

# DAVID'S DESIRE FOR A HOUSE FOR THE LORD

BIBLE TEXT: II Samuel 7:1-29; Psalm 30:1; Isaiah 66:1, 2

LESSON 230 Senior Course

MEMORY VERSE: "Thus saith the LORD, The heaven is my throne, and the earth is illy footstool: where is the house that ye build unto me? and where is the place of my rest?" (Isaiah 66:1).

BIBLE TEXT in King James Version

## 2 Samuel 7:1-29

<sup>1</sup> And it came to pass, when the king sat in his house, and the LORD had given him rest round about from all his enemies;

<sup>2</sup> That the king said unto Nathan the prophet, See now, I dwell in an house of cedar, but the ark of God dwelleth within curtains.

<sup>3</sup> And Nathan said to the king, Go, do all that *is* in thine heart; for the LORD *is* with thee.

<sup>4</sup> And it came to pass that night, that the word of the LORD came unto Nathan, saying,

<sup>5</sup> Go and tell my servant David, Thus saith the LORD, Shalt thou build me an house for me to dwell in?

<sup>6</sup> Whereas I have not dwelt in *any* house since the time that I brought up the children of Israel out of Egypt, even to this day, but have walked in a tent and in a tabernacle.

<sup>7</sup> In all *the places* wherein I have walked with all the children of Israel spake I a word with any of the tribes of Israel, whom I commanded to feed my people Israel, saying, Why build ye not me an house of cedar?

<sup>8</sup> Now therefore so shalt thou say unto my servant David, Thus saith the LORD of hosts, I took thee from the sheepcote, from following the sheep, to be ruler over my people, over Israel:

<sup>9</sup> And I was with thee

BIBLE REFERENCES:

## I David's Request and Its Reception

<sup>1</sup> David was troubled, in the time of God-given peace, because his house was better than the Ark's shelter, II Samuel 7:1, 2; Psalm 30:1

### 2 Samuel 5:11

<sup>11</sup> And Hiram king of Tyre sent messengers to David, and cedar trees, and carpenters, and masons: and they built David an house.

### 2 Samuel 6:17

<sup>17</sup> And they brought in the ark of the LORD, and set it in his place, in the midst of the tabernacle that David had pitched for it: and David offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the LORD.

### 1 Chronicles 17:1

<sup>1</sup> Now it came to pass, as David sat in his house, that David said to Nathan the prophet, Lo, I dwell in an house of cedars, but the ark of the covenant of the LORD *remaineth* under curtains.

<sup>2</sup> Nathan, as a man of God, encouraged David to build a permanent Temple, II Samuel 7:3;

### 1 Chronicles 17:2

<sup>2</sup> Then Nathan said unto David, Do all that *is* in thine heart; for God *is* with thee.

<sup>3</sup> Nathan, as the Prophet of God, received God's actual will concerning the Temple, II Samuel 7:4;

### 1 Chronicles 17:3

<sup>3</sup> And it came to pass the same night, that the word of God came to Nathan, saying,

## II God's Message to David

<sup>1</sup> God had not asked that a Temple be built, II Samuel 7:5-7; Isaiah 66:1-2

### John 4:20-24

<sup>20</sup> Our fathers worshipped in this mountain; and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship.

<sup>21</sup> Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father.

<sup>22</sup> Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews.

<sup>23</sup> But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.

<sup>24</sup> God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship *him* in spirit and in truth.

### 1 Chronicles 17:4-6

<sup>4</sup> Go and tell David my servant, Thus saith the LORD, Thou shalt not build me an house to dwell in:

<sup>5</sup> For I have not dwelt in an house since the day that I brought up Israel unto this day; but have gone from tent to tent, and from *one* tabernacle to *another*.

<sup>6</sup> Wheresoever I have walked with all Israel, spake I a word to any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to feed my people, saying, Why have ye not built me an house of cedars?

### Acts 7:48-50

<sup>48</sup> Howbeit the most High dwelleth not in temples made with hands; as saith the prophet,

<sup>49</sup> Heaven *is* my throne, and earth *is* my footstool: what house will ye build me? saith the Lord: or what *is* the place of my rest?

<sup>50</sup> Hath not my hand made all these things?

<sup>2</sup> David's desire to build the Temple was commended by God,

whithersoever thou wentest, and have cut off all thine enemies out of thy sight, and have made thee a great name, like unto the name of the great *men* that *are* in the earth.

<sup>10</sup> Moreover I will appoint a place for my people Israel, and will plant them, that they may dwell in a place of their own, and move no more; neither shall the children of wickedness afflict them any more, as beforetime,

<sup>11</sup> And as since the time that I commanded judges *to be* over my people Israel, and have caused thee to rest from all thine enemies. Also the LORD telleth thee that he will make thee an house.

<sup>12</sup> And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom.

<sup>13</sup> He shall build an house for my name, and I will stablish the throne of his kingdom for ever.

<sup>14</sup> I will be his father, and he shall be my son. If he commit iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the children of men:

<sup>15</sup> But my mercy shall not depart away from him, as I took *it* from Saul, whom I put away before thee.

<sup>16</sup> And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever.

<sup>17</sup> According to all these words, and according to all this vision, so did Nathan speak unto David.

<sup>18</sup> Then went king David in,

### **1 Kings 8:18**

<sup>18</sup> And the LORD said unto David my father, Whereas it was in thine heart to build an house unto my name, thou didst well that it was in thine heart.

### **2 Chronicles 6:7-8**

<sup>7</sup> Now it was in the heart of David my father to build an house for the name of the LORD God of Israel.

<sup>8</sup> But the LORD said to David my father, Forasmuch as it was in thine heart to build an house for my name, thou didst well in that it was in thine heart:

3 David was called by God to be a man of war and not to build the House of Peace, II Samuel 7:8, 9;

### **1 Chronicles 17:7-8**

<sup>7</sup> Now therefore thus shalt thou say unto my servant David, Thus saith the LORD of hosts, I took thee from the sheepcote, *even* from following the sheep, that thou shouldest be ruler over my people Israel:

<sup>8</sup> And I have been with thee whithersoever thou hast walked, and have cut off all thine enemies from before thee, and have made thee a name like the name of the great men that *are* in the earth.

### **1 Chronicles 22:7-10**

<sup>7</sup> And David said to Solomon, My son, as for me, it was in my mind to build an house unto the name of the LORD my God:

<sup>8</sup> But the word of the LORD came to me, saying, Thou hast shed blood abundantly, and hast made great wars: thou shalt not build an house unto my name, because thou hast shed much blood upon the earth in my sight.

<sup>9</sup> Behold, a son shall be born to thee, who shall be a man of rest; and I will give him rest from all his enemies round about: for his name shall be Solomon, and I will give peace and quietness unto Israel in his days.

<sup>10</sup> He shall build an house for my name; and he shall be my son, and I *will be* his father; and I will establish the throne of his kingdom over Israel for ever.

### **Romans 11:29**

<sup>29</sup> For the gifts and calling of God *are* without repentance.

### **1 Corinthians 7:20**

<sup>20</sup> Let every man abide in the same calling wherein he was called.

### **1 Corinthians 12:28**

<sup>28</sup> And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.

### **Ephesians 4:11**

<sup>11</sup> And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

4 David was not allowed to build the Temple, because God had a greater plan for him and for all Israel, through him, II Samuel 7:10;

### **1 Kings 8:16-20**

<sup>16</sup> Since the day that I brought forth my people Israel out of Egypt, I chose no city out of all the tribes of Israel to build an house, that my name might be therein; but I chose David to be over my people Israel.

<sup>17</sup> And it was in the heart of David my father to build an house for the name of the LORD God of Israel.

<sup>18</sup> And the LORD said unto David my father, Whereas it was in thine heart to build an house unto my name, thou didst well that it was in thine heart.

<sup>19</sup> Nevertheless thou shalt not build the house; but thy son that shall come forth out of thy loins, he shall build the house unto my name.

<sup>20</sup> And the LORD hath performed his word that he spake, and I am risen up in the room of David my father, and sit on the throne of Israel, as the LORD promised, and have built an house for the name of the LORD God of Israel.

### **1 Chronicles 17:9-10**

<sup>9</sup> Also I will ordain a place for my people Israel, and will plant them, and they shall dwell in their place, and shall be moved no more; neither shall the children of wickedness waste them any more, as at the beginning,

and sat before the LORD, and he said, Who *am* I, O Lord GOD? and what *is* my house, that thou hast brought me hitherto?

<sup>19</sup> And this was yet a small thing in thy sight, O Lord GOD; but thou hast spoken also of thy servant's house for a great while to come. And *is* this the manner of man, O Lord GOD?

<sup>20</sup> And what can David say more unto thee? for thou, Lord GOD, knowest thy servant.

<sup>21</sup> For thy word's sake, and according to thine own heart, hast thou done all these great things, to make thy servant know *them*.

<sup>22</sup> Wherefore thou art great, O LORD God: for *there is* none like thee, neither *is there any* God beside thee, according to all that we have heard with our ears.

<sup>23</sup> And what one nation in the earth *is* like thy people, *even* like Israel, whom God went to redeem for a people to himself, and to make him a name, and to do for you great things and terrible, for thy land, before thy people, which thou redeemedst to thee from Egypt, *from* the nations and their gods?

<sup>24</sup> For thou hast confirmed to thyself thy people Israel *to be* a people unto thee for ever: and thou, LORD, art become their God.

<sup>25</sup> And now, O LORD God, the word that thou hast spoken concerning thy servant, and concerning his house, establish *it* for ever, and do as thou hast said.

<sup>26</sup> And let thy name be magnified for ever, saying, The LORD of hosts *is* the God over Israel: and let the house of thy servant David be established

<sup>10</sup> And since the time that I commanded judges *to be* over my people Israel. Moreover I will subdue all thine enemies. Furthermore I tell thee that the LORD will build thee an house.

#### **Jeremiah 32:37-42**

<sup>37</sup> Behold, I will gather them out of all countries, whither I have driven them in mine anger, and in my fury, and in great wrath; and I will bring them again unto this place, and I will cause them to dwell safely:

<sup>38</sup> And they shall be my people, and I will be their God:

<sup>39</sup> And I will give them one heart, and one way, that they may fear me for ever, for the good of them, and of their children after them:

<sup>40</sup> And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; but I will put my fear in their hearts, that they shall not depart from me.

<sup>41</sup> Yea, I will rejoice over them to do them good, and I will plant them in this land assuredly with my whole heart and with my whole soul.

<sup>42</sup> For thus saith the LORD; Like as I have brought all this great evil upon this people, so will I bring upon them all the good that I have promised them.

#### **Isaiah 55:8-9**

<sup>8</sup> For my thoughts *are* not your thoughts, neither *are* your ways my ways, saith the LORD.

<sup>9</sup> For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

#### **1 Corinthians 3:16-17**

<sup>16</sup> Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and *that* the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

<sup>17</sup> If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which *temple* ye are.

#### **1 Corinthians 6:19**

<sup>19</sup> What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost *which is* in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

5 The responsibility for the building of the Temple was to be given to Solomon, II Samuel 7:12, 13

#### **1 Kings 8:19**

<sup>19</sup> Nevertheless thou shalt not build the house; but thy son that shall come forth out of thy loins, he shall build the house unto my name.

#### **1 Chronicles 17:11-14**

<sup>11</sup> And it shall come to pass, when thy days be expired that thou must go *to be* with thy fathers, that I will raise up thy seed after thee, which shall be of thy sons; and I will establish his kingdom.

<sup>12</sup> He shall build me an house, and I will stablish his throne for ever.

<sup>13</sup> I will be his father, and he shall be my son: and I will not take my mercy away from him, as I took *it* from *him* that was before thee:

<sup>14</sup> But I will settle him in mine house and in my kingdom for ever: and his throne shall be established for evermore.

#### **1 Chronicles 22:9-10**

<sup>9</sup> Behold, a son shall be born to thee, who shall be a man of rest; and I will give him rest from all his enemies round about: for his name shall be Solomon, and I will give peace and quietness unto Israel in his days.

<sup>10</sup> He shall build an house for my name; and he shall be my son, and I *will be* his father; and I will establish the throne of his kingdom over Israel for ever.

#### **2 Chronicles 6:9-10**

<sup>9</sup> Notwithstanding thou shalt not build the house; but thy son which shall come forth out of thy loins, he shall build the house for my name.

<sup>10</sup> The LORD therefore hath performed his word that he hath spoken: for I am risen up in the room of David my father, and am set on the throne of Israel, as the LORD promised, and have built the house for the name of the LORD God of Israel.

6 God's promises concerning Solomon were conditioned on his full obedience, II Samuel 7:14, 15;

#### **1 Chronicles 22:12-13**

before thee.

<sup>27</sup> For thou, O LORD of hosts, God of Israel, hast revealed to thy servant, saying, I will build thee an house: therefore hath thy servant found in his heart to pray this prayer unto thee.

<sup>28</sup> And now, O Lord GOD, thou *art* that God, and thy words be true, and thou hast promised this goodness unto thy servant:

<sup>29</sup> Therefore now let it please thee to bless the house of thy servant, that it may continue for ever before thee: for thou, O Lord GOD, hast spoken *it*: and with thy blessing let the house of thy servant be blessed for ever.

### Psalm 30:1

<sup>1</sup> I will extol thee, O LORD; for thou hast lifted me up, and hast not made my foes to rejoice over me.

### Isaiah 66:1-2

<sup>1</sup> Thus saith the LORD, The heaven *is* my throne, and the earth *is* my footstool: where *is* the house that ye build unto me? and where *is* the place of my rest?

<sup>2</sup> For all those *things* hath mine hand made, and all those *things* have been, saith the LORD: but to this *man* will I look, *even to him that is* poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word.

<sup>12</sup> Only the LORD give thee wisdom and understanding, and give thee charge concerning Israel, that thou mayest keep the law of the LORD thy God.

<sup>13</sup> Then shalt thou prosper, if thou takest heed to fulfil the statutes and judgments which the LORD charged Moses with concerning Israel: be strong, and of good courage; dread not, nor be dismayed.

### Psalm 89:30-32

<sup>30</sup> If his children forsake my law, and walk not in my judgments;

<sup>31</sup> If they break my statutes, and keep not my commandments;

<sup>32</sup> Then will I visit their transgression with the rod, and their iniquity with stripes.

7 God's covenant with David was confirmed with an oath and was capable of fulfillment only in the coming of the Messiah, II Samuel 7:16, 17;

### 1 Chronicles 17:14-15

<sup>14</sup> But I will settle him in mine house and in my kingdom for ever: and his throne shall be established for evermore.

<sup>15</sup> According to all these words, and according to all this vision, so did Nathan speak unto David.

### Psalm 89:1-4

<sup>1</sup> I will sing of the mercies of the LORD for ever: with my mouth will I make known thy faithfulness to all generations.

<sup>2</sup> For I have said, Mercy shall be built up for ever: thy faithfulness shalt thou establish in the very heavens.

<sup>3</sup> I have made a covenant with my chosen, I have sworn unto David my servant,

<sup>4</sup> Thy seed will I establish for ever, and build up thy throne to all generations. Selah.

### Psalm 89:20-37

<sup>20</sup> I have found David my servant; with my holy oil have I anointed him:

<sup>21</sup> With whom my hand shall be established: mine arm also shall strengthen him.

<sup>22</sup> The enemy shall not exact upon him; nor the son of wickedness afflict him.

<sup>23</sup> And I will beat down his foes before his face, and plague them that hate him.

<sup>24</sup> But my faithfulness and my mercy *shall be* with him: and in my name shall his horn be exalted.

<sup>25</sup> I will set his hand also in the sea, and his right hand in the rivers.

<sup>26</sup> He shall cry unto me, Thou *art* my father, my God, and the rock of my salvation.

<sup>27</sup> Also I will make him *my* firstborn, higher than the kings of the earth.

<sup>28</sup> My mercy will I keep for him for evermore, and my covenant shall stand fast with him.

<sup>29</sup> His seed also will I make *to endure* for ever, and his throne as the days of heaven.

<sup>30</sup> If his children forsake my law, and walk not in my judgments;

<sup>31</sup> If they break my statutes, and keep not my commandments;

<sup>32</sup> Then will I visit their transgression with the rod, and their iniquity with stripes.

<sup>33</sup> Nevertheless my lovingkindness will I not utterly take from him, nor suffer my faithfulness to fail.

<sup>34</sup> My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips.

<sup>35</sup> Once have I sworn by my holiness that I will not lie unto David.

<sup>36</sup> His seed shall endure for ever, and his throne as the sun before me.

<sup>37</sup> It shall be established for ever as the moon, and *as* a faithful witness in heaven. Selah.

### Numbers 24:17-19

<sup>17</sup> I shall see him, but not now: I shall behold him, but not nigh: there shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Sceptre shall rise out of Israel, and shall smite the corners of Moab, and destroy all the children of Sheth.

<sup>18</sup> And Edom shall be a possession, Seir also shall be a possession for his enemies; and Israel shall do valiantly.

<sup>19</sup> Out of Jacob shall come he that shall have dominion, and shall

destroy him that remaineth of the city.

**Isaiah 9:7**

<sup>7</sup> Of the increase of *his* government and peace *there shall be* no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

**Zechariah 14:9**

<sup>9</sup> And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one.

**Zechariah 14:16-17**

<sup>16</sup> And it shall come to pass, *that* every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles.

<sup>17</sup> And it shall be, *that* whoso will not come up of *all* the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, even upon them shall be no rain.

**Matthew 21:5-9**

<sup>5</sup> Tell ye the daughter of Sion, Behold, thy King cometh unto thee, meek, and sitting upon an ass, and a colt the foal of an ass.

<sup>6</sup> And the disciples went, and did as Jesus commanded them,

<sup>7</sup> And brought the ass, and the colt, and put on them their clothes, and they set *him* thereon.

<sup>8</sup> And a very great multitude spread their garments in the way; others cut down branches from the trees, and strawed *them* in the way.

<sup>9</sup> And the multitudes that went before, and that followed, cried, saying, Hosanna to the Son of David: Blessed *is* he that cometh in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest.

**Matthew 27:37**

<sup>37</sup> And set up over his head his accusation written, THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

**Luke 1:32-33**

<sup>32</sup> He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David:

<sup>33</sup> And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

**Revelation 19:11-16**

<sup>11</sup> And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him *was* called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.

<sup>12</sup> His eyes *were* as a flame of fire, and on his head *were* many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself.

<sup>13</sup> And he *was* clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.

<sup>14</sup> And the armies *which were* in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.

<sup>15</sup> And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

<sup>16</sup> And he hath on *his* vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

**III David's Reply -to God**

1 David was humbled before the comprehensive provisions of God's covenant with him, II Samuel 7:18;

**1 Chronicles 17:16**

<sup>16</sup> And David the king came and sat before the LORD, and said, Who *am* I, O LORD God, and what *is* mine house, that thou hast brought me hitherto?

**Isaiah 51:1**

<sup>1</sup> Hearken to me, ye that follow after righteousness, ye that seek the LORD: look unto the rock *whence* ye are hewn, and to the hole of the pit *whence* ye are digged.

2 David's answer proves that he understood, at least in a degree, the eternal scope of God's covenant, II Samuel 7:19;

**1 Chronicles 17:17**

<sup>17</sup> And *yet* this was a small thing in thine eyes, O God; for thou hast *also* spoken of thy servant's house for a great while to come, and hast regarded me according to the estate of a man of high degree, O LORD God.

**Matthew 13:17**

<sup>17</sup> For verily I say unto you, That many prophets and righteous *men* have desired to see *those things* which ye see, and have not seen *them*; and to hear *those things* which ye hear, and have not heard *them*.

**Hebrews 11:32-35**

<sup>32</sup> And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets:

<sup>33</sup> Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions,

<sup>34</sup> Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.

<sup>35</sup> Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection:

**1 Peter 1:10-12**

<sup>10</sup> Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace *that should come* unto you:

<sup>11</sup> Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow.

<sup>12</sup> Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into.

3 David praises God for divine condescension to himself and to Israel, II Samuel 7:20-29;

**1 Chronicles 17:18-27**

<sup>18</sup> What can David *speak* more to thee for the honour of thy servant? for thou knowest thy servant.

<sup>19</sup> O LORD, for thy servant's sake, and according to thine own heart, hast thou done all this greatness, in making known all *these* great things.

<sup>20</sup> O LORD, *there is none like thee*, neither *is there any* God beside thee, according to all that we have heard with our ears.

<sup>21</sup> And what one nation in the earth *is like thy people Israel*, whom God went to redeem *to be his own people*, to make thee a name of greatness and terribleness, by driving out nations from before thy people, whom thou hast redeemed out of Egypt?

<sup>22</sup> For thy people Israel didst thou make thine own people for ever; and thou, LORD, becamest their God.

<sup>23</sup> Therefore now, LORD, let the thing that thou hast spoken concerning thy servant and concerning his house be established for ever, and do as thou hast said.

<sup>24</sup> Let it even be established, that thy name may be magnified for ever, saying, The LORD of hosts *is the God of Israel*, *even a God to Israel*: and *let the house of David thy servant be established* before thee.

<sup>25</sup> For thou, O my God, hast told thy servant that thou wilt build him an house: therefore thy servant hath found *in his heart* to pray before thee.

<sup>26</sup> And now, LORD, thou art God, and hast promised this goodness unto thy servant:

<sup>27</sup> Now therefore let it please thee to bless the house of thy servant, that it may be before thee for ever: for thou blessest, O LORD, and *it shall be blessed* for ever.

**Deuteronomy 4:7-8**

<sup>7</sup> For what nation *is there so great*, who *hath God so nigh unto them*, as the LORD our God *is in all things that we call upon him for*?

<sup>8</sup> And what nation *is there so great*, that hath statutes and judgments *so righteous as all this law*, which I set before you this day?

**Deuteronomy 33:29**

<sup>29</sup> Happy *art* thou, O Israel: who *is* like unto thee, O people saved by the LORD, the shield of thy help, and who *is* the sword of thy excellency! and thine enemies shall be found liars unto thee; and thou shalt tread upon their high places.

#### **Numbers 23:8-10**

<sup>8</sup> How shall I curse, whom God hath not cursed? or how shall I defy, *whom* the LORD hath not defied?

<sup>9</sup> For from the top of the rocks I see him, and from the hills I behold him: lo, the people shall dwell alone, and shall not be reckoned among the nations.

<sup>10</sup> Who can count the dust of Jacob, and the number of the fourth *part* of Israel? Let me die the death of the righteous, and let my last end be like his!

#### **NOTES:**

In considering this wonderful lesson we might well begin with a passage not in the assigned text. From this passage we can see some of the applications that are to be found in a careful study of this incident in the life of Israel's second king.

Some have passed over this account quickly and have failed to see the eternal implications and the far-reaching effect of the provisions which were instituted here. This was no casual event. Its repercussions will be felt in eternity, for it was a climax in the life of the initial king of an eternal Kingdom. David was God's "firstborn, higher than the kings of the earth," a king who was anointed with holy oil by God Himself, and a man whose seed would "endure for ever, and his throne as the days of heaven" (Psalm 89:20, 27, 29).

#### **God's Ways**

"My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD.

"For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts" (Isaiah 55:8, 9).

Here is an instance where it is outstandingly demonstrated that God's ways are higher than our ways and that His thoughts are not our thoughts. The Prophet David and the Prophet Nathan saw, in this incident, the transcendent glory and fullness of God's plans as compared to the extreme limitations of their own. David's plans were not wrong. They merely were limited by his human vision and earthly perspective as well as by the fact that no person would dare entertain such a hope of eternal distinction as God had in mind for the man whose heart was perfect toward Him.

It has been said, by a certain devout man of a former day, that "God is the author of all our holy purposes, as well as of our good works; he first excites them; and if we be workers together with Him, He will crown and reward them as though they were our own, though He is their sole author." This man was merely stating that "every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning" (James 1:17).

Some have thought that David was being reprimanded when his request that he be allowed, to build a house for the Lord was refused. But the Word of God tells us that his purpose and intention was good and commendable. The refusal is but the demonstration that God's ways are not our ways and that His thoughts are higher than our thoughts.

#### **The Covenant by Sacrifice**

It is always good to prefer God and His interests above our own. It is never wrong to seek "first the kingdom of God" and to promote its enterprises, even to the sacrifice of our own comforts and pleasures and some of our so-called necessities. God is always pleased when we

honor Him above our own selves, our associates, our work, and our earthly interests. The Gospel of the Kingdom is a religion of sacrifice. There is no royal road to Heaven. There is no tramway to the mountain heights of heavenly glory. The saints who will be gathered to Christ will be those who have made a covenant with Him by sacrifice (*Psalm 50:1-6* <sup>1</sup> The mighty God, *even* the LORD, hath spoken, and called the earth from the rising of the sun unto the going down thereof. <sup>2</sup> Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God hath shined. <sup>3</sup> Our God shall come, and shall not keep silence: a fire shall devour before him, and it shall be very tempestuous round about him. <sup>4</sup> He shall call to the heavens from above, and to the earth, that he may judge his people. <sup>5</sup> Gather my saints together unto me; those that have made a covenant with me by sacrifice. <sup>6</sup> And the heavens shall declare his righteousness: for God is judge himself. Selah).

God is the Author of the purpose in the heart of a Heaven-bound pilgrim who will lay aside everything—even life itself—to see the Kingdom advanced and God's name exalted. That desire and purpose is not of earth; it is one of the good and precious things that comes down from Heaven itself. There never has been a sacrifice made by a true Christian — from the wealthy monarch, David, to the widow who quietly and unassumingly placed all she had in the offerings of God — but that is noticed by God and rewarded by Him. Those who have not made a covenant "by sacrifice" know nothing of the joys of such a covenant-relationship with God. The counting of our all as loss for Christ's Kingdom proves where our loyalty is, who our Sovereign is, and to whom we have given our affection.

There is no sacrifice that is too great to make for God, for He rewards and repays with hundredfold interest. There is nothing that we could have in this world, and then give up for Him, that would be too costly a sacrifice. This world will eventually pass away; and even though we should die before the great day of the Lord, when everything will melt with fervent heat, we would be forced to leave every earthly gain and step into eternity alone and unassisted by our previously acquired earthly possessions or advantages. But a sacrifice made for God will pay eternal rewards. We may not possess the trinkets and playthings of this earth, but we can have, instead, a huge store of eternal treasure.

### **Christ's Sacrifice for Us**

Sacrifice was necessary, even for the Son of God. He was exalted by God to a place and Name higher than any other because He was willing to make that sacrifice. He gave His life. He gave all. He did not consider death on the cross of infamy as too great a sacrifice. Christ's whole desire was that God's name might be glorified and that lost humanity might be reclaimed.

Christ was also offered the kingdoms of this world if He would renounce His allegiance to God and give it to the god of this world instead. Millions are doing that very thing; falling down in the wholehearted surrender of themselves, and of their •resources and abilities, to the one who can give them what amounts to absolutely nothing in return. Countless multitudes of these are among the group who take the sacred name upon their lips in what is actually mock worship. They are saying, "Lord, Lord," while their hearts are far from God. However, Jesus did not yield to Satan; and He is, in this point also, an example to all of us who follow in His steps.

### **David's Sacrifice of His Will and Plans**

David's house was built of cedar, but the Ark was sheltered in a tent. David asked what any man of God would request: that God might have his best. Nathan, the man of God, saw David's desire and, feeling that it was of God, gave his approval to the plan. But there was little, if any, sleep in the Prophet's chamber that night. Nathan and David both were concerned about the advancement of God's cause, but neither

was stubborn or willful about his ideas concerning it. Beyond a doubt, Nathan prayed that God would stop everything that was not in accord with His will and prosper only that which was His will. God can talk to one whose ears are open. He could speak to Nathan. We can see that David's heart was open to the perfect will of God, too, for in making his prayer of consecration and acceptance of the will of God he said that he had "found in his heart to pray this prayer" to God. One finds spiritual treasures only when **he** searches for them. Therefore, we know that David, too, was searching for the will of God in the matter even after he had received the approval of the man of God.

### God's Plans for David

God had not asked that a house be built for Him. No house can contain Him who is greater than the universe. He did not choose a particular city in which to dwell. He chose a man, instead, and that man was David. God was pleased with David's desire to build a house for Him; and eventually He allowed it to be done in a certain sense. But it was not built as a habitation for God. It was built, rather, for the honor of God's name.

No place of man's building could ever be adequate for God. He said, "To this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word" (Isaiah 66:1, 2). God saw, in David, a man in whom He could fulfill His covenant obligations toward a world of sinners. David found that God was looking beyond his desire to build the house of God. God was going to build a house for David; not, particularly, to honor the man, David, but to fulfill the covenant promises made to Abraham.

### God's True Temple

Our bodies are the temples of the Holy Ghost (**1 Corinthians 3:16-17** <sup>16</sup> Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and *that* the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? <sup>17</sup> If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which *temple* ye are. **1 Corinthians 6:19-20** <sup>19</sup> What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost *which is* in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? <sup>20</sup> For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's). We are bought with a price. We are not our own. God had chosen David to fulfill His eternal plans and purposes; and He is calling today, in an even greater measure, for those who will make the covenant "by sacrifice" and yield themselves wholly to Him who doeth righteously and justly.

God is seeking for those whom He can trust with the covenant responsibilities of the Kingdom of Heaven, that the Gospel might go forward **to** the whole earth, to the multitudes of people who are, outside that Kingdom and who do not know the way to enter. The work of spreading the Gospel today is the responsibility of the Holy Spirit and the Bride **of** Christ. Christ is at the right hand of God the Father, interceding for mankind, and has committed to us the ministry of reconciliation. For this work the Holy Spirit will fill us — His temples — empower us, guide us, and strengthen us. It is this responsibility that rests heavily upon all who live close to God and who are seeking only for God's glory and are preferring His ways to their own. Through them God can fulfill His promise that He made with the patriarchs of former ages.

### The Covenants

Here we catch another glimpse of God's great covenant-plan. He made an everlasting covenant with Abraham that was to be fulfilled in and through the nation of Israel. He made a specific covenant with Israel for that purpose. The covenant that God made with Abraham was confirmed with an oath, and because God could swear by nothing greater He swore by Himself (**Hebrews 6:13** <sup>13</sup> For when God made promise to Abraham, because he could swear by no greater, he sware by

### QUESTIONS

- 1 What was Israel's national state at the time of this lesson?
- 2 What two capacities did Nathan fill in this lesson?
- 3 Was David being reprimanded when his request was denied?
- 4 What was in the mind of David that prompted the request he made?
- 5 What did God have to say regarding David's request?
- 6 What plans did God have for David and for Israel, through David?
- 7 Who was eventually to do the thing David desired to do?
- 8 What do you find in common between the covenants God made with Abraham and with David?
- 9 How can the great promise made to David ever be fulfilled?
- 10 Describe David's attitude and his reply to God after God had made known His full will for David and for Israel.

himself).

The **nation** of Israel never fulfilled either the specific covenant that God made with them at Horeb or the provisions of the over-all covenant that He made with Abraham. But the obligations of both were fulfilled by **individuals** who chose the way of personal sacrifice rather than enjoying "the pleasures of sin for a season" (Hebrews 11:25) Thanks be to God that there were faithful ones such as Moses, Joshua, Deborah, Barak, Samuel, David, Elijah, Elisha, and John the Baptist, to fulfill God's plan concerning the salvation of the world.

The original covenant with Abraham was never to pass away and was confirmed with an oath. The covenant made with Israel was specifically for them and was to be fulfilled by Him who came to fulfill all righteousness. This covenant with Israel was not everlasting and was, therefore, **not confirmed with an oath**.

Some might question this point and say that there would be no difference, since God's Word is eternal anyway and that everything He has spoken will come to pass. This fact is, in itself, most certainly true. The confirmation of the one with an oath was to show its everlasting character and its superiority over that which was not thus confirmed. The Words which God spoke on Mount Sinai concerning Israel were for them, and them alone. And when all things spoken in the Law were fulfilled, that Law and covenant made with Israel passed away.

A pivotal point in the development of God's plan of salvation was reached at the time David requested that he be permitted to build the house of God. God renewed certain parts of the covenant that He made with Abraham, especially those aspects that concerned David and the place he was to fill in the Divine Plan.

God said, "I chose no city . . . to build an house, ... but I chose David" (I Kings 8:16). "I took thee [David] from the sheeppcote, . . . and have made thee a great name" (II Samuel 7:8, 9). And then God disclosed to the Prophet David, through the Prophet Nathan, that He would set up a kingdom that would never end, and appoint a permanent place for the remnant of Israel, who would eventually, own Him as their King God said that He would make David a house and that His mercy would never be taken away from that house as it was taken away from Saul.

David recognized the significance of this sweeping promise and covenant, for God also confirmed it with an oath. David prayed, "Thou halt spoken also of thy servants house for a great while to come." In this statement he lets us know that he saw in the distance the complete fulfillment of God's plan of the ages. He could see that his family could last forever only because it would culminate in Someone who will live, forever. We know that One is Jesus, the Christ. David was the second king of Israel, but he was the first earthly king in the Kingdom that will never end.

David also said, "And is this the manner of man, O Lord GOD?" It has been pointed out that the literal translation of the original Hebrew of this passage is not in the form of a question but is the statement: "And this, O Lord GOD, is the law of Adam." (Adam and man are from the same Hebrew word.) Beyond doubt, David is referring here to the first Messianic promise given, that the seed of the woman would bruise the head of the serpent. In other words, he was saying, "This will be the fulfillment of the great Messianic promises and hopes." And with heart overwhelmed and soul filled to overflowing, David went in before the Lord to pour out his heart in the eloquent prayer of consecration and praise that closes the text of our lesson.

### **The Covenant with Us**

Three hundred years later the Lord gave a stirring invitation to all to come "to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price." God promised He would make an everlasting covenant with those who

answered that call. And that there would be no mistake about what secured that covenant, He added, "Even the sure mercies of David" (Isaiah 55:1-3).

God's mercy was taken away from Saul, but it was guaranteed forever to David and to his seed because of David's covenant "by sacrifice." God has given His unchangeable Word to us that all the eternal blessings promised to David will be ours, also, if we answer the call and make the same covenant "by sacrifice" that David made.

We have seen that David became the first earthly king in the eternal Kingdom, and we can see that we, too, may be co-regents with that eternal King in the Kingdom that will know no end. God made a covenant with David and confirmed it with an oath, so we can know the absolute sureness of it and its everlasting character as well. It is not a covenant that is to be terminated when a certain purpose is fulfilled, as was the covenant specifically made with Israel on Horeb. God wants to make the same covenant with us that He made with David. This covenant is secured by the "sure mercies of David." This is the covenant that was sworn to by the holiness of God — the greatest attribute of the God who must swear by Himself because there is no greater than He (**Hebrews 6:13** <sup>13</sup> For when God made promise to Abraham, because he could swear by no greater, he swore by himself, **Psalm 89:3** <sup>3</sup> I have made a covenant with my chosen, I have sworn unto David my servant, **Psalm 89:35** <sup>35</sup> Once have I sworn by my holiness that I will not lie unto David.). Therefore, our future is secure, if we continue to fulfill the obligations that we have taken upon ourselves — if we make and keep that covenant "by sacrifice."