

# 2 SAMUEL

## IN SEARCH OF A KING PART II



### Sermon 3 – 2 Samuel 7 “Who will build a house for whom”?

If you weren't there for Sunday's sermon, here is the video which was recorded for the Tewantin congregation: <https://youtu.be/TjgAlcdgGTQ>

#### Introduction

- i. Share an occasion where you thought you were totally doing the right thing, but God obviously had other plans?
  - ii. Read Isaiah 55:8-9 and James 4:13-15 and share *how* we should be making our plans?
1. **Who is God?** – read vv 1-11a
    - a. Why was life so good for David at this point?
    - b. The ark was in a tent. Why did this worry David?
    - c. Why did Nathan say: “*Whatever you have in mind, go ahead and do it, for the Lord is with you*”? List all the reasons God tells Nathan that this is not such a good idea.
    - d. What do we learn in these verses about the nature of God?
    - e. What do we learn as a consequence, about the nature of church buildings?
  2. **I will build a house for you!** – read vv12b-17
    - a. Recall all you can about the details of the ‘house’ God promises David.
    - b. Did you get what Mark was teaching about how prophecy in the Old Testament is fulfilled?
    - c. Read vv9b-11 again. When will this *finally* be fulfilled?
    - d. A Christian friend shares with you how distressed they are at the state of the world. “Didn’t God promise to do something about all that’s bad in the world?” they ask. How would you answer them?
    - e. What difference does this awesome hope we have in the future kingdom make to your life today and tomorrow.
  3. **Who am I?** – read vv18-29
    - a. Why is David so overwhelmed and full of praise?
    - b. We are not David, but we are recipients of God’s amazing grace. Re-read or re-play the part (under this heading) where Mark recalled just some of the reasons we might also respond “who am I” and “who are you Lord” – “how great are you Lord”? How do you feel about the nature of God’s grace to you?
    - c. Why did Mark say that if none of what he had been saying in this section means anything to you, then he needs to have a chat with you? Why is that he preached here so crucial to our understanding? (If you know someone at church, for whom this meant nothing or perhaps caused confusion, will you please encourage them to speak to Mark?)

*What will be your personal take from this passage or study?*

*Pray for one another (1) that the brilliant hope of the kingdom to come as promised to David will change us*

*And (2) that we will have a true sense of ‘who am I?’ and ‘how great are you Lord!’ as we revel in all the Lord has done for us through Jesus.*

**Date:** 19 August 2018  
**Services:** 730, 930, Tewantin (via video), Peregian  
**Series:** The King and the Ark  
**Passage:** 2 Samuel 7  
**Title:** Who will build a house for whom?

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## INTRODUCTION

- We can sometimes make plans that seem good and right to us, but because we can't see the big picture – we can't see the end from the beginning... we sometimes can't see that there is a **better** plan around the corner!
- Sometimes as a church leader, I have presumed to know God's will – what is good and right – but God has brought those plans to a halt...
- Have **you** been in that position?
- I remember one of our sermons from 1 Samuel last year when Israel got into trouble, plotting a course of action but without enquiring of the Lord
- I'm reminded of **James 4** - do you recall? - *Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." 14 Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. 15 Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's **will**, we will live and do this or that."*
- Making **plans** – seemingly **good** plans – **right** plans – **moral** plans – but God has had **other** plans... **better** plans – **higher** plans...
- Nothing **wrong** with your plans as **such**... they just weren't **God's** plans for you at that **time**...
- For what do we read in Isaiah 55?  
*"As the heavens are higher than the earth,  
so are my ways higher than your ways  
and my thoughts than your thoughts. //*
- Well – King David discovers this **BIG** time in 2 Samuel 7, as he makes plans to build a **house** for God... but God reveals alternate plans – **bigger** plans – **big-picture** plans... // plans which would ultimately lead to the coming of the Lord Jesus.... and his eternal reign in the new heavens and new earth!
- So here is where we are heading this morning...

1. **Who is God?**
2. **I will build a house for you!**
3. **Who am I?**

- A quick reminder of what we saw last week... ch 6:  
David wanted to bring the ark of the covenant – that **amazing** symbol of God's rule and presence – up to the city of God – to **Jerusalem**.
- That plan hit a **hitch** as the cart on which the ark was being carried hit a **ditch**... and **Uzzah**, who put out a hand to steady the ark, and all those watching on, were reminded, that when God said the ark was not to be **touched**, he **MEANT** it.
- So after the ark took a holiday at **Obed-Edom's place**, David tried **again** to bring the sign of God's presence up to Jerusalem... //
- This time, the ark was **carried** as God required, (not **trolleyed**...) and the ark was set in a **tent** in the city which David had pitched for it...

- So **here** is where we pick up the story this morning:

## 1. WHO IS GOD?

- David and Nathan were sitting back having a couple of **beers** one **night**... (actually – the text doesn't **mention** the beers...)
- ...life was **good**... David's palace was **fantastic**...
- The Philistines had settled **down**...
- The ark was now in the **Holy City**... //
- But... **hang on**...// wait a **minute**... "the ark is in a **tent**... and I'm in this great **palace** – that can't be right **can** it...?" ...David says to Nathan. (You'll see that in vv1-2.)
- And Nathan the prophet basically says – (v3) – **go for it!** In Australian terms – "yeah – **whatever** mate... sounds **good** to **me**..." //
- But Nathan is soon **roused** from his laid-back approach.
- Look with me at vv4-7 - *But 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?**"*
- Who is **God**??
- Who is **God**?? /
- Not someone who can be contained in a **house**!
- And not someone to sit **still** as it were... /
- He's been a God from the beginning of Israel's history who has been **travelling** with his people...
- He's been in a **portable tent**... because in their wilderness wanderings and then in their early days in the promised Land – they **wandered around**... and God was **alongside** them... with them – **leading** them out when it was time to move on – then **settling** with them when their camp came to **rest**.
- Even when David's son Solomon eventually built a temple – he makes it clear (1 Kings 8:27)... *'But will God really dwell on earth? The heavens, even the highest heaven, cannot contain you. How much less this temple I have built! //*
- And when Paul was talking to the people of Athens with all the magnificent pagan temples around – he made it clear – Acts 17:24 - *The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands.*
- **Who is God?**
- Not someone who can be **contained**...
- A God who has shown himself **alongside** his **people**...
- (which is, by the way, why you must resist the temptation to call this building the '**house of God**'... even the **OT** didn't see the **temple** that way... if **THIS** is his **house**, than you God is too **small**!)
- And he is certainly **NOT** a God who has ever **demand**ed that a temple be built for him!! - look with me v7 - *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?**"*
- Can't fit in **him** to a **building**...

- Can't keep him **down**
- And he's never **asked** for it!! //
- So, God turns this matter on its **head** so to speak: because here is what he says...

## 2. I WILL BUILD A HOUSE FOR YOU!

- Have a look with me at v11b - *“The Lord declares to you that the Lord himself will establish a house for you...”*
- There's a wonderful play on words here... **David** wants to build a **house** for God consisting of **bricks** and **mortar**... //
- ...but **God** will instead build a **house** for David – consisting of a **ruling dynasty** – v16 - *Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your **throne** will be established **forever**.*
- This is all of **God's work** – all of his **grace**.
- David was **plucked** from obscurity – v8 – from tending **sheep** to ruling **Israel**... only **God** could bring that **about**!
- And as **ruler** – he's had God alongside him fighting all his battles... cutting off his **enemies**...
- And **now** what are his plans for his David and his people? V9b - *Now I will make your **name great**, like the names of the greatest men on 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**...*
- Lesson re fulfillment of prophecy...
- **Immediate** but **partial** fulfilment at the time
- **Immediate** but **partial** fulfilment after the **exile**...
- **Immediate** and **partial** fulfilment at the coming of **Jesus** and his **death** and **resurrection**...
- **Perfect** and **complete** fulfilment at the end of **this age** – in the new heavens and the new earth...
- So – here – **partial** fulfilment of this in the time of **David**...
- **More** so under **Solomon** – **greatest** of Israel's Kings and the kingdom never more **significant**, more **peaceful**, more **righteous**, more **prosperous** under Solomon's rule... and if you were there you would have thought – this is it – this is the Kingdom of God!! ///
- But – eventually – as for **David** – as for **Solomon** – all went **pear shaped**...
- And we're left asking – hang on God – you promised a **Son of David** on David's **throne** and **righteousness** for **ever**... what **happened**?
- What **happened** when **David** went **astray** and **Solomon** lost the **plot**?
- What **happened** when every subsequent King – only 2 or 3 were godly – most were **useless** – **evil** – leading God's people astray... and even the **best** never lived up to **David** at **his best** or **Solomon** at **his best** or the high ideal of God's **promises**... God – what are you **doing**...? //
- Only **one** in the David's line was **perfect**
- Only **one** never led God's people astray... never fell for sin... never turned to **idols**...
- And his Kingdom... **WILL** never end...!
- And he will **perfectly** give us a **home**... where we will be no longer **disturbed**... where **wicked** people will not **oppress** us any more... and we will have **rest** – **rest** from our **enemies** – **rest** from our **labours**...
- And this great **King** and his **kingdom WILL** endure **forever**... !

- Jesus and the **new heavens** and the **new earth** –
- And we can and should have great **confidence** and **deep expectant joy** in that **great day**...! //
- Well David was blown **away** by God's **promises**...!
- **Humbled... excited... overwhelmed...**
- So he asked a **very good question**...
- Here's the question:

### 3. WHO AM I?

- **Who am I**, that should have done what you have done for me and **promised** what you have **promised** for me?
- Have a look with me at vv18-19 - *Then King David went in and sat before the Lord, and he said: "Who am I, 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, Sovereign Lord, you have also spoken about the future of the house of your servant – and this decree, Sovereign Lord, is for a mere **human**!"*
- David is completely **blown away** by God's **goodness** to him....
- ...**who am I** – what is my **family** that you've bought me this far...?
- From **shepherd** to **king**...
- From **king** – to the promise of a **house** – a **dynasty** – a **future** – **guaranteed** – never **failing**...!
- Who am I?  
**WHO ARE YOU LORD !!!**
- ... there is **no one like YOU!** –
- no one like you – vv22ff – you've redeemed **Israel** as a **people** for **yourself**,  
- you've made a **name** yourself  
- you've performed **great and awesome wonders** by driving out the **nations** and giving us the **land**...  
- we are your **people forever**... and you are our **God!**
- **Who am I?** //
- Who are **you Lord**?  
How **great** are you Lord!  
There is **no one** like you! ///
- Brothers and sisters...
- We are **not** David... one of our offspring will **not** the everlasting King...
- But friends, if **you** have **never** asked those two questions – "*who am I*"? and "*Who are you Lord*"? then perhaps you've not yet understood the **significance** of what has been done for **you**.
- **Who am I Lord...?**
- **Who am I Lord** that you should even know my **name**?
- **Who am I** that you should **choose** me before the **creation** of the **world**?
- **Who am I** that you should see me when I was being put together in my mother's **womb**?
- **Who am I Lord** that **every day** of my life should be written in your book before **one** of them came to **be**?
- **Who am I Lord** that you should send your only **Son** for **me**?
- **Who am I Lord** that you should step into our world in the person of Jesus and live **among** us?

- **Who am I** that you should **reveal** yourself to me?
- **Who am I** that you should **soften** my **heart** to you – **open** my **ears** to you
- **Who am I** Lord that you should **die** for me while I was still a sinner?
- **Who am I** Lord that you should me make – though once **dead** through **sin** – now **alive** in **Christ** – and **seat** me with Jesus in the **heavenly realms**?
- **Who am I** Lord that you should save me by **grace** and give me the gift of **faith**?
- **Who am I** Lord that you should take my **place** on the **cross** so that I should go **free**?
- **Who am I** Lord that you should take my **sin** and give me your **righteousness**?
- **Who am I** Lord that you should **adopt** me as one of your **children**?
- **Who am I** Lord that you should deign to dwell in me by your Holy Spirit... transforming me into your Son's glory?
- **Who am I** Lord that you would look on me and see only the **blamelessness** of your **Son**?
- **Who am I** Lord that I should one day stand **spotless** and **blameless** before you for all **eternity**?
- **Who am I** Lord that you will take me into the heavenly city when I shall see you face to face and live forevermore without **tears** or **pain** or **death**? ///

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- And can I say – if **none** of what I've said connects with you today – or fails to **move** or **thrill** you – then we'd **better talk**... we really had.... Because I'm not sure you've understood the **gospel**... I'm not sure you'll be **safe** when Jesus **returns**!

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- **Who am I** Lord.... /// and then...
- And who are you Lord?
- How **great** are you Lord?
- There is **no one** like **you**! //
- ...there is no one like you who has made such **awesome promises** to his **people** and then been utterly and completely **faithful** to them.... Though they turned their back on you!
- No one like you who is our **shepherd** in whom **all** our needs are **met**
- No one like you who has **triumphed** and **overcome** all our **enemies**... and has won **victory** over **evil** and the **evil one**
- No one like you who should **condescend** into the **muck** and spiritual **poverty** of this world – so that we through **your** poverty might be made **rich**..
- There is no one like you **Jesus** who didn't consider **equality** with the Father something to cling on to for his own advantage, but **gave it up for us**... to **serve us** by **dying** for us...
- How **great** are you **Lord**!!
- There is **no one** like **you**!!
- Friends... we **know** more than David **ever** knew!
- What **he** knew in **part** and only **saw** at a **distance** – we know **fully** and look back on (and forward to) with **certainty**...!
- and **David's** question and statement should surely be on our **lips** and fill our **hearts**, **all** day and **everyday**... surely...
- **Who am I** Lord... Who are you?

- How **great** are you Lord!
- There is **no one** like **you!!** //
- When we grasp the **reality** of those **truths...** our lives are never the same again...

So ask yourself this **afternoon** and **tomorrow morning** and **Tuesday** - and all through the week - and next week - '**who am I Lord**'? that you should lavish me with your **grace** and **love??**

**Why** should you do **all** you've done for me in the **Lord Jesus Christ**?

And **then** say -

How **great** are you **Lord...** **there is no one like you!!**