

DYNASTY

Part 1 of The Savior King. 2 Samuel 7:1-17.

Peter Foxwell. The Cornerstone Church. September 13, 2026.

Dismiss the Middle School

STUDY GUIDE

As you came in this morning, you should have received a bulletin. Inside, you'll find a simple study guide you can use in a few different ways: to follow along with today's teaching, to reflect on during your personal devotions this week, or to spark conversation in your small group.

More resources are available online. The link is in your study guide.

Let's get started on today's teaching ...

OUR NEW TEACHING SERIES: THE SAVIOR KING

I've been looking forward to this all summer. We're beginning a new teaching series called The Savior King that will take us through to the end of the year.

We'll study several Old Testament passages that highlight God's plan of salvation.

The Old Testament contains the history of Israel. We're jumping in at a crucial moment in that history, when God made a covenant with King David, in 1000 BC. More about that in a moment.

More than anything, the Old Testament narrative prepares us for the birth of Jesus Christ. He is the promised Savior King who will come from the line of King David.

So this teaching series matters. It will help us connect the dots in God's salvation plan. And we'll see how Jesus fits into that plan, and how we fit in there too.

OK. Let's begin today's teaching.

KING DAVID: A BRIEF BIOGRAPHY

Let's begin with a brief biography of King David leading up to God's promises in 2 Samuel 7:

- David was born in Bethlehem into a farming family around 1040 BC.
- When he was 15, Samuel the prophet secretly anointed David as the future king.
- When he was 20, David killed Goliath, and this caught King Saul's attention, and he brought him into his royal court.
- David married King Saul's daughter when he was 21.
- Soon after, King Saul turned against David, seeing him as a rival to the throne, and for nine years, David lived in constant danger as a fugitive.
- King Saul was killed in battle, so at 30, David was publicly anointed king of Judah. Civil war broke out between those loyal to David and those loyal to Saul's dynasty.
- The war lasted seven years before David won and was crowned king of a united Israel.
- At age 37, David captured the Zion fortress, brought the ark of the covenant into Jerusalem, establishing it as his capital.
- That brings us to 2 Samuel 7 and what is called the Davidic covenant, which God made with David when he was 40.
- David lived for 30 eventful years after this, but we won't go there today.

DAVID'S STORY IS GOD'S STORY

David lived a full life. He was a sinner and a saint, a shepherd, warrior, musician, poet, adulterer, murderer, and ruler. He was a man after God's own heart, yet he was deeply flawed and did some truly awful things.

So, why is he included in the Bible? Not so we can admire or criticize him; not so we can copy or reject him; not primarily so we can learn from him.

David is in the Bible so that we can learn about God from him. David's story is God's story - it reveals God to us, and that is a really valuable revelation.

Let's look at 2 Samuel 7, section by section, and we'll see what it tells us about God.

We'll gain three insights into what God is like so we can relate to him in ways that honor him well.

INSIGHT 1: GOD DOESN'T NEED US - verses 1-7

When the king had settled into his palace, and the LORD had given him rest on every side from all his enemies, 2 the king said to the prophet Nathan, "Look, I am living in a cedar house while the ark of God sits inside tent curtains." 3 So Nathan told the king, "Go and do all that is on your mind, for the LORD is with you."

4 But that night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: 5 "Go to my servant David and say, 'This is what the LORD says: Are you to build me a house to dwell in? 6 From the time I brought the Israelites out of Egypt until today I have not dwelt in a house; instead, I have been moving around with a tent as my dwelling. 7 In all my journeys with all the Israelites, have I ever spoken a word to one of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, asking: Why haven't you built me a house of cedar?'

David was secure on the throne, comfortable in his palace, and he got to thinking, *"I should do something for God. He's been so faithful to me. Here I am in a grand palace, while God's ark is outside. I'll build a temple suitable for God's presence."*

Isn't that how we tend to think? *"I'll do something for God. I'll give him a hand. I'll build his Kingdom. I'll lead a ministry. I'll make a donation."*

But God did not ask David to build him a house; in fact, he said, "David, I'll build you a house - a dynasty." And God hasn't asked us for anything. Listen to what he said to David:

7 In all my journeys with all the Israelites, have I ever spoken a word to one of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, asking: 'Why haven't you built me a house of cedar?'

Centuries later, the apostle Paul explained God to the philosophers in Athens:

Acts 17:24-25 (CSB) The God who made the world and everything in it — he is Lord of heaven and earth — does not live in shrines made by hands. 25 Neither is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives everyone life and breath and all things.

The point is: God doesn't need us. He is self-sufficient. He isn't lacking anything. He made everything, so what does he need from us?

But he wants us anyway. He wants a relationship with us.

This should wreck our pride. God will never be in our debt; he'll never owe us anything. He doesn't do things for us so that we'll do something for him. He doesn't want paybacks. So, we can never boast about what we've done for God.

We come to God empty-handed and needy. Then, we are the humble recipients of his gifts. We don't earn or deserve anything, but God takes care of us anyway. When we think like that, we're in the right place to give him the honor and praise he deserves.

The second insight into what God is like ...

INSIGHT 2: GOD DOESN'T FOLLOW OUR PLANS - vv. 8-11

8 *“So now this is what you are to say to my servant David: ‘This is what the LORD of Armies says: I took you from the pasture, from tending the flock, to be ruler over my people Israel. 9 I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have destroyed all your enemies before you. I will make a great name for you like that of the greatest on the earth. 10 I will designate a place for my people Israel and plant them, so that they may live there and not be disturbed again. Evildoers will not continue to oppress them as they have done 11 ever since the day I ordered judges to be over my people Israel. I will give you rest from all your enemies. The LORD declares to you: The LORD himself will make a house for you.*

David was a shepherd who became a king. That wasn't David's plan. It definitely wasn't his family's plan (1 Samuel 16), but God had a plan:

9 I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have destroyed all your enemies before you. I will make a great name for you like that of the greatest on the earth... 11 ... The LORD himself will make a house for you.

David's name became great, and God raised up a Davidic house, or dynasty, that culminated in Jesus Christ. God works his plans often in ways we cannot see.

Proverbs 19:21 (NLT) You can make many plans, but the LORD's purpose will prevail.

This is a comforting insight because God's purpose is good, especially as it relates to us and our salvation. Romans chapter 8 offers encouragement about this:

Romans 8:28-29 (CSB) We know that all things work together for the good of those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.

Who is the one working things together for our good? God, right? And what is the good he is working out? The next verse tells us:

29 For those he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, so that he would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.

God is working everything together to conform us to his Son. Ultimately, we'll share in the glory of Christ. That's the destiny for everyone who loves God.

God doesn't need our plans; he is working his plan.

And that has huge implications for us: God won't forget us. He won't let temptations, or enemies, or doubts detour his plan: we will be like Christ in the end.

When anxiety feels unbearable, remember that God has a good plan for you, and find your peace in knowing he always works his plan. He is our keeping, protecting, providing Father.

David had a plan, but God had a better one.

The final insight into God is ...

INSIGHT 3: GOD DOESN'T ABANDON US - verses 12-17

“12 When your time comes, and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up after you your descendant, who will come from your 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 discipline him with a rod of men and blows from mortals. 15 But my faithful love will never leave him as it did when I removed it from Saul, whom I removed from before you. 16 Your house and kingdom will endure before me forever, and your throne will be established forever.”

17 Nathan reported all these words and this entire vision to David.

The Lord promised David an enduring family line - a “house.” That sounds normal. Dynasties last down through generations.

But something sounds off. How long will David’s dynasty last?

*13 He is the one who will build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom **forever**. ... 16 Your house and kingdom will endure before me forever, and your throne will be established **forever**.*

Not a thousand years, not a hundred generations, but **forever**.

David’s son Solomon did not live or reign forever. The temple he built was destroyed in 586 BC. None of Solomon’s descendants lived and reigned forever.

Until Jesus Christ:

- He is the “son of David”

Matthew 1:1 (CSB) An account of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham:

- Jesus is the temple (God's "house"):

Matthew 26:61 (CSB) "This man said, 'I can destroy the temple of God and rebuild it in three days.'"

- Jesus reigns from a throne:

Matthew 19:28 (CSB) Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, in the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne..."

- Jesus rules over a kingdom

Luke 22:29 (CSB) I bestow on you a kingdom, just as my Father bestowed one on me...

God's promise to David was fulfilled in Jesus Christ, a descendant who used his royal power to save not just Israel but the whole world from sin, judgment, and death.

God doesn't abandon a world in need. He is a great Savior who weaves the tapestry of history to culminate in Jesus Christ:

Galatians 4:4 (CSB) When the time came to completion, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

Romans 5:6 (CSB) For while we were still helpless, at the right time, Christ died for the ungodly.

KNOWING GOD

When we know God, we will worship, love, and trust Him.

2 Samuel 7 reveals that God is self-sufficient, needs nothing, is working His good plan for us, and is a great Savior who prepared the way for Jesus. And that will lead us to praise him, as Romans 11 does:

Romans 11:33-36 (CSB Strong's) Oh, the depth of the riches and the wisdom and the knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments and untraceable his ways! 34 For who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor? 35 And who has ever given to God, that he should be repaid? 36 For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever. Amen.

When we know God, we will know important truths about ourselves:

- While God does not need us, we need him - desperately.
- We are all sinners in need of the saving grace and forgiveness found only in Jesus Christ.
- Our future is glorious: we'll be like Christ, sharing in his glory.

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

Use any or all of the following questions to guide your group's conversation about Sunday's sermon.

Icebreaker

Describe a plan you made that got completely rerouted by something outside your control. Looking back, how did the new direction work out for you?

Observation

Review 2 Samuel 7:1-17: What did David want to do for God, and what was God's actual response through Nathan the prophet?

What word does God repeat in verses 13 and 16 to describe how long David's throne will last, and why might that word have puzzled the original hearers? Whose house and throne will last forever?

Interpretation

David is in the Bible "so that we can learn about God from him," not so we can copy or reject him. What did you learn about God from 2 Samuel 7?

What are some other Bible stories about flawed people that help you know God better?

What role does the Davidic Covenant play in making sense of the biblical narrative and God's salvation plan?

Application

"I'll do something for God" can quietly feed pride. Where in your life might you be operating from a sense that you're owed credit rather than given grace? And what do you need to do to shift from pride to humility before God?

What's a practical habit — a phrase, a pause, a person you call — that helps you actually remember that, in the middle of a stressful day, God has a good plan and is working all things together for your ultimate good?