

# ***FOCUS ON GOD'S PURPOSES***

2 Samuel 7:1-7, 11b-16, 18-21

We should choose to align our lives with God's purposes.

We need a sense of direction and purpose. We are bombarded by competing agendas coming at us from work, home, and society. If we don't recognize and focus on God's agenda for our lives, we will find ourselves maybe successful in the world's eyes, but frustrated and unfulfilled on the inside.

Background:

In the ancient world, what did kings do when they had no wars to fight?

Nebuchadnezzar surveyed his city and boasted, "Is not this great Babylon, that I have built?" (Dan. 4:30).

Solomon collected wealth and wives, entertained foreign guests, and wrote books.

Hezekiah seems to have supervised scholars who copied and preserved the Scriptures (Prov. 25:1).

But it appears from 2 Samuel 7:1-3 that in David's leisure hours, the king thought about the Lord and conferred with his chaplain Nathan about improving the spiritual condition of the kingdom of Israel. David wasn't simply a ruler; he was a shepherd with a heart concern for his people. In rest, he thought of work he could do, and in success he thought of God and His goodness to him.

## **GOOD INTENTIONS (2 Sam. 7:1-7)**

That David wanted to build a house for the Lord doesn't surprise us, because David was a man after God's own heart and longed to honor the Lord in every possible way.

David that he was living in a comfortable stone house with cedar paneling while God's throne was in a tent, and he shared his burden with Nathan.

This is the first appearance of Nathan in Scripture. Nathan seems to have been the prophetic voice of God to David during his reign. It was Nathan who confronted David about his sin (chap. 12) and also who saw to it that Solomon was crowned king.

Vs. 1-7 = Nathan was encouraging the king to pursue his desires and see what the Lord wanted him to do. God answered by giving Nathan a special message for the king, and Nathan faithfully delivered it. In the first part of the message, God reminded David that at no time had He ever asked any tribe or tribal leader to build Him a house.

Now that Israel was in the land and had peace, they needed a caring leader, not a temple, and that's why God called David to shepherd the people of Israel.

God had been with David to protect his life and prosper his service and had made David's name great. In spite of his desires and his oath, David would not build the temple.

This announcement must have disappointed David, but he accepted it graciously and gave the Lord thanks for all His goodness to him.

Application: Sometimes we misread God's will for our lives. Circumstances are one way of determining divine direction

Sometimes our want to is stronger than consulting God for his direction.

Question: Can you remember a time when you had GOOD INTENTIONS and went ahead of God in making a decision?

Question: What ways do you use for determining God's direction?  
(God's Word – Prayer – Circumstances – Wise advice from Mature Christians.

Personal – I sometimes have good intentions and big plans but they are not what God wants for me.

### **GOD'S INTENTIONS (2 Sam. 7:11b-16)**

Then the Lord turned from promises concerning the land and the nation to promises concerning David's throne and family.

Every king is concerned about the future of his kingdom, and the Lord promised David something above and beyond anything he could have imagined. David wanted to build God a house (the temple), but God promised to build David a house—a dynasty forever!

That Dynasty would start with David's son who would build the temple but one of his descendants would reign over the eternal kingdom.... THIS WOULD BE THE PROMISED MESSIAH.

Humanly speaking, the nation of Israel would have perished quickly had not God been faithful to His covenant with David, who was "the light [lamp] of Israel" (21:17). No matter to what depths the kings and people descended, the Lord preserved a lamp for David and for Israel.

We today are indebted to David for keeping the light shining so that the Savior could come into the world.

Application: We should align our wills with God's will

Application: God has a wonderful plan for our lives.

One of my favorite verses is Jesus speaking in John 10:10: I CAME THAT THEY MIGHT HAVE LIFE; AND MIGHT HAVE IT ABUNDANTLY.

That plan for our lives is not just for our lives only but includes and spans many generations beyond our lifetimes.

Application: God will keep his promises.

### **HUMBLE SUBMISSIONS (2 Sam. 7:18-21)**

We have already noted that there is a church today because God used David's family to bring the Savior into the world, and there is a future for Israel because God gave David a throne forever.

The way that David responded to this great Word from God is a good example for us to follow today. He humbled himself before the Lord and at least ten times called himself the servant of God. Servants usually stand at attention and wait for orders, but David sat before the Lord.

The covenant God gave David was unconditional; all David had to do was accept it and let God work.

It was God's grace that had brought David this far—from the sheepfolds to the throne—and now God had spoken about his descendants far into the future.

Vs. 19 = The translation means “DO YOU DEAL WITH EVERYONE IN THIS WAY?”

In one sense, the answer is no, because God chose the house of David to bring His Son into the world; but in another sense, the answer is yes, because any sinner can trust Jesus Christ and be saved and enter into the family of God.

WE CAN DEPEND ON GOD AND HIS PROMISES TO US.

Application: Our approach to God should involve much humility and gratitude to God for all He has done for us.

Application: We need to stay in touch with God in prayer

Personal: My good friend Ted Traylor says: “GRACE UNDERSTOOD YEALD HUMILITY”