

### III. DAVID PLANS TO BUILD A TEMPLE

#### A. Overview (2 Sam 7.1-3)

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1. 2 Samuel 7 is not chronologically placed
  - a. Likely occurred much later in David's reign
  - b. However David did have a strong desire for this
2.
  - a. He soon came to have a palace of cedar
  - b. Bothered him that God's ark and meeting place was in a tent
  - c. This later became his passion to complete

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#### 3. The prophet Nathan encouraged him in this

#### B. God's plan instead [also 1 Chrn 17.1-15]


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1. (7.4-5) God corrected Nathan that same night
  - a. God indicated that David wasn't the one to build it by giving a rhetorical question
  - b. He sent him to correct David the next day
2. (7.6-9a) God lays out His reasoning
  - a. He never asked for a house
    - 1). He has been content to dwell in a tent from the beginning of the exodus
  - b. David was selected to be a ruler over his people
    - 1). That is his responsibility to focus on
3. (7.9b-11) God then describes the future under David
  - a. God will make his name great
  - b. David and his people will enjoy rest from their enemies
  - c. God will build a dynasty for David

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4. (7.12-17) Finally, God indicated further support for David
    - a. God will establish a kingdom for a descendant of David
    - b. That ruler will build a house for God
    - c. The throne of the ruler will last forever
    - d. The ruler will be like a son to God, and God a father to him
      - 1). He will be corrected with God's actions if he sins
    - e. God will not take His covenant from him, as He did with Saul
    - f. David's family, his kingdom, and throne will last forever
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5. This covenant with David continues through Jesus
    - a. He is a Son of David
    - b. He is building a spiritual temple
    - c. He experienced God's discipline during His suffering in His trial and on the Cross for others
    - d. His throne is established at the right hand of God
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C. David's prayer (2 Sam 7.18-29) [also 1 Chr 17.16-27]

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1. David was overcome by what Nathan related about God's covenant
    - a. He went to pray before the ark, addressing God
    - b. He expressed his astonishment about God's faithfulness to him
      - a. What God had already done to raise him up from where he was
      - b. The promises that God was making to him and his dynasty
  2. He praised God for these commitments
    - a. God's revelations set Him apart from all other so called gods
    - b. God's support of Israel in freeing them and giving them victories
    - c. God's permanent relationship with Israel forever
  3. He concluded with asking God to carry out what He promised
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D. A special note in this prayer related to America

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1. Note the following from 7.23


"...“And what one nation on the earth is like Your people Israel, whom God went to redeem for Himself as a people and to make a name for Himself, and to do a great thing for You and awesome things for Your land, before Your people whom You have redeemed for Yourself from Egypt, from nations and their gods?...”
  2. I suggest that God did the same in establishing the American Constitution and government
    - a. I surmise that God did this for similar purposes to establishing Israel
      - 1). "... to make a Name for Himself..."
      - 2). "... to do a great thing for [Him]"
      - 3). "... to do "awesome things for Your land..."
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- b. de Tocqueville, Alexis. Democracy in America (1840), part 2, p. 36:

"...The position of the Americans is therefore quite exceptional, and it may be believed that no other democratic people will ever be placed in a similar one."
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- c. For nearly two hundred years, God used America to ...
    - 1). Add to the well-being of large numbers of emigrants from a wide variety of peoples
    - 2). Develop ideas, commerce, and techniques that bettered the lives of people worldwide
    - 3). Serve as a leader in staving off imperialism and injustice in two world wars
    - 4). Send the Gospel throughout the world, and support the development of local pastors and ministries

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- d. And we BELIEVERS have squandered our favored position and awesome responsibilities
  - 1). Allowed the Bible to be pushed out of public institutions
  - 2). Accepted successful attacks on the family unit, God's core structure
  - 3). Accepted the murder of millions of innocent unborn babies
- e. We need to pray and act on the now well-quoted verse 2 Chr 7.14 ..

" ... If ...My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin and will heal their land...."

#### **IV. DAVID EXPERIENCES TRIUMPHS UNDER GOD'S DIRECTION**

##### A. He 1st takes on old enemies (2 Sam 8.1-2) [also 1 Chr 18.1-2]

- 1. God had promised David rest from all of Israel's enemies
- 2. His first conquest was over the Philistines

- a. (1 Chr 18.1) He conquered and took control of Gath
- b. This was the key launch point Philistines used to raid Israel, and was now under David's control

##### B. His next conquest was over Moab

- a. Habit of Eastern kings to subject their war prisoners to lie on the ground in subjection
  - 1). In this case, David determined that 2/3 of them would be executed & 1/3 committed to serving David through tribute
    - a.) This would have been considered generous in those times
  - 2). The 2/3 were determined by a measuring line strung among them
- b. This large execution seems harsh
  - 1). Other Jewish writers state that Moab had massacred his parents and family that he had left with the King of Moab

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B. David's next move was against the Arameans

1. (8.3-4) Aram was arising at the same time as Israel under Saul & David
  - a. David set out to stop this threat from the northeast
  - b. His army defeated the Zobah Arameans near the Euphrates River
  - c. (1 Chr 18.4) This likely gives a more accurate count of those captured
  - d. Since Israel didn't have a cavalry, he ordered the horses lamed to render them useless for military purposes

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MAP - ARAM

2. (8.5-6) The Arameans at Damascus ran to help those at Zobah
  - a. David killed 22,000 of their soldiers
  - b. He set occupation garrisons in Damascus, & they paid tribute

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3. (8.7-8) These victories brought much in spoils back to Jerusalem
  - a. The golden shields from Zobah ended up in the temple later
  - b. Solomon later used the substantial amount of bronze gained to make the temple's brazen "sea", the large pillars, & utensils
4. (8.9-12) Gratitude of Toi, king of Hamath
  - a. Hamath was located approx 125 miles north of Damascus (map)
  - b. Hadadezer, king of Zobah, had been fighting with Toi
    - 1). In gratitude for David's victory over Zobah, Toi sent his son to David with silver, gold, and bronze
  - c. David dedicated all of the riches gained to the Lord

C. David's victory against the Edomites (8.13-14)

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1. vs 13: Is this Arameans or Edomites ?
  - a. (1 Chr 18.12) Says they were Edomites
    - 1). This was likely correct because ...
      - a.) The Valley of Salt is near the south end of the Dead Sea, an unlikely location for a large Aramean force
      - b.) The Hebrew word for "Aramean" and Edomite are nearf alike (scribal error in the Masoritic text ??)
      - c.) vs 14 refers to acions taken in Edom
2. David put garrisons throughout Edom
3. This victory greatly enhanced David's reputation as a brilliant commander

## V. DAVID ESTABLISHES A GOVERNMENT

### A. David established a solid court to govern Israel

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- . Driven by the expansion of Israel's territories & tribute peoples
- . Key appointees in his court (2 Sam 8.15-18)
  - a. Joab - military commander
    - 1). In spite of the curse on him by murdering Abner
    - 2). He had won the right by leading the charge to capture Jebus
  - b. Jehoshaphat - recorder, to keep the royal records
  - c. Shared priesthood
    - 1). Zadok, the priest under Saul
    - 2). Ahimelech, son of David's priest Abiathar
  - d. Seraiah - secretary to pen royal declarations
  - e. Benaiah - commander of mercenaries
    - 1). Cherethites and Pelethites, closely related to Philistines
    - 2). Served as the royal bodyguard

### B. David did not miss the opportunity to show his government had compassion

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- 1. (2 Sam 9.1-5) David remembers his oath to Jonathan
  - a. A triumphant king usually eliminated the family of the king he replaced
  - b. David's spirit was against this and sought to show kindness toward Saul's remaining family because of his oath to Jonathan (1 Sam 20.14-17)
  - c. He learns from a former servant of Saul about Mephibosheth
    - 1). Crippled son of Jonathan (2 Sam 4.4)
    - 2). The only member of Saul's family left
    - 3). David sends for him
- 2. (9.6-8) Mephibosheth comes to David with some fears
  - a. Not sure if David would finish the job of eliminating his family
  - b. David assures him that he was honoring his covenant with Jonathan
    - 1). All of Saul's lands will be restored to him
    - 2). He will eat at David's table regularly, i.e. be a part of the court
  - c. Mephibosheth bows again and says he is unworthy of this
- 3. (9.9-13) David instructs Saul's servant Ziba to serve Mephibosheth
  - a. He is to manage his restored lands
  - b. Ziba had fifteen sons & twenty servants > enough to do this

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4. Scholars debate why include this account of Mephibosheth here ?
- a. Since God was keeping His word to David, David was keeping his word to Jonathan
  - b. Ziba and Mephibosheth are introduced
    - 1). Characters who will be a part of David's later troubles
  - c. Since David could afford to show grace, he was obvious secure in his throne
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#### IV. DAVID'S PERSONAL TROUBLES

##### A. Campaigns against Aram and Ammon

##### 1. Discussed before in 2 Samuel 8.3-8, expanded here because ...

- a. Israel almost didn't prevail in this struggle
- b. Shows that David became involved in distant cities
- c. Led up to David's "greatest" sin

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##### (2 Sam 10.1-5) David's peaceful gesture rebuked

##### a. Nahash, king of the Ammonites, died

- 1). He had shown kindness before to David
- 2). David sent ambassadors to console his son, Hanun

##### b. Hanun's princes advised that David was sending spies instead

- 1). The princes humiliated David's ambassadors by cutting half their beards off and their clothes up to their waist
  - a.) Their beard is the symbol of their masculinity
  - b.) Cutting the lower clothing away symbolized castration

##### 2). They were then sent back to David

- a.) He met them before they got into Jerusalem
- b.) He advised them to stay at Jericho until their beards regrew

##### 3. The battle is started

##### a. (10.6-8) Ammon hires mercenaries

##### 1). The Ammonites realized David would attack because of this insult

- a.) They hired 33,000 mercenaries from the Aram areas northward

##### 2). David sent Joab and the army to attack the Ammon capital at Rabbah

- a.) The Ammonites were in battle array in front of the capital
- b.) The mercenaries were in the field, possibly hidden

##### b. (10.9-12) Israel is caught in a trap

##### 1). Joab divides his forces to meet this danger

- a.) He will fight the mercenaries
- b.) His brother Abishai will lead a forces against the Ammonites
- c.) Joab urges courage and faith in God

##### 2). (10.13-14) A costly win ?

- a.) Joab's forces prevailed and the mercenaries fled
  - b.) The Ammonites then retreated into their city
  - c.) Joab returned to Jerusalem, maybe because of losses or because of no siege resources
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These notes were originally written as I composed this study for our Faculty & Staff Bible Study at the local university. It is important to note that they follow the narrative in *Old Testament Survey Series: The Books of History* by James E. Smith (1995, College Press Publishing Company) very closely. It is the best summary I found, so it is the foundation for the study. In many cases, I used Dr. Smith's words directly, sometimes paraphrased them for clarity, sometimes enlarged on them with other resources. Since I didn't expect to publish the notes, I did not cite them at the time. It is now difficult to distinguish quotes from Dr. Smith, material from other resources, or what thoughts the Spirit gave me. Suffice to say that, if it is insightful to your spiritual growth, give all the glory to the Spirit, some credit to Dr. Smith, and none to me. I'm just the Spirit-led editor and teacher.

*Bob Kostrubanic, November 5, 2021*

