

The Desire to Build a House

2 Samuel 7, 1 Chronicles 17, 1 Chronicles 22:7-10, 28:3-8; 29:2-5

Review: Last week, David had it in his heart to move the ark of the covenant out of a house, set up a tent for it, restore the morning and evening sacrifices and make worship of God a priority again. When he first moved the ark, he had it moved as the Philistines had moved it—on a cart. The oxen stumbled, the ark started to shift, and Uzzah tried to steady it. When he came in contact with the holy ark, the Lord struck Uzzah for touching the ark. David was angry that the Lord did that....plus he was then afraid of God. A few months passed, and David tried again. But this time, he moved the Ark in the way that God had prescribed. He honored God with his obedience. God's people were beginning to come back to Him. The death of Uzzah taught the importance of obedience, not only in that generation, but today as well.

David's Desire to Honor God: When God gave David rest from his enemies, David said to the prophet Nathan, "I live in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent."

Let's pause a little bit and think...Who is greater? God and His Ark of the Covenant, or David? Whose dwelling place appeared grander on the surface of things—a house of cedar or a tent? David realized who was greater. He realized God deserved the place of honor. And he wanted to build a house for the God He loved so much. A house for God would be expensive—it would require much time and resources. Remember this is the same person who, when he faced the giant, wanted the whole world to know there is a God in Israel. Now He wants to show how important God is by building a temple for the ark (which represented God's presence).

God's Desire to Honor David: Nathan the prophet told him to do all that was in his heart for God was with him. But the word of God came to Nathan that night and told him to tell David this:

Would you build Me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house but only a tent since I brought the people of Israel up out of Egypt. Have I ever asked why you have not built me a house of cedar? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, so that you could be prince over My people. I've been with you wherever you went and cut off from your enemies. And I will make for you a great name. I will give you rest from your enemies and I will make you a house. When you die, I will raise up your offspring and he will build a house for My name and I will establish the throne of His kingdom forever. I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a son. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever. Your throne shall be established forever.

What a promise! Here David wanted to honor God and build Him a house.....and now God promises to build David a house forever! David wanted to honor God and it was God who wound up honoring David!

David Humbly Goes Before God: David went and sat before God. "Who am I; O Lord, that you have brought me this far? Because of your promise and according to your own heart, you have brought about this greatness. You are great, O Lord. There is none like You. There is no God besides You. Who is like Your people—the one nation on earth whom God went to redeem to be His people, making Himself a name and doing great and awesome things by driving out a nation and its gods? Your name will be magnified forever. You have made this revelation to your servant saying, 'I will build you a house.' May it please you to bless this house forever."

When the house of God (the temple) was actually built: David's son, Solomon, was the one who built the house for God. David had killed too many people in battle and had too much blood on his hands. But for the rest of David's life, he would collect extensive materials, and would encourage others to donate as well, for his son to carry out this plan. He collected tons of gold, silver, bronze, iron, wood, onyx, precious stones, and marble. These are the actions of the man after God's own heart....the man who was very vocal with his love for God....the man who lavished expensive gifts in giving back to God....the man whose love for God was very obvious!

David loved God. David honored God. He would talk about how great God was—he was very vocal about that in front of the assembly. His love for God was not hidden in his heart—something that was very private—no, David spoke very highly of God in front of others. He highly praised and extolled God. He voiced His love for God over and over—before bigger and bigger audiences. He honored God by wanting to build Him a house.

And then God honored David by promising to build him a house forever.

David goes quietly before God and says, “Who am I that You are doing this for me? May it please you to bless this house forever.”

For the rest of his life, David worked to collect millions of dollars' worth of materials for this noble plan. He was not the one able to carry it out, but it sets it up so that his son could do it.