

**LESSON 2**  
December 8, 2024

**Unit I: Jesus, the Heir of David**  
**A Very Fine House**

**DEVOTIONAL READING:** Isaiah 9:1-7  
**BACKGROUND SCRIPTURE:** 2 Samuel 7:1-17  
**PRINT PASSAGE:** 2 Samuel 7:4-17

**KEY VERSE**

**Thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever.** (2 Samuel 7:16, KJV)

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**“Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.”** (2 Samuel 7:16, NIV)

**Lesson Aims**

As a result of experiencing this lesson, you should be able to do the following:

- Understand the significance of God’s promise to establish a royal family in David’s lineage.
- Appreciate God’s covenant love that will never be taken away.
- Demonstrate trust in the unconditional promises of God through a recommitment to baptismal promises.

**\*Key Terms**

**Build (verse 5)**—Hebrew: *banab* (baw-naw’): to bring into existence; construct; fashion.

**Dwell (verse 5)**—Hebrew: *yashab* (yaw-shab’): to sit, remain; abide; inhabit.

**Great (verse 9)**—Hebrew: *gadol* (gaw-dole’): bigger; deep; elder; large; prominent.

**Make (verse 11)**—Hebrew: *asab* (aw-saw’): accomplish; do; “establish” (NIV).

**Servant (verse 5)**—Hebrew: *ebed* (eh’-bed): slave; attendant.

**Shepherd (verse 7)**—Hebrew: *ra’ab* (raw-aw’): to pasture, tend, graze, feed.

**Tabernacle (verse 6)**—Hebrew: *mishkan* (mish-kawn’): dwelling place; resting place; tent; “dwelling” (NIV).



### The Biblical Context

The book of 2 Samuel is named for one of its primary characters, Samuel, Israel's last judge and God's instrument for establishing the monarchy. Although the author is not named in the text, Nathan and Gad, prophets during David's reign, have been suggested as possible authors of 2 Samuel. The events of the book span forty years, recording the rise and reign of King David. Structurally, 2 Samuel divides into two distinct sections that chronicle significant events in David's reign. Chapters 1–10 highlight David's successes, and chapters 11–20 detail his troubles. The remaining chapters (21–24) are an appendix reporting other details of David's reign. However, the critical theological theme in 2 Samuel is the Davidic Covenant (2 Samuel 7:17). This unconditional promise to David and his posterity was a response to David's unselfish but premature desire to build a temple in Jerusalem dedicated to God. God vetoed David's intentions but promised to make him a "house" or dynasty with these provisions: a son to rule after him who would build the temple instead, establishment of an everlasting throne to be occupied by David's lineage forever, and perpetual mercy upon David's house (descendants). The Davidic Covenant foreshadowed the eternal reign of God's Son, Jesus Christ (2 Samuel 7:16; Luke 1:31-33). The ultimate fulfillment of this promise will be realized at Christ's second advent when His earthly millennial kingdom is established.

**Word (verse 4)—Hebrew: *dabar* (daw-baw'):** speech; account; statement.

**\*(Word Study Supplement—Refer to page 2)**

### Introduction

In an article entitled "Homeownership and the American Dream," Brian H. Robb, former Forbes Council member and founder of Marketing Real Estate, stated that homeownership has long been an accepted core component of the American Dream. According to data from the U. S. Census Bureau in 2021, homeownership has remained at 60 percent since the 1960s. Several economic benefits accompanying home ownership include accumulating wealth by accessing credit, building equity, and reducing housing costs. Homeownership for most Americans is difficult to achieve despite these and other benefits. For some, it is the difficulty of acquiring an equitable downpayment and the ability to access credit. Yet, aspiring for homeownership remains a decisive goal many hope to attain. Homeownership equates to building a "house," a physical structure that provides shelter, and several other non-financial advantages. However, over time, some structures may lose economic value, become difficult to maintain as owners age or conditions change, cease to be places of peace, harmony, and well-being, or their possession ceases when the original owner dies. Therefore,

along with building a house as a dwelling, the priority of building a "spiritual house" or legacy provides a more permanent type of "homeownership," producing true "generational wealth." King David discovered this truth when God denied his request to build a physical house (temple) to symbolize His presence among His people. Instead, God promised to "build" David a "house," or dynasty, that would last forever and find its fruition in his descendant, Jesus Christ.

## ANALYSIS OF THE BIBLICAL TEXT

### A Noble Plan Redirected (2 Samuel 7:4-7)

#### KJV

4 And it came to pass that night, that the word of the LORD came unto Nathan, saying,  
5 Go and tell my servant David, Thus saith the LORD, Shalt thou build me an house for me to dwell in?

6 Whereas I have not dwelt in any house since the time that I brought up the children of Israel out of Egypt, even to this day, but have walked in a tent and in a tabernacle.

7 In all the places wherein I have walked with all the children of Israel spake I a word with any of the tribes of Israel, whom I commanded to feed my people Israel, saying, Why build ye not me an house of cedar?

#### NIV

4 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?’”

As David reflected on the peace that God had bestowed upon him, ceasing the wars around him, his thoughts turned to his luxurious home. It troubled him deeply that his residence seemed grander than the ark of the covenant, the revered symbol of God’s presence among His people. Out of a desire to express his gratitude and love to God for his unmerited blessings, David envisioned building a temple—a permanent dwelling for God. This plan, though noble and selfless in intent, was premature. Nathan, a prophet and David’s trusted advisor, encouraged him without hesitation, but they did not seek divine guidance beforehand. God intervened, conveying His message through Nathan concerning David’s plan (**verse 4**).

God framed His response with insightful rhetorical questions. He asked whether David was chosen to build Him a house (**verse 5**), reminding him of His enduring presence among the Israelites unconfined by structures (**verse 6**), since their exodus from Egypt. God challenged David to consider whether He had ever sought to have such a grand dwelling (**verse 7**). These queries were not to belittle David’s noble intent but to clarify that such a house was not needed at that time. When the appropriate time came for building a temple, it would not be David’s task. God’s response to David’s misguided zeal offers relevant spiritual insights for believers today. First, a deep relationship with God often inspires us to show appreciation in meaningful, honoring ways. Second,

aligning our intentions and desires with God's will is crucial before taking action. Lastly, God's gracious response aligns with the unique purpose He ordains for us, rewarding our commitment and faithfulness.

### WHAT DO YOU THINK?

How does God's response to David illustrate His grace toward those who enjoy a personal relationship with Him?

## A Gracious Reminder (*2 Samuel 7:8-11b*)

### KJV

**8** Now therefore so shalt thou say unto my servant David, Thus saith the LORD of hosts, I took thee from the sheepcote, from following the sheep, to be ruler over my people, over Israel:

**9** And I was with thee whithersoever thou wentest, and have cut off all thine enemies out of thy sight, and have made thee a great name, like unto the name of the great men that are in the earth.

**10** Moreover I will appoint a place for my people Israel, and will plant them, that they may dwell in a place of their own, and move no more; neither shall the children of wickedness afflict them any more, as beforetime,

**11** And as since the time that I commanded judges to be over my people Israel, and have caused thee to rest from all thine enemies.

### NIV

**8** “Now then, tell my servant David, “This is what the LORD Almighty says: I took you from the pasture, from tending the flock, and appointed you 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 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.”

Although God refused to honor David's plan, He did it graciously. To ease any disappointment David experienced, God followed His refusal by instructing Nathan to remind David of two things: (1) his honored standing with Him, and (2) what He had done for him in his lifetime. God honored David by calling him His servant and named the blessings He bestowed on him (**verses 8-9**). God intervened in David's life and promoted him from tending his father's sheep to becoming ruler (or shepherd) of God's people. God remained David's constant



companion and was the source of the strength that enabled David to defeat his enemies. After reviewing what He had already done for David, God gave David promises for his future.

God vowed to elevate David's name, secure a lasting homeland for Israel, and grant David peace from his enemies (**verses 9b-11b**). This part of God's message, though just an introduction to His broader plans for David, offers profound spiritual lessons for believers. David's achievements and possessions were fruits of God's grace and might. This reminder is a crucial lesson for believers to recognize and honor God as the source of all blessings. God's reference to David as "my servant" is also a call to humility and submission, urging believers to live in humble service to God, acknowledging Him as the one we ultimately serve. Lastly, God's gracious response to David underscores a fundamental truth: steadfast faithfulness to God paves the way to the rich rewards of salvation, both in this life and beyond. This reminder is an anchor, encouraging believers to remain devoted to their spiritual commitment to God and His purpose for their lives.

### **WHAT DO YOU THINK?**

How should past blessings inform and direct our future?

## **A Gracious Promise** (*2 Samuel 7:11c-17*)

### **KJV**

**11 Also the LORD telleth thee that he will make thee an house.**

**12 And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom.**

**13 He shall build an house for my name, and I will stablish the throne of his kingdom for ever.**

**14 I will be his father, and he shall be my son. If he commit iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the children of men:**

**15 But my mercy shall not depart away from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away before thee.**

**16 And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever.**

**17 According to all these words, and according to all this vision, so did Nathan speak unto David.**

### **NIV**

**11** "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 ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, 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 a rod wielded by men, with floggings inflicted by human hands.**

**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.**

The earlier verses recount promises fulfilled during David’s lifetime: a renowned name, a homeland for Israel, and peace from warfare. However, through Nathan, God revealed a grander plan for David that extended beyond his life. Instead of permitting David to build a temple, God promised to establish a lasting “house” or dynasty for him (**verse 11c**), using the Hebrew word *bayit* in a broader sense than a physical dwelling. This promise, known as the Davidic Covenant, surpassed David’s intentions. It ensured that his dynasty would outlast even the temple he wished to construct. Nathan detailed the unbreakable promises of this covenant: after David’s death, God would set up his descendant’s kingdom. This heir would build a temple honoring God, and secure an eternal throne (**verses 12-13**).

Furthermore, David’s successor would enjoy a unique father-son relationship with God. While subject to discipline for disobedience, he would continuously experience God’s unwavering love—a striking contrast to Saul’s experience of being rejected by God and removed from the throne of Israel (**verses 14-15**). **Verse 16** reaffirms the covenant’s everlasting nature, and its certainty is established in **verse 17**, grounded in God’s words. This covenant finds its ultimate fulfillment in Jesus Christ, the Messiah, a descendant of David’s. The promises reach their climax in Him: Jesus would inherit David’s throne, reign eternally over Israel, and establish an unending kingdom. Thus, the pursuit of permanence, both in this life and beyond, culminates in Christ.

## WHAT DO YOU THINK?

How can the “foreverness” promises of the Davidic covenant strengthen your faith and enhance your worship during this Advent season?

## A Closing Thought

Loving parents desire to leave something valuable behind for their children to be remembered by them. Usually, this “something” is money, houses, or lands. David learned, however, that there is something more permanent than material things, no matter how durable—a spiritual legacy. God unconditionally promised David a legacy that found its fulfillment in Jesus Christ, David’s descendant and the author and finisher of our faith. Therefore, the most valuable thing we can “build” and pass on to our loved ones is the legacy of our faith in Christ, who reigns forever in His everlasting kingdom.

## Your Life

What better way to celebrate Advent than building a spiritual legacy for your descendants? How? By sharing your testimony about your faith journey—orally, visually, or in journals or letters to your children. Highlight your testimony with life stories, poems, or artwork expressing your faith, or by creating meaningful, faith-based traditions.

## Your World!

David learned a significant lesson about what is more enduring than material things. The lesson has special relevance and guidance for those who seek in vain to find permanence and security in things and people. It is far easier and much more reliable to place trust in Jesus Christ and share the meaningful message of hope He offers so freely throughout this Advent season, every day, and beyond.

## Closing Prayer

Gracious God, thank You for establishing permanence in our relationship with You through Your Son, Jesus Christ, the promised Redeemer. Empower us to build legacies of faith for our descendants as enduring reminders of Your grace, steadfast love, and faithfulness to Your promises. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

## Conclusion

### (Preparing for Next Week's Lesson)

As you prepare for next week's lesson, consider a response to this question: "How important was John the Baptist's ministry to Christ's first advent?"

## Home Daily Bible Readings

MONDAY, December 9	"God's Covenant of Love"	(Psalm 89:1-4, 27-37)
TUESDAY, December 10	"God Has Heard Your Prayer"	(Luke 1:5-17)
WEDNESDAY, December 11	"A Message of Promise and Grace"	(Luke 1:18-23)
THURSDAY, December 12	"God Is a Sun and Shield"	(Psalm 84)
FRIDAY, December 13	"The Herald of God's Coming"	(Malachi 4)
SATURDAY, December 14	"A Child of Wonder"	(Luke 1:57-66)
SUNDAY, December 15	"Praises to the God Who Saves"	(Luke 1:67-80)