

17.26 David's Desire to Build a Temple (2 Samuel 7:1–29; 1 Chronicles 17:1–27; Psalm 132)

✓ “Check” it out; opinion, inference, supposed conversation, or fact one can verify follows

Brackets [. . .] indicate a remark to the teacher that should not be read aloud, or they show answers to questions.

Visuals and Tools:

- Pictures and other visuals found at the end of this lesson. Please give credit to the sources of pictures.
- Check “Activities” and “Handwork” found below for additional materials.
- David and Nathan flannelgraph from Life of David, Lesson 8, by CEF (if available)
- An ephod-like garment

Bible Time Tips and Terms to Teach:

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Scripture: (ESV) (1 Chronicles 17:1–27 is nearly identical to 2 Samuel 7:1–29 and is not printed here.)

2 Samuel 7:1 Now when the king lived in his house and the Lord had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, 2 the king said to Nathan the prophet, “See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent.” 3 And Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that is in your heart, for the Lord is with you.”

4 But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan, 5 “Go and tell my servant David, ‘Thus says the Lord: Would you build me a house to dwell in? 6 I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling. 7 In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, Why have you not built me a house of cedar?’ 8 Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, ‘Thus says the Lord of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. 9 And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. 10 And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, 11 from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. 12 When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. 13 He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. 14 I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men, 15 but my steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. 16 And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.’” 17 In accordance with all these words, and in accordance with all this vision, Nathan spoke to David.

18 Then King David went in and sat before the Lord and said, “Who am I, O Lord God, and what is my house, that you have brought me thus far? 19 And yet this was a small thing in your eyes, O Lord God. You have spoken also of your servant’s house for a great while to come, and this is instruction for mankind, O Lord God! 20 And what more can David say to you? For you know your servant, O Lord God! 21 Because of your promise, and according to your own heart, you have brought about all this greatness, to make your servant know it. 22 Therefore you are great, O Lord God. For there is none like you, and there is no God besides you, according to all that we have heard with our ears. 23 And who is like your people Israel, the one nation on earth whom God went to redeem to be his people, making himself a name and doing for them great and awesome things by driving out before your people, whom you redeemed for yourself from Egypt, a nation and its gods? 24 And you established for yourself your people Israel to be your people forever. And you, O Lord, became their God. 25 And now, O Lord God, confirm forever the word that you have spoken concerning your servant and concerning his house, and do as you have spoken. 26 And your name will be magnified forever, saying,

‘The Lord of hosts is God over Israel,’ and the house of your servant David will be established before you. 27 For you, O Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, have made this revelation to your servant, saying, ‘I will build you a house.’ Therefore your servant has found courage to pray this prayer to you. 28 And now, O Lord God, you are God, and your words are true, and you have promised this good thing to your servant. 29 Now therefore may it please you to bless the house of your servant, so that it may continue forever before you. For you, O Lord God, have spoken, and with your blessing shall the house of your servant be blessed forever.”

Psalm 132:1 Remember, O Lord, in David’s favor, all the hardships he endured, 2 how he swore to the Lord and vowed to the Mighty One of Jacob, 3 “I will not enter my house or get into my bed, 4 I will not give sleep to my eyes or slumber to my eyelids, 5 until I find a place for the Lord, a dwelling place for the Mighty One of Jacob.”

6 Behold, we heard of it in Ephrathah; we found it in the fields of Jaar. 7 “Let us go to his dwelling place; let us worship at his footstool!”

8 Arise, O Lord, and go to your resting place, you and the ark of your might. 9 Let your priests be clothed with righteousness, and let your saints shout for joy. 10 For the sake of your servant David, do not turn away the face of your anointed one.

11 The Lord swore to David a sure oath from which he will not turn back: “One of the sons of your body I will set on your throne. 12 If your sons keep my covenant and my testimonies that I shall teach them, their sons also forever shall sit on your throne.”

13 For the Lord has chosen Zion; he has desired it for his dwelling place: 14 “This is my resting place forever; here I will dwell, for I have desired it. 15 I will abundantly bless her provisions; I will satisfy her poor with bread. 16 Her priests I will clothe with salvation, and her saints will shout for joy. 17 There I will make a horn to sprout for David; I have prepared a lamp for my anointed. 18 His enemies I will clothe with shame, but on him his crown will shine.”

Introduction/Review:

One of the happiest events recorded in the Bible is David’s bringing the ark of the covenant to Jerusalem. David had laid aside his royal robes and was dressed in an ephod. [Put one on a boy.] He jumped and whirled for joy as the Levites carried the ark on poles into the special tent David had prepared for just the ark.

Who wasn’t so happy about David’s visible joy? [Michal, his wife.] What did she think? [She despised him in her heart.] What was the consequence of such despising? [She had no child of her own all her life.]

Story:

A great idea

As time passed and David sat in his beautiful house and looked at the beautiful wooden walls that Hiram of Tyre had built, he thought about the tent for the ark and ✓perhaps the tabernacle tent at Gibeon.

A man named Nathan was God’s prophet in Israel at that time. David called Nathan to him and said, “Look, I live in a house of cedar, but the ark of the covenant is in a tent.” What did David mean? He shouldn’t live in a nice house while God’s house was just a tent. He wanted to build a temple/house for God.

Nathan answered, “Do whatever is in your heart, for God is with you.” What did Nathan mean? [“Go ahead and build a temple.”]

A change of plans

But that night God spoke to Nathan the prophet, saying, “Go tell David he shall *not* build a house for Me. I have been moving about in a tent since I brought the people of Israel from Egypt about ✓455 years ago [coming out of Egypt in 1461 B.C. until David in 1016 B.C.]. In all that time I have never asked any tribe, ‘Why haven’t you built me a house of cedar wood?’ Tell David, ‘I took you from following the sheep in the

pasture so that you should be a prince over Israel.”

(Notice that God should be their *king*; so He calls David a *prince*.) God continued, ““I have been with you, David, everywhere you’ve gone. I have cut off your enemies, and I will make your name famous in the earth. I will make you a house of descendants—children and grandchildren. I will establish the kingdom of your son, and he will build me a house. My steadfast love will not leave him as I took it from King Saul. In fact, your kingdom will never be taken from your family. Your kingdom shall be established forever!”

A great promise

Forever!? What a promise—an everlasting kingdom. Which of David’s grandchildren would become the everlasting King? Only one of David’s descendants could be everlasting, and that is Jesus. David didn’t know that yet, but he was awestruck by God’s promise.

After hearing all of these wonderful words from God through Nathan, David “went in and sat before the Lord.” Humbly, he said, “Who am I, O Lord God, and what is my family that you have brought me this far? But you’ve said so much—that my line will continue for a long time to come. What can I say to You? You are great, and there is no God besides You. There is no other nation on earth like Your people, Israel, whom You saved from Egypt and established in the land. Now, Lord, do what You say, and please bless my family, as You said, forever.”

What a wonderful promise God made to David. We call it the Davidic Covenant.

Lessons from This Lesson:

- We see Jesus:

God has made many promises today to those who trust Jesus Christ to be their Saviour. One of those promises is for them to live forever in that everlasting kingdom God promised to David. I’m looking forward to living in Heaven forever with King Jesus. May you come to be His child too.

Activities:

- Snack: Edible tents. Spread frosting on one edge of two graham cracker squares. Attach the frosted edges together to form a simple tent. (See [\(834\) Pinterest](#) for a photo.)
- March and jump while playing instruments.
- Sing “Obedience” by Mike and Ruth Greene, found in *Praises I* songbook, published by Majesty Music.
- Older students may read Psalm 132. This psalm is called “A Song of Ascents” because it was recited as Israelites climbed Mount Zion to worship at the temple.
- Review questions: (Game: Print on card stock the “Davidic Covenant” cart found below. Cut into seven pieces that include the title and the six promises. For each correct answer, a student may place one of the word strips in a pocket chart.)
 1. Who was the prophet in David’s time? [Nathan.]
 2. What did David say to Nathan about his house compared to God’s house? [David lived in a nice house, but God “lived” in a tent.]
 3. What did God say about His house after Nathan had said to build a house for God? [No, David was not to build His house.]
 4. Who would build God’s house? [David’s descendant.]
 5. Tell one promise God gave to David for his lifetime. (There are three.) [A great name; a place for the people; rest from his enemies.]
 6. Tell one promise God gave to David about *after* his lifetime. [Many descendants; a son who would build God’s house; an everlasting kingdom.]
 7. Multiple choice. What did David say after hearing God’s promises to him? a. “Who am I, O Lord

God, and what is my house, that you have brought me thus far?" b. "There is none like you, O Lord, and there is no God besides you." c. "Let the word that you have spoken concerning your servant and concerning his house be established forever." d. All of the above. [d. All of the above.]

Memory Verse[s] (KJV)

- Psalm 100:1 Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands. 2 Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing. 3 Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. 4 Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. 5 For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.

Handwork:

- Color David on his throne. Coloring page is found below and came from [d6bbebafc6c708b16465160c864409c9.jpg \(1326×1600\) \(pinimg.com\)](https://www.pinning.com/d6bbebafc6c708b16465160c864409c9.jpg).





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The Davidic Covenant

2 Sam 7:8-16

- Promises to be fulfilled in David's lifetime:
 - A Great Name (v. 9)
 - A Place for the People (v. 10)
 - Rest (v. 11a)
- Promises to be fulfilled after David's death:
 - A House (v. 11b)
 - A "Seed" or Descendant (vv. 12-14)
 - A Kingdom (v. 13)

