do as You have spoken.
- 7:26 And may Your name be magnified forever when men say, Jehovah of hosts is God over Israel; and the house of Your servant David will be established before You.

7:27 For You, O Jehovah of hosts, God of Israel, have revealed to Your servant, saying, I will build you a house; therefore Your servant has found it in his heart to pray this prayer to You.
7:28 And now, O Lord Jehovah, You are God, and Your words are true, and You have spoken this good matter to Your servant;
7:29 Now therefore may it please You to bless the house of Your servant, that it may be before You forever; for You, O Lord Jehovah, have spoken it. And with Your blessing may the house of Your servant be blessed forever.

QUESTIONS:

Section 1:

1. What shows that David's heart was set on God's house? What should be our consideration on the matter of God's dwelling place on earth?
2. Give a brief history of the ark of God.

Section 2:

1. Why was God angry with Israel's way of moving the ark?
2. How did David move the ark from the house of Obed-edom to Zion?

Section 3:

1. What was the cause of David's prosperity? How does this apply to us today?
2. What was God's response to David's desire to build God a house?

Section 4:

1. What is the 'genuine and intrinsic gospel'? How do we see this in 2 Samuel 7:12?
2. What was David's response to God?

----- [SECTION 1] -----

In this message we will begin to consider David's care for God's habitation on the earth. As we will see, in chapter six David took care of the habitation of the ark of God, and in chapter seven he wanted to build a house for God.

I. TAKING CARE OF THE HABITATION OF THE ARK OF GOD

By the time of chapter six, David was not lacking in anything. All things had worked together in David's favor. He had become the king not only of Judah but also of all the tribes of God's people. He had obtained a stronghold—Zion—and a capital—Jerusalem. Furthermore, he had a palace, which had been built with cedar from Lebanon. He was under God's sovereignty, and God's presence was with him. At that juncture he began to take thought about God's dwelling place on earth. Whereas he was living in a house of cedar, the ark, which represented God, still did not have a home (2 Sam. 7:2). Unable to bear such a situation, David decided to remove the ark of God to a permanent dwelling place. This indicates that David's heart was set on God's house, God's habitation.

The matter of God's dwelling place on earth is worthy of much consideration on our part. We need to realize that whatever God does for us and whatever He gives to us should be altogether for our concern for the building up of God's dwelling place on earth. For God to have a house on earth is a great shame to His enemy, Satan. For generations Satan has been struggling to abuse, usurp, and occupy the earth. As a result, in a sense God has been driven away from the earth. That was the situation at David's time. However, David was for God; he was one with God and according to God. As a man according to God's heart, David desired to prepare a place where God could settle Himself down on this earth.

In order to understand adequately David's taking care of the habitation of the ark of God, we need to review the history of the ark of God.

A. The History of the Ark of God

The ark, which was made of acacia wood covered with gold, was a type of Christ as the embodiment of the moving and working God. The ark was placed in the inner chamber of the tabernacle, the Holy of Holies, and thus became the center of the tabernacle. On the lid of the ark

God came to contact His people. There God's righteousness was appeased, and God and man could have peace and harmony with each other. This was also God's oracle, where God spoke to man.

The ark was respected to the uttermost by the Jewish people because they considered that the ark was God's presence. To go to the ark was to go to God. Thus, to remove the ark to David's stronghold was to move God from the heavens to the earth, to the holy land, and to Zion, where He could have His residence.

1. Made by Moses

The ark was made by Moses (Exo. 25:10-22) according to God's design in order to contain the law on the two tables as the testimony of God. The law was according to God and was a "photograph" of God. The law regulated man's relationship with God and with other men. Because the law as the testimony of God was placed in the ark, the ark was called the ark of the testimony (vv. 16, 22; 26:33). The ark was also for God to meet with His people and to speak to them (25:22).

2. Placed in the Holy of Holies within the Tabernacle

According to Exodus 40:20-21 the ark was placed in the Holy of Holies within the tabernacle.

3. Traveling through the Wilderness with the Children of Israel

The ark traveled through the wilderness with the children of Israel for about forty years (Num. 10:33-36). This means that God traveled with His people. In a sense, the priests carried Him, but in actuality God took the lead to travel, bringing all the congregation of the children of Israel onward.

4. Staying in Shiloh

After the children of Israel entered into the good land, the ark stayed in Shiloh (Josh. 18:1).

5. Captured by the Philistines

At a certain point in its history, the ark was captured by the Philistines (1 Sam. 4:4, 11a, 21-22).

6. Staying in the Country of the Philistines for Seven Months

The ark stayed in the country of the Philistines for seven months (6:1).

7. Returned to Beth-shemesh

Eventually, the ark was returned from the land of the Philistines to Beth-shemesh (6:11-15).

8. Removed from Beth-shemesh to Kiriath-jearim and Put into the House of Abinadab

The ark was removed from Beth-shemesh to Kiriath-jearim and was put into the house of Abinadab and stayed there for twenty years (6:20—7:2). At that time God was homeless. He was a "guest" and Abinadab was the host.

----- [SECTION 2] -----

B. David's Desire to Remove the Ark from the House of Abinadab to Zion, the City of David

As a man who was according to God's heart, David knew that God desired to have His own home. Hence, David desired to remove the ark from the house of Abinadab to Zion, the city of David (2 Sam. 6:1-10).

1. The Removal of the Ark of God, and David and All the House of Israel Playing on Musical Instruments before Jehovah

The ark of God was removed from the house of Abinadab, and David and all the house of Israel played on musical instruments before Jehovah (vv. 1-5). That was a most joyful occasion because God was moving from a guest house to His own lodging.

2. The Oxen Stumbling, Uzzah Reaching Out for the Ark of God and Taking Hold of It, and the Anger of Jehovah Striking Him to Death

The people of Israel, perhaps influenced by the Philistines, moved the ark by means of a cart. The ark should have been borne by the Levites (1 Chron. 15:2). God did not condemn the worldly Philistines for using a cart to move the ark, but He would not tolerate the same action by His people. Under God's sovereignty the oxen stumbled at Nachon's threshing floor, and Uzzah, having a good intention, reached out for the ark of God and took hold of it (2 Sam. 6:6). Instantly, he was killed. "The anger of Jehovah was kindled against Uzzah, and God struck him

there for his error; and he died there by the ark of God" (v. 7). The natural hand, the hand of man, touching something divine brought in God's anger.

3. David Being Afraid of Jehovah and Carrying the Ark into the House of Obed-edom

The death of Uzzah frightened David very much, and he did not want to remove the ark of God to himself in the city of David. Instead, he carried it into the house of Obed-edom the Gittite (vv. 9-10), where it stayed for three months.

C. David's Removal of the Ark of God from the House of Obed-edom to His City, Zion

In verses 11 through 23 we see that David removed the ark from the house of Obed-edom and brought it to his city, Zion.

1. Because of God's Blessing on Obed-edom

Obed-edom offered hospitality to the ark of God, and for this reason God blessed him and all his household. When David heard that God had blessed the house of Obed-edom and all that he had because of the ark of God, David came back to remove the ark of God to Zion, David's private city, which was the center of the public city of Jerusalem (vv. 11-12).

2. David Offering Sacrifices to Jehovah and Dancing with All His Might before Jehovah

When those who bore the ark of Jehovah had gone six paces, David sacrificed an ox and a fatling (v. 13). Also, David danced with all his might before Jehovah, having girded himself with a linen ephod (v. 14). David wore a garment which only the priests should wear. For that day, he became a high priest to wear the ephod. On that occasion he was a priest as well as a king. In a sense, he broke the divine ordination. But in another sense, this was an honor and a glory to God.

3. The Ark of God Being Brought Up with Shouting and the Sound of the Trumpet

Verse 15 tells us that David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of Jehovah with shouting and with the sound of the trumpet.

4. The Ark of God Being Lodged in a Tent That David Pitched for It

The ark of God lodged in the tent that David pitched for it. David offered sacrifices before Jehovah, blessing the people in the name of Jehovah of hosts and apportioning to all the people some cakes (vv. 17-19).

5. Michal the Wife of David Despising Him at His Dancing before Jehovah and Receiving the Curse of Not Having a Child

Everyone was happy except Michal, David's wife, who was of the house of Saul. When she saw King David leaping and dancing before Jehovah, she despised him in her heart (v. 16). After David blessed the people, he returned to bless his household, and Michal went forth to meet him and mocked him, saying, "How the king of Israel has made himself honorable today, uncovering himself today in the sight of the maids of his servants as some worthless fellow might shamelessly uncover himself!" (v. 20). David replied, "It was before Jehovah, who chose me above your father and above all his house, to appoint me ruler over the people of Jehovah, over Israel; so I played before Jehovah" (v. 21). The chapter concludes by saying that Michal the daughter of Saul had no child until the day of her death (v. 23). Her mocking of David brought upon her the curse of childlessness.

----- [SECTION 3] -----

II. WANTING TO BUILD A HOUSE FOR GOD

A. That He Himself Dwelled in a House of Cedar, but That the Ark of God Dwelled within Curtains

David considered that he himself dwelled in a house of cedar but that the ark of God dwelled within curtains (v. 2b).

B. Releasing His Consideration to Nathan the Prophet

David released his consideration to Nathan the prophet, who encouraged him to go and do what was in his heart, telling David that Jehovah was with him (vv. 2a, 3).

C. God's Response to David through Nathan

In verses 4 through 17 we have God's response to David through Nathan. Verse 4 tells us in that night the word of Jehovah came to Nathan.

1. God Having Never Asked Anyone to Build Him a House That He Might Dwell in It

God told David that since the time He brought Israel up out of Egypt, He had never asked anyone to build Him a house that He might dwell in it. Rather, He went about in a tent and in a tabernacle (vv. 5-7).

2. God Taking David from the Pasture of the Sheep That He Might Be Ruler over His People Israel

God charged Nathan to tell David that He took him from the pasture, from following the sheep, that he might be ruler over His people Israel (v. 8). Also, God had been with David in every place and had cut off all his enemies (v. 9a). This refers to the presence of God. David was prosperous because he had the presence of God. This is a lesson for us today. Whenever we prepare ourselves to speak God's word, we must be assured that we have the presence of God. If we do not have this assurance, we need to pray until we have the deep sense of God's presence with us.

3. God Making a Great Name for David

God promised David that He would make a great name for him, "like the name of the great ones who are on the earth" (v. 9b).

4. God Appointing a Place for His People Israel and Planting Them

God said that He would appoint a place for His people Israel and plant them, that they might dwell in their own place without disturbances and without being ill-treated by the sons of wickedness (v. 10). David's heart was to get a place for God to dwell in, but God's heart is to get a place for His people to be settled and even planted. For this to take place, however, God's elect people need to cooperate with Him.

5. God Giving David Rest from All His Enemies

God told David that He would give him rest from all his enemies (v. 11a). Here God seemed to be saying, "David, you have a heart for Me. My

heart is for you, and I want you to have rest from all the enemies that are around you."

6. God Declaring to David That He Would Make Him a House

Jehovah declared to David that He would make him a house (v. 11b). When we love the Lord, we may feel that we should do something for Him. However, when we resolve to do something for the Lord, we may have the sense deep within us that we need the Lord to do more for us. As we will see, we are short of Christ and we need more of Christ.

7. God Raising Up David's Seed (Referring to Christ) and Establishing His Kingdom (Referring to Christ's Kingdom)

God said to David, "I will raise up your seed after you, which will come forth from your body, and I will establish his kingdom" (v. 12). Here "your seed" refers to Christ and "his kingdom" refers to Christ's kingdom. In His response to David's desire to build God a house, God in a sense came in to stop David by indicating that before David could do something for God, he needed God to do something for him.

Whenever we would think to do something for God, God within us would tell us that we are short of something. Our shortage is Christ. We all need Christ. At this point I would ask you to consider some lines from a hymn that speaks of how much we need Christ:

You need Jesus! You need Jesus!
Men and women all need Him!
For redemption you need Him,
For salvation you need Him!
And for everlasting life,
Yes, you need Jesus!

We need more and more of Jesus; we can never get enough of Him. We are short of Christ, God's Son. We need God to make His Son our seed; that is, we need Christ as our heritage and our treasure.

When a sinner turns to God and believes in Christ, he may then have the heart to do something for God. However, to such a person God would say, "Do you intend to do something for Me? You have a great need for Me to do something for you. What I want to do for you is to constitute My Son into your being to be your

treasure. Unless I do this for you, you will never have the capacity to do anything for Me."

The Christ whom God desires to constitute into us is not only our treasure—He is also our home. Where do we live today? We live in Christ. Before Christ the Son of God was wrought into our being, we were homeless. To be homeless is to be Christless. Without Christ, we do not have a home. Likewise, without Christ we do not have righteousness, justification, or satisfaction. We need God to build Christ into our being to be our righteousness, justification, food and drink, clothing, satisfaction, dwelling place, and home. In order for this to happen, God has put us into Christ (1 Cor. 1:30), and now Christ is becoming everything to us.

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In 2 Samuel 7:12 God was actually telling David that instead of building something for God, he needed God to build His Son into him. It is a marvelous fact that eventually David's seed would be called the Son of God (Rom. 1:3). This indicates the principle of incarnation. Christ is the God-man. As God, He is the Son of God; as man, He is our seed. If the Son of God is not constituted into us, we are nothing. The Son of God must become our seed, yet He remains the Son of God.

When we were saved, many of us believed the gospel in a shallow way. The more I study the Bible, the more I realize that the gospel is not shallow. The genuine and intrinsic gospel is that God intends to work Himself in Christ into us. In 2 Samuel 7:12 we have the genuine preaching of the gospel. If we preach this intrinsic gospel, we will tell others that they should not think that they can do something for God, for their human life is empty. We will tell them that they are short of something and that what they need is Christ, the very God Himself, to be wrought into their being. This is the gospel.

In order to work Himself into us, God first became a man through incarnation. As a man He died for us, and then rose up from among the dead and became the life-giving Spirit (1 Cor. 15:45b). This life-giving Spirit is our Savior, who redeemed us on the cross and who is now saving us in our spirit. He is our Redeemer, Savior, life, and seed. As such a One, He is now being built, constituted, into us, making us a part of Him, even as He has made Himself a part of us.

If we read 2 Samuel 7 under God's enlightening, we will see that the seed of David is Christ. According to verse 7 God will establish David's kingdom, which refers to Christ's kingdom. This means that the kingdom of David is Christ's kingdom. The prophets spoke of David and Christ as one. In Hosea 3:5 and Amos 9:11 the coming of King David refers to Christ's coming.

8. Christ Building a House for God's Name, and God Establishing the Throne of Christ's Kingdom Forever

Second Samuel 7:13 reveals that it is Christ who will build a house for God's name, and God will establish the throne of Christ's kingdom forever.

9. God Being Christ's Father, and Christ Being God's Son

Verse 14a says, "I will be his Father, and he will be My son." This actually reveals that God will be Christ's Father and that Christ will be God's Son (Heb. 1:5b). God's salvation is just to make Christ, His embodiment, ours. The Son of God, who is the embodiment of God, God Himself, is in us. Therefore, we can declare that Christ, the Son of God, has been built into us.

10. God Striking David's Seed (Referring to the One Other Than Christ) if He Committed Iniquity

Second Samuel 7:14b-15 says that if David's seed (referring to the one other than Christ, that is, Solomon) committed iniquity, God would strike him with the rod of men and with the stripes of the sons of men. However, God's lovingkindness would not depart from him, as God took it away from Saul. Solomon did commit serious sin, and God chastised him because of it, but God's lovingkindness nevertheless remained with the house of David.

11. David's House and His Kingdom (Referring to Christ's Kingdom) Being Made Sure Forever

In verse 16 God said to David, "Your house and your kingdom will be made sure forever before you; your throne will be established forever." Here "your kingdom" refers to Christ's kingdom, and "your throne" refers to Christ's throne. In the Bible David and Christ have one throne. Christ is the real David (Matt. 12:3-6). Eventually, Christ and we become one, for in a very real sense Christ has become us. He is the Head and we are the Body, and the Head and the Body are one.

D. David's Response to God

Verses 18 through 29 are a record of David's response to God.

1. Thanking God for All the Great Things He Had Done to Him for His Word's Sake

In verses 18 through 21 David thanked God for all the great things He had done to him for His word's sake and according to His own heart.

2. Praising God for His Greatness in All That He Had Done for Israel

Next, David praised God for His greatness in all that He had done for His people Israel (vv. 22-24). In verse 24 David said, "You have established Your people Israel to be a people to You forever, and You, O Jehovah, became their God."

3. Asking God to Build, Establish, and Bless His House Forever according to His Promise

Finally, David asked God to build, establish, and bless his house forever according to His promise (vv. 25-29). David concluded by saying to God, "May it please You to bless the house of Your servant, that it may be before You forever; for You, O Lord Jehovah, have spoken it. And with Your blessing may the house of Your servant be blessed forever" (v. 29).