

2 Samuel 7:4,8-17^a
The LORD promises an Offspring to David
who will establish the Kingdom forever.
1st Sunday after Epiphany
Free Text, Old Testament

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Church Council Meeting

⁴ ... the Word of the LORD came to the Prophet Nathan, saying:

⁸ "Now then, tell my Servant David, 'This is what the LORD Almighty [of Sabaoth, of Hosts, of Armies] says: I took you from the pasture and from following the flock to be 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 of the earth.^b ¹⁰ And I will provide a Place for my People Israel, and I 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 [Judges, Deliverers] over my People Israel. I will also give you Rest from all your enemies.^c

"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 fathers, I will raise up your Offspring [Seed] to succeed you, who will come from within you, 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,^d I will punish him with the rod of men, with floggings inflicted by men.^e 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.

^a *The New International Version*, (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House) 1984. All Scripture references are taken from this translation unless noted otherwise.

^b Cf. Genesis 6:4 reference to "the Nephilim," who "were the heroes of old, men of renown." The Nephilim, "fallen ones," were wicked tyrants. King David was not a wicked tyrant, nor was his great descendant, Jesus.

^c David's enemies not only included those surrounding physical Israel but also the Devil, this sinful world, and David's own sinful nature. This rest from David's enemies, then, is ultimately the forgiveness of sins in Jesus.

^d St. Paul records, "God made him [Jesus] who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God" (2 Corinthians 5:21). While Jesus is sinless, holy and righteous, the sins of the world were placed upon him, so that, in a sense, he became the worst sinner of all, for which he was punished on the cross.

^e Not only is Jesus punished by the rod and floggings of men, but he is also punished by God for the sins of men, as is noted by Jesus' cry from the cross: "My God! My God! Why have you forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:46 & Mark 15:34).

THE LORD ALMIGHTY BUILDS A HOUSE FOR DAVID
I. A HOUSE BUILT THROUGH SUFFERING
II. A HOUSE THAT ENDURES FOREVER

In the Name of Jesus, through whom God builds an Eternal Home for believers, Dear Fellow-Redeemed.

Last Monday, January 6th, was the Day of Epiphany. That word means to appear or to shine out suddenly. As you heard previously in the Gospel Lesson for Epiphany (Matthew 2:1-12), the day commemorates the visit of the Magi or Wisemen from the east to the baby Jesus. At that time, Jesus was probably between one and one-and-a-half years old. We guess at his age because of wicked King Herod's action to kill all the males in Bethlehem two years old and under, by which Herod hoped to kill Jesus, the new King of the Jews. In spite of King Herod's wicked efforts, however, Jesus would not only survive, but he would also accomplish that for which God sent him into the world – the Redemption of mankind.

Through his redeeming work of offering himself for the sins of the world, Jesus builds a House for God's people. Our text this morning indicates that ... THE LORD ALMIGHTY BUILDS A HOUSE FOR DAVID ... I. A HOUSE BUILT THROUGH SUFFERING; and, II. A HOUSE THAT ENDURES FOREVER.

THE LORD ALMIGHTY BUILDS A HOUSE FOR DAVID
I. A HOUSE BUILT THROUGH SUFFERING

David was now King over the United Kingdom of Judah and Israel. He had power and control. He lived in relative ease and comfort. He had a beautiful palace for himself. He did not think it was right that he live in a palace but that the Dwelling of the LORD was still a Tent – the Tabernacle. This Tent of Meeting or Tabernacle had been constructed by God's specific and detailed direction during the time of Moses, when God brought Israel out of the slavery of Egypt. The Tabernacle had accompanied Israel for centuries. David wanted to build a House, a Temple, for the LORD that was more substantial than a tent. But the LORD Almighty – the LORD of Hosts – set David straight about this building of a House.

David had in mind to build a physical house for the LORD, a temple. The LORD had in mind to build a Spiritual House for himself and for his people – people like David and other believers. It would be in that House, at that time and in that place that David and all believers would rest from their enemies.

David had enemies. David had endured suffering from these enemies. David had faced many of the physical enemies of Israel described in the Book of Deuteronomy: "The Hittites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites" (Deuteronomy 7:1b). In addition, David and Israel had faced the Philistines, Amalekites, Ammonites, Edomites, Midianites, and Moabites. While these enemies were practically defeated, their remnant

continued to rise up against David and Israel both during the time of David and in the following centuries. During all these challenges, the LORD had not forsaken David. The LORD says through his Prophet Nathan,

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 of the 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 [Judges, Deliverers] over my people Israel. I will also give you Rest from all your enemies (7:9-11a).

Not only had David suffered at the hands of and from the opposition of these enemies, but so had Israel. There was never a time and would never be a time in the history of the world, when Israel would live in undisturbed peace and tranquility. Moreover, the LORD mentions one of the enemies in particular that had risen up against David from within Israel.

From within Israel, from the Tribe of Benjamin, Saul had risen up against David. The LORD had appointed Saul as King over Israel; but Saul had rejected the LORD, and, so, the LORD had abandoned Saul and withdrew his love from him. When it was revealed to Saul that the LORD intended to turn the Kingdom of Israel over to David, Saul took his wickedness even further and tried on many occasions to kill David. Saul was one of David's enemies, and Saul caused David suffering. There were three other enemies of David.

King David also had the enemies of the Devil, the world and his own sinful nature. As with all of God's people, the Devil tried to pull David away from the words and promises of God. The world and its prestige, honor, power, glory, glitz, glitter and wealth, was an enemy of David. David's own sinful nature was his enemy as would be obvious when David fell into adultery with Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah the Hittite whom David had murdered (cf. 2 Samuel 11 & 12). David had enemies. David would struggle. But there would be One coming in the future who would completely win the struggle for his people – but for that One there would also be suffering and struggle.

The LORD Almighty, the LORD of Hosts, says that he will raise up One of David's Offspring to succeed David as King. The Word translated as "Offspring" is "Seed" in Hebrew; and that word is not plural but singular. St. Paul refers to this very point when he writes concerning Abraham, one of the ancestors of King David. St. Paul says,

The promises were spoken to Abraham and to his Seed. The Scripture does not say "and to seeds," meaning many people, but "and to your Seed," meaning One Person, who is Christ (Galatians 3:16).

The same promise that the LORD made to Abraham is also made to David; a “Seed,” a “Descendant,” not plural but singular, would come from David and establish this Kingdom. But this “Seed” would also suffer.

The “Seed” or “Descendant” would suffer. Concerning this “Seed,” the LORD Almighty says, “I will be his Father, and he will be my Son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with the rod of men, with floggings inflicted by men” (7:14). This cannot refer to David’s immediate successor, his son Solomon. While Solomon was probably disciplined as a child, he certainly was never punished “with the rod of men, with floggings inflicted by men.” The only One who fits this description is the “Seed,” the “Descendant,” Jesus. But when did Jesus do wrong to be, as a result, punished “with the rod of men, with floggings inflicted by men”?

The Bible assures us that Jesus himself did no wrong. Quoting from the Old Testament Prophet Isaiah, Peter writes in his First Epistle, that Jesus “committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth” (1 Peter 2:22; cf. Isaiah 53:9). The Bible tells us that Jesus was “tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin” (Hebrews 4:15b). The Bible proclaims that Jesus was “without blemish or defect” (1 Peter 1:19). Jesus is holy, blameless, righteous and innocent. But, the sins of the world were laid upon him.

Isaiah writes concerning Jesus,

**⁴ Surely he took up
our infirmities
and carried our sorrows,
yet we considered him stricken by God,
smitten by him, and afflicted.**

**⁵ But he was pierced
for our transgressions,
he was crushed
for our iniquities;**

***the punishment that brought us peace
was upon him,
and by his wounds we are healed.***

**⁶ We all, like sheep,
have gone astray,
each of us has turned
to his own way;
and the LORD has laid on him
the iniquity of us all (Isaiah 53:4-6).**

The LORD placed on Jesus “the iniquity,” the sin, the transgression of all. St. Paul states regarding this truth: “God made him [Jesus] who had no sin to be sin for us” (2 Corinthians 5:21a). Note what God did to Jesus. God made Jesus “to be sin.” Here is the wrong for which David’s “Seed,” “Successor,” and “Descendant,” was punished. The sins of the world were placed upon Jesus, just as if it were Jesus who had committed those sins. Thus, Jesus, the sinless Son of God, is punished for the sins of the world, which he carried upon himself. It is through Jesus’ suffering and death that the LORD Almighty builds and establishes a House for David and for all believers – a House for all who believe in Jesus as their Savior. This House is built through the suffering of Jesus.

APPROPRIATION

David begins by thinking that he can build a house for the LORD. David could not do that. Neither can you. You cannot build a house for the LORD. You cannot come into God's House in Heaven, thinking that you have done something to earn or merit residence in that House. You cannot come into God's House in Heaven because, like King David, you are a sinner.

The LORD blessed David; but David was still a sinner. David needed a Savior. The LORD has also given blessings to you; but you are still a sinner. You need a Savior. You have that Savior, Jesus. Through Jesus' suffering and death, Jesus builds a House for you – a Place in Heaven for you. Jesus made this plain when he said,

² In my Father's House are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a Place for you. ³ And if I go and prepare a Place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am (John 14:2,3).

Notice the same kind of emphasis in what Jesus says here to what the LORD Almighty said to David. Jesus' disciples did not build the Father's House. Jesus prepared a place for believers. Jesus built that House. Jesus built that House through his suffering and death on the cross. Jesus' resurrection from the dead proves that he has established this House. Jesus did this so that you could live with him in his House, in his Kingdom, forever. The only way in which you can come into Jesus' Kingdom and live in Jesus' House in heaven is by faith in Jesus who gives you the forgiveness of sins.

Jesus also told his disciples, "I AM the Way and the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6). Only Jesus has taken away the sins of the world. Only with your sins removed by Jesus can you come into God's heavenly House. Peter proclaimed in his First Epistle, "Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God" (1 Peter 3:18a). Jesus died for your sins "to bring you to God" – to bring you into God's House in Heaven. It is through faith in Jesus that you have residence in God's House in Heaven – residence forever.

THE LORD ALMIGHTY BUILDS A HOUSE FOR DAVID II. A HOUSE THAT ENDURES FOREVER

The House that the LORD Almighty builds would endure and exist forever. The LORD Almighty, the LORD of Hosts, says to David, "When your days are over and you rest with your fathers, I will raise up your Offspring [your Seed] to succeed you, who will come from within you, and I will establish his Kingdom" (7:12). The time would come when David would die. David would "rest" with his fathers. David would not continue to live on this earth forever (cf. Acts 2:29-31). But the "Offspring," "Seed" (singular), "Descendant," that would come from David – that Person's Kingdom would be established forever. The LORD says concerning this Person, "He is the One who will build a House for my Name,

and I will establish the Throne of his Kingdom forever” (7:13). King David’s “Offspring,” “Seed” (singular), “Descendant,” is Jesus.

In time, the Angel Gabriel announced to Mary – whose ancestry is traced back to King David – Gabriel said to Mary,

30 “Fear not, Mary, you have found favor with God. 31 You will be with Child and give birth to a Son, and you are to give him the Name Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High [the Son of God!]. The LORD God will give him the Throne of his father David, 33 and he will reign over the House of Jacob forever; his Kingdom will never end” (Luke 1:30b-33).

Notice how the promise made to David and his “Seed” or “Descendant,” is fulfilled in Jesus. Jesus would possess “the Throne of his father David.” Jesus would “reign” over this House “forever.” Jesus’ “Kingdom will never end.” In Jesus, David’s House and Kingdom is established forever and endures forever (cf. 7:16). Moreover, David would see this fulfillment with his own eyes.

The LORD Almighty would fulfill his Promise to King David. God’s Promise would be fulfilled in Jesus. King David would experience this “rest” and reside in this House of the LORD.

The LORD Almighty told David, “I will also give you Rest from all your enemies” (7:11a). That “Rest” from all David’s enemies – including his enemies, the Devil, the world and David’s own sinful nature – that “Rest” is the forgiveness of sins which only Jesus gives. It was by faith in this coming Savior, David’s Seed or Descendant, that David confessed in Psalm 23, “I will dwell in the House of the LORD forever” (Psalm 23:6b). By faith in his coming Descendant, David received the forgiveness of sins. That Descendant or Seed is Jesus. David would see and dwell in Jesus’ Kingdom, this House of the LORD forever. So will you.

APPROPRIATION

You too, as a believer in Jesus, will see and dwell in the House and Kingdom of the LORD forever. That House and Kingdom is not a kingdom of this earth or world. The kingdom of this earth and world, is a kingdom of wickedness and oppression. The kingdom of this earth and world, is a kingdom of sin, depravity and disappointment. And, you are tempted to focus on the kingdom of this world. In addition, you too, like David, are tempted by the Devil and by your own sinful nature.

You are tempted by the Devil to doubt the Word and Promises of God. You are tempted by the Devil to doubt that all of your sins have been forgiven. You are tempted by the Devil to question whether or not you really do have a place in Jesus’ Kingdom. You are also tempted, like David, by your own sinful nature.

The Apostle Paul describes the eruption of your sinful nature in these words:

¹⁹ The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; ²⁰ idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions ²¹ and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the Kingdom of God (Galatians 5:19-21).

As you review this list of the outbreaks of the sinful nature, do you not have to confess that you too are guilty of these sins either in thoughts, words, actions, or attitudes? Moreover, you are also tempted by the kingdom of this world.

You are tempted to focus on the kingdom of this earth and this world. You purchase a home; you own property; you claim possessions to belong to you. These things are only temporary. Such things may be taken from you in this life; and, for sure, you cannot take them with you when you die. Job proclaimed, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart" (Job 1:21a). The same is true for you. In his First Epistle to Timothy, St. Paul says, "We brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it" (1 Timothy 6:7). The possessions, wealth, riches, pleasures, honor and prestige of this world do not belong to you forever. But what does belong to you forever is the House that Jesus built to give to you the forgiveness and a place in his eternal Kingdom.

By faith in Jesus, and by faith alone in him, your sins are forgiven. By faith in Jesus, you have a place forever in the House, which Jesus built through his suffering and death on the cross. By faith in Jesus, you have a place in Jesus' Kingdom of Heaven forever.

CONCLUSION

The LORD God Almighty remembered his promise to King David in the Old Testament. God sent his Son Jesus – true God and true man, the "Seed" and "Descendant" of David – God sent this God-man to build and establish his House, his Kingdom, forever. Jesus suffered to establish this Kingdom. Through Jesus' suffering, the sins of the world have been removed. By believing in Jesus, you have the benefit of that forgiveness: you have a place in Jesus' House and Kingdom forever. Amen.