

GAME OF THRONES

THE REIGN OF DAVID

A Worshipping Kingdom

Key idea:

When God graciously promised to bless David and his house, David responded in prayer with humility, praise, thanksgiving, and bold faith.

Key text:

2 Samuel 7:1–29

¹ After the king was settled in his palace and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ² he said to Nathan the prophet, “Here I am, living in a palace of cedar, while the ark of God remains in a tent.” ³ Nathan replied to the king, “Whatever you have in mind, go ahead and do it, for the LORD is with you.” ⁴ That night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, saying: ⁵ “Go and tell my servant David, ‘This is what the LORD says: Are you the one to build me a house to dwell in?’ ⁶ I have not dwelt in a house from the day I brought the Israelites up out of Egypt to this day. I have been moving from place to place with a tent as my dwelling. ⁷ Wherever I have moved with all the Israelites, did I ever say to any of their rulers whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?”” ⁸ “Now then, tell my servant David, ‘This is what the LORD Almighty says: I took you from the pasture and from following the flock to be ruler over my people Israel. ⁹ I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men of the earth. ¹⁰ And I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed. Wicked people will not oppress them anymore, as they did at the beginning ¹¹ and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders over my people Israel. I will also give you rest from all your enemies. “The LORD declares to you that the LORD himself will establish a house for you: ¹² When your days are over and you rest with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, who will come from your own body, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³ He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. ¹⁴ I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with the rod of men, with floggings inflicted by men. ¹⁵ But my love will never be taken away from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. ¹⁶ Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.”” ¹⁷ Nathan reported to David all the words of this entire revelation. ¹⁸ Then King David went in and sat before the LORD, and he said: “Who am I, O Sovereign LORD, and what is my family, that you have brought me this far?” ¹⁹ And as if this were not enough in your

sight, O Sovereign LORD, you have also spoken about the future of the house of your servant. Is this your usual way of dealing with man, O Sovereign LORD? ²⁰“What more can David say to you? For you know your servant, O Sovereign LORD. ²¹For the sake of your word and according to your will, you have done this great thing and made it known to your servant. ²²“How great you are, O Sovereign LORD! There is no one like you, and there is no God but you, as we have heard with our own ears. ²³And who is like your people Israel — the one nation on earth that God went out to redeem as a people for himself, and to make a name for himself, and to perform great and awesome wonders by driving out nations and their gods from before your people, whom you redeemed from Egypt? ²⁴You have established your people Israel as your very own forever, and you, O LORD, have become their God. ²⁵“And now, LORD God, keep forever the promise you have made concerning your servant and his house. Do as you promised, ²⁶so that your name will be great forever. Then men will say, ‘The LORD Almighty is God over Israel!’ And the house of your servant David will be established before you. ²⁷“O LORD Almighty, God of Israel, you have revealed this to your servant, saying, ‘I will build a house for you.’ So your servant has found courage to offer you this prayer. ²⁸O Sovereign LORD, you are God! Your words are trustworthy, and you have promised these good things to your servant. ²⁹Now be pleased to bless the house of your servant, that it may continue forever in your sight; for you, O Sovereign LORD, have spoken, and with your blessing the house of your servant will be blessed forever.”

Key points:

1. After the Ark of the Covenant, which was the very holy, powerful Presence of God, came to Jerusalem, David wanted to build a permanent Temple.
2. God had commanded a permanent place for worship to be built, but He did not want David to be the one to build it.
3. God made a gracious covenant with David, full of astounding promises about him and his family.
4. David wants to build a house for God’s Name, but God promised to build David’s house and name!
5. God promised to make David’s name great, to build a dynasty for David, and that David’s son would become king and build the Temple.
6. David responded to God’s work and His covenant promises in a prayer that was full of humility, praise, thanksgiving, and bold confidence to claim the promise of God.

Questions for discussion/application:

1. What part of Sunday's text and teaching stood out most to you? Why?
2. Is it surprising that despite David's devotion to God and His desire to build a Temple for worship that God said no?
3. Has God ever said "No" to something I desired to do - even if it seemed to be a good thing? How do I respond when God says "No" to my desires and plans?
4. How is God's covenant promise far greater than David's desire to build the Temple? After the covenant promise is revealed, does David seem disappointed that he can't build the Temple - or awestruck at the greatness of the promise of God?
5. Bret said, "David's family will build the house for God - but only after God builds David's house! This is always the way of the Gospel - God graciously acts in our behalf before we do anything for Him." What do you think of this idea? Is this the way of the Gospel?
6. Are my prayers full of humility, or are they self-centered? What does this reveal about my heart before God?
7. Why is giving to the work of God part of our worship? Is giving to the work of God a regular part of my life? Why or why not?
8. Bret said, "The path to true humility is not focusing on trying to humble myself, but rather seeing and speaking the greatness of God." What do I think of this idea? How do I put this idea into practice?
9. David's prayer is full of praise for Who God is and also thanksgiving for what God has done - all before he begins to ask God to do anything. Does this characterize my prayer life? How much of my time in prayer is spent in praise and thanksgiving, and how much in making requests?
10. David was bold to claim the promises of God in prayer. Am I bold in this way? How much are my prayers filled with the promises of God?
11. Where does my confidence in God answering my prayer rest? Is it my character or God's? Is it my faith, or God's faithfulness?

Preview of next week:

Title: The Davidic Covenant - An Everlasting Kingdom

Text: 2 Samuel 7/1 Chronicles 17