



## **“REASONS TO REJOICE”**

*“Your Words were found, and I ate them,  
and Your Word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart.” Jeremiah 15:16*

### ***I and II SAMUEL Lesson 17***

*In last week’s lesson, David finally brings the Ark back to Jerusalem. This was reason to celebrate, so David offers sacrifices and dances before the Lord to express his excitement and his love for God. Michal, David’s wife, cares more about the outward appearance of what he is doing than the attitude of his heart, and she ends up spending the rest of her life without children. Here in chapter 7, David gets a great idea. He wants to build God a permanent house. David himself lived in a beautiful house made of cedar, thanks to his friend Hiram, King of Tyre (II Samuel 5:11). Why should David live in such a palace while God lives in a flimsy, ol’ tent? Let’s see what God thinks about it.*

#### **First Day**

- 1. Let’s begin by reading II Samuel 7:1-17. What’s the main point in this section? What is the key verse? What new character do you meet?*
  
- 2. Name some reasons that David may have wanted to build God a house.*

*This is the first time the prophet Nathan is mentioned. There was always a prophet living during the reign of each one of the kings of Israel. The prophet’s function was two-fold: to communicate God’s Word to the king, and to urge the people to follow the Lord. Remember that judges and priests used to act as prophets until Samuel, who was a judge, priest, and prophet, bridging the gap between the time of judges and the monarchy.*

3. *How did Nathan first respond to David's idea? What changed his mind?*
4. *Did God get mad at David for making this request? Why or why not?*
5. *Read verses 4-17 again and answer the following questions:*
  - A. *What were the reasons God didn't want David to build Him a house?*
  - B. *Had God ever asked anyone to build Him one?*
  - C. *List the promises that God gave to Israel.*
  - D. *List the promises God gave to David.*

*In the ancient world it was thought that a god that lacked a proper temple would be considered inferior. In some countries it was the responsibility of the king to build and maintain that house. Although God rejected David's idea, He commended him for his desire, and promises David that He will build him a "house" or a "dynasty." God had always met with His people in the wilderness in a tent, dwelling among them. Jesus Christ came to earth and took upon Himself our humanity. John 1:14 says,*

*“And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth.” The word “dwelt” means “pitched His tent” among us. “Instead of meeting man in a flimsy tent made of linen, God met man in a flimsy tent made of flesh. He came to earth to identify Himself with us. God has always identified Himself with His people.” (McGee)*

*This may be one of the most significant chapters in the Old Testament. God promises that David’s line will be established forever. God was referring not only to David’s son Solomon, but to Christ. God was reaffirming the covenant promise He made with Abraham, promising an everlasting kingdom, with Christ on the throne. J. Sidlow Baxter calls this Davidic covenant “one of the supremely great passages of the Bible, and one of the principle keys to the divine plan of history.” Swindoll comments; “This covenant refers to Solomon, who would build the temple, and David’s lasting dynasty through the kings in Judah. But in a broader sense, the promise looks through the tunnel of time to David’s greater Son, the Messiah, and the eternal kingdom of God.”*

*According to Baxter, the Davidic covenant marks a fourth major development in messianic prophecy. The first covenant was with Adam, referring to the Messiah as the seed of the woman (Genesis 3:15); the second, to Abraham, identifying the messianic nation (Genesis 22:18); the third, to Jacob, pinpointing his son Judah as the messianic tribe (Genesis 49 :10); and here, to David, revealing the messianic family.*

*The prophets all taught that the Messiah would come from David’s line, specifically from a virgin (i.e.: Jeremiah 23:5). The New Testament opens by giving the generations of Jesus Christ, the son of David (Matthew 1:1). The Angel Gabriel tells Mary that the Lord God would give her son Jesus the throne of His father David (Luke 1:30-32). When Peter preaches on Pentecost, he reminds the people that David, “being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne” (Acts 2:29, 30). In Romans 1:1-3, Paul refers to Jesus as being made of the seed of David according to the flesh. In Revelation 22:16, Jesus Christ says of Himself, “I am the root and offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.”*

*All this began here, in II Samuel 7, with God making a promise to David. We can now hopefully understand why this chapter is so significant.*

## **6. Who gets to build God the house?**

*David's purpose in ruling Israel seemed to be to unify Israel and destroy its enemies. God didn't want a warrior to build His house. David says later in 1 Chronicles 28:3 that God wouldn't allow him to build the house because he was a man of war and had shed so much blood. In 1 Kings 5:3 Solomon tells Hiram of Tyre that his father was unable to build the temple "because of the warfare with which his enemies surrounded him, until the Lord put them under the soles of his feet."*

*Swindoll said, "God's no to David was not a rejection or a discipline of sin, but a redirection toward His will for his life."*

- 7. Has God given you the answer of "no" recently in something you've asked? How did you react?*
  
- 8. I read once that "God doesn't call everybody to build temples." What does that statement mean to you?*

*We'll finish our chapter tomorrow. Until then, rejoice that this promise was fulfilled in Jesus Christ! He will one day rule and reign forever! (Luke 1:32-33) That's the biggest, best-est, most important "Reason to Rejoice!"*

***Memory Verse of the Week:*** *"Therefore You are great, O Lord God. For there is none like You, nor is there any God besides You, according to all that we have heard with our ears." II Samuel 7:22*

### **Second Day**

***Practice your verse. Isn't it a wonderful praise to the Lord?***

- 1. Read II Samuel 7:18-29. How does David respond to God's answer? What seems to be his attitude?*

2. *Name some of the phrases that David uses to praise the Lord.*

*William Blaikie makes this comment, referring to verse 18, “It is a striking scene that is presented to us ‘when David went in and sat before the Lord.’ It is the only instance in Scripture in which anyone is said to have taken the attitude of sitting while pouring his heart out to God. Yet the nature of the communion was in keeping with the attitude. David was like a child sitting down before his father, to think over some wonderfully kind expression of his intentions to him, and pour out his full heart into his ear.”*

*David seems to be in awe, showing wonder and amazement for who God is and what He’s done.*

3. *Do you ever just “sit before the Lord” and pour out your heart? What are some ways that you express your awe and wonder to the Lord?*

4. *What do you learn about David’s heart toward God in this section?*

5. *In verse 28, David bases his life on a particular phrase in that sentence. What is it?*

6. *Do you base your life on that same phrase? How should it affect how you live?*

7. *Read II Samuel 8:1-18. Briefly summarize this chapter. (Also read I Chronicles 18:1-17.)*

*David enlarged the borders of Israel as he led these military campaigns. The people became subject to David and were required to pay a tribute to the nation to support their government, as well as to demonstrate that they were under the control of Israel.*

**8.** *According to verses 6 and 14, who was responsible for these victories?*

**9.** *Why didn't David keep all the horses? Read Deuteronomy 17:14-16.*

*Verse 4 tells us that David "hamstrung" most of the chariot horses, which means to disable the animal by cutting their hamstring. Ouch!*

**10.** *Why do you think Joab was over the army (vs 16)? Read 1 Chronicles 11:6.*

**11.** *Why do you think there aren't many details given about each war? What is the main point?*

**12.** *What was David's job, according to verse 15?*

*I think one of the key points in this chapter is a phrase found in verse 6: "The Lord preserved David wherever he went." God's divine favor certainly rested on David. Tomorrow we'll see how David kept his promise to Jonathan, his best friend.*

### **Third Day**

***What's your memory verse? Have you exalted the Lord today?***

**1.** *Let's begin by reading II Samuel 9:1-13. Record the facts you find.*

2. *Why is David looking for anyone left in the house of Saul? Review I Samuel 20:14-15 and 24:21.*

3. *Who tips David off?*

*Mephibosheth was living with Machir, the son of Ammiel, of Lodebar, on the other side of the Jordan, in the same region where his uncle Ishbosheth had tried to set up his kingdom. He had been 5 years old when his father, Jonathan, died. It was an ancient practice for a new king to kill any remaining family when they took over, so Mephibosheth was probably very afraid. David remembers a covenant with his best friend to take care of those in his household. He also made that promise to Saul. David is a man of his word and is ready and willing to make good on that promise.*

4. *Do you remember how he became lame?*

5. *How do you think Mephibosheth was feeling? How did Mephibosheth expect to be treated? How do you know? (What does he call himself?)*

6. *How does David treat him? What does he give him?*

7. *What does this story reveal about David's character?*

8. *Are you a woman of your word? If you make promises, do you keep them?*

9. *In what way is this story a picture of God's grace toward us?*

10. *Did Mephibosheth refuse David's free gift? How is this a picture of what our response should be toward God?*

*There are many spiritual applications in this story. Think about these questions and answer them, if you can, in your own words, using Scripture to support your answer.*

11. *How are we lame, like Mephibosheth, when we come to Christ?*

12. *David extended kindness to Mephibosheth on Jonathan's behalf. On whose behalf are we extended forgiveness? Read Ephesians 1:6-7.*

13. *When will we be seated at the banqueting table of the king?*

14. *How does this story speak to your heart?*

*This is a beautiful story that illustrates how the Lord treats us. We are sinners that need a Savior. Our sin has made us lame! The Father extends His grace towards us through His Son, Jesus Christ. Jonathan died for that grace to be given, and our Jesus died to enable us to have that free*



*gift. We, like Mephibosheth, are unworthy of this free gift of salvation, yet we humbly receive it, knowing how much we need God's mercy and grace. Isn't that awesome? Praise the Lord that He loves us so much, and keeps every promise He makes!*

### **Fourth Day**

***Do you know your verse yet? Do you believe He is great?***

*We see more of David's triumphs as we read this chapter. Although David is a warrior, he is man with a kind heart, as well.*

- 1. Read II Samuel 10:1-19. What is the main point of this chapter? Who are the main characters? Which "people groups" are mentioned?*
  
- 2. Why does David want to show Hanun kindness?*
  
- 3. Why is the King of Ammon insulted?*
  
- 4. How does Hanun repay David's kindness?*

*The Ammonites did not have a good history with Saul (I Samuel 11), which may have been why they were on friendly terms with David. Scripture doesn't tell us what kind of kindness Nahash showed David, but we know there were some friendly gestures made which David always remembered. Hanun listened to the bad counsel of his friends and chose to believe that David had sent men to spy. He did the unthinkable. A beard was a sign of honor, maturity, and authority, and for it to be half-shaven was humiliating. Cutting off a person's beard was equal to flogging and branding. The loss of their garments was no less humiliating. This treatment was definitely designed to publicly and completely humiliate David and his people. This was a challenge to war!*

5. *What did the Ammonites quickly do?*
  6. *How does David respond? Explain Joab's battle plan.*
  7. *Read I Chronicles 19. How much were the Syrians hired for?*
  8. *What exhortation to stand strong do you find? What is the parallel verse in II Samuel 10?*
  9. *In your own words, explain Joab's words in verse 12.*
  10. *What happened to the Ammonites? To the Syrians?*
- The Israelites got their courage from the Lord. I believe that in verse 12, Joab is telling the people that they would do their very best, using all the resources they had, but in the end, the outcome belonged to the Lord. We need to do our part, but God is in control, and He always knows the finish.*
11. *How is that good counsel for us today? Think of a situation in which Joab's words would apply to us.*
  12. *Have you ever been humiliated by an enemy, or had your act of kindness rejected? How did you respond?*

*13. Have you ever humiliated an enemy on purpose? What can you do to make it right?*

*14. Joab said, “May the Lord do what seems good to Him.” Are you willing to pray that prayer, and mean it? Are you willing to accept whatever the Lord does in your life?*

*We’ll end our lesson here for today. I pray that we would do our best, using all the resources that are available to us, but never fail to trust that ultimately God is in control. He is an awesome God. I pray that “the Lord does what seems good to Him.”*

### **Fifth Day**

***Write out your verse from memory.***

*I wanted to share a few points from Wiersbe’s commentary on the Old Testament about chapter 9 that were interesting. He says that this chapter presents a moving illustration of the salvation we have in Christ. Read each point and explain the comparison. (The Scripture is the clue!)*

#### ***I. Mephibosheth -- The Lost Sinner***

***A. He was born in a rejected family. (Romans 5:12, Ephesians 2:1-3)***

***B. He experienced a fall and could not walk. (Romans 5:12, Ephesians 2:2)***

*C. He was missing the best.*

*D. He would have perished without David's help.*

## ***II. David -- The Gracious Savior***

*A. David made the first move. (Romans 3:10-12, Luke 19:10)*

*B. David acted for Jonathan's sake. (Ephesians 1:6, 4:32, Hebrews 13:20-21)*

*C. It was an act of kindness. (Ephesians 2:7, Titus 3:4-7)*

*D. David called him personally and he came.*

*E. David took him into his own family. (1 John 3:1-2, John 1:11-13)*

*F. David spoke peace to him. (Romans 8:1)*

*G. David provided for his every need. (Romans 8:17)*

*H. David protected him from judgement. (Romans 8:33-39)*

*I hope this section ministered to your heart. God's grace is incredible, isn't it? I was lame, but now I can walk! I was blind, but now I see! I was dead, but now I am alive! Halleluia!*