

I WILL CHASTEN HIM WITH THE ROD OF MEN

2 SAMUEL 7:1 – 29

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~ God clearly told Moses in the wilderness that He would have mercy on whom He will have mercy and show compassion to whom He will show compassion. The Lord didn't ask for Moses' feedback or input concerning who to save or why. If we are genuine children of God, redeemed by His Blood, our salvation is not because of any goodness God sees in us. No, God saves *ONLY* because of His infinite, marvelous grace. In fact, *ALL* of the wonderful things God does for us in this life are done for one reason only: His grace.

If you've been with our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God as we followed the account of David's life in the historical Old Testament book of Samuel, then you know David had many serious flaws. Even so, God was good to David; beyond anything David could have expected, asked or hoped for. This report is going to consider why God is graceful and good as we examine His covenant with David. This chapter encompasses our most significant chapter thus far in the entire Old Testament. I highly suggest you pray for wisdom, judgment and discernment, then read the text in your Bible. Then read this report very, very carefully.

Quite frankly, the prophets are impossible to understand from here forward if we do not completely, properly and correctly understand this covenant. One of the reasons so many teachers of prophecy find themselves hopelessly tangled up by a few basic eschatological questions is because they simply do not pay attention to chapters such as this. The truths found in this section of Scripture we have been dealing with in several previous reports are, generally, skipped over altogether. Interestingly, it could be said the New Testament begins here as the genealogy in Matthew chapter one opens with, "*Jesus Christ, the Son of David!*" Friends, that is so, so important to recognize, understand and fully grasp. All of the promises God made to David in this covenant are to be fulfilled in the Lord Jesus.

When the angel appeared to Mary, as Luke records it, the angel said, “... *He shall be great; He shall be called the Son of the Highest and the Lord God shall give unto Him the Throne of His father, David.*” I suggest you stop reading for a moment and memorize that Bible fact. Peter, on the Day of Pentecost, made a reference to this saying God had made this promise to David. Paul, in Romans, says, “... *concerning His Son Jesus Christ, our Lord, Which was made of the seed of David!*” Then, the Book of Revelation closes by saying, “*I am the Root and the Offspring of David and the Bright and Morning Star!*” There are *fifty-nine* references to David in the New Testament; and every single one of the Old Testament prophets base the kingdom on this covenant. The bedrock foundation of eschatology is built on this particular promise God made to David concerning His kingdom. Miss these facts and miss the entire message of the Gospel.

Jeremiah 23:5 Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth ~

I’m only giving one example from Jeremiah because it is the theme song every one of the prophets sings. Alright, so far, our safari has seen David take Jerusalem as the capital and establish his headquarters there. David built his palace on Mount Zion with materials and labor that Hiram, King of Tyre, had provided. In our last report, we saw David bring the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem. Remember, the Ark had been in the Philistines possession for a while and then sat for seventy years in the field of Abinadab in Gibeah. Now, it’s finally back in Jerusalem. Well, it must have been a dark and rainy night in the palace as David woke up, heard the pitter patter of raindrops on his roof, and thought about the Ark of God sitting outside in a tent. I think he might have heard the flapping of the fabric in the wind and realized he needed construct God a house. So, David calls in Nathan the prophet and David divulges his heart....

1 And it came to pass, when the king sat in his house, and the LORD had given him rest round about from all his enemies;

2 That the king said unto Nathan the prophet, See now, I dwell in an house of cedar, but the ark of God dwelleth within curtains.

3 And Nathan said to the king, Go, do all that is in thine heart; for the LORD is with thee.

~ Here is an example of a prophet being as wrong as he could possibly be. It's notable we don't see Nathan consult God in prayer before telling David to go build. Nathan could have avoided some real embarrassment in front of David if he had spoken to the Lord before advising on His behalf. However, I would have immediately said the same thing Nathan said. Honestly, if someone wrote to me and said they wanted to underwrite the Spiritual Safari, I wouldn't tell them I needed to go pray about it. I'm pretty sure I would only be praying the check cleared. Frankly, many things may or may not be in the will of God for our life. Discerning which is which Scripturally is our number one responsibility.

Nathan believed this was the most wonderful thing he could have dreamed of. But he was wrong because, as we know, David was a bloody man with so many wives that I have lost track of all of them now. Remember, this is *LONG* before the Bathsheba affair and murder of Uriah, too. Even so, this temple was in David's heart and God gives David credit for that. It's actually a mistake when we call the temple "Solomon's" temple – because David gathered all the materials and arranged the labor – Solomon just managed through the completion phase when David wasn't around any longer. I think the only temple Solomon ever had was the one on the side of his head. Either way, God has to correct Nathan here....

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?

~ God never asked David to build Him a house. That was entirely David's idea. God never gave any command for a house to be built by anyone at any time, for that matter. God dwelt in a tent alongside the children of Israel's tents to identify Himself with His people. That's also the reason the Lord Jesus Christ came down here to earth two thousand plus years ago and took upon Himself our humanity. John said, "... *the Word was made Flesh....and dwelt among us*" The word "dwelt" means He "pitched His tent." Instead of a flimsy tent made of linen, He came into this flimsy tent made of flesh. That's how God identified Himself with us, friends.

See, God has always identified with His people. The next four verses reveal God considers David a great man; and I, personally, believe that when Christ reigns on this earth – David will be on the Throne in Jerusalem. Also, note the promises in verse ten were made over three thousand years ago. In verse eleven, God says He will make David a house. God is the One Who does everything for us today. Jesus saith, "*without Me ye can do NOTHING!*"

That makes this an altogether lovely passage; at least, it does for me! See, you can't even *conceive* of doing anything for the Lord that He won't turn around and do for you first. You'll never beat Him to the punch. That's one reason so many of us are so poor today is because we do so little for the Lord. Most of us aren't even in a position where God *CAN* do something for us. Some have built a super-structure of coldness and indifference to the Lord that His love does not penetrate. Turn that over in your mind a few times and see what you come up with according to the words from Holy Writ we are considering, my beloved....

8 Now therefore so shalt thou say unto my servant David, Thus saith the LORD of hosts, I took thee from the shepcote, 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. 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:

~ This is more than a tremendous passage of Holy Writ – this is outstanding. See, Paul tells us the Lord Jesus is of the seed of David. Verse twelve isn't talking about Solomon. Verse twelve is talking about Jesus Himself! Verse thirteen is speaking of Solomon in reference to building the house; but, even so, the kingdom goes *beyond* Solomon in verse thirteen and looks into the eternity of David's kingdom. It is *David's* throne that will be established forever.

God also says He will be David's Father, which is language not found elsewhere in the Old Testament. God does not reference individual Old Testament saints as His children, only as servants. After the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ, He said to Mary, "*I ascend to My Father and to your Father!*" God is the Father of the Lord Jesus Christ because of Jesus'

position in the Trinity – but He is my Father, too; and He is my Father by my regeneration. To as many as received Him gave He them the right to be called sons of God. That means those who do no more or less than believe on His Name shall be saved. If you believe Christ came to this world and died on the cross for your sins and was raised from the dead for your justification, then God is your Father, and you are His child – eternally.

Interestingly, I also draw the title for this report from verse fourteen. I think we'll all agree it is a very strange statement. Bishop Horsley gives this translation: "... when guilt is laid upon Him I will chasten Him with the rod of men." I believe that is precisely what God is saying – and this is the unique relationship that exists between God the Father and God the Son, Christ Jesus. Our sins were laid upon Him at the cross, friends. For you and me, that means when we commit iniquity, we shall be chastened. Whom the Lord loveth, He chasteneth betimes. By His stripes – Christ's stripes – we are healed – from *SIN*. Christ was delivered for our offenses. Our sin is the only reason Christ died; He Himself did bare our sin in His Own body – that we, being dead in sins, might live unto righteousness, by Whose stripes we are healed. There is no reference to physical healing in Isaiah's prophecy.

When our sins were laid upon Christ, it pleased God to bruise Him and put Him to grief. That's what the prophets say about the Messiah Who was coming in the line of David as a man. The sins of the world would be placed on the man, Jesus. See, Christ has born our grief and carried our sorrows; yet we did esteem Him stricken and smitten of God and afflicted. Christ was wounded for our transgressions and the chastisement of our peace was upon Him. With His stripes we are healed – but that *DOES NOT* mean physical healing in this life – it means healed *FROM SIN*. The awful disease of mankind is *sin*, my beloved. Even though David sinned grievously, God carried through with His plan and purpose to bring Christ into the world through David's lineage and establish His throne forever. Apparently, God thinks this is a rather important point.

Psalm 89:34 My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips. 35 Once have I sworn by my holiness that I will not lie unto David. 36 His seed shall endure for ever, and his throne as the sun before

me. 37 It shall be established for ever as the moon, and as a faithful witness in heaven ~

The moon is well established, of course; and when man brought rocks back from the moon, all of the science books suddenly changed from teaching the earth was hundreds of thousands of years old to *BILLIONS* of years old. Personally, I don't see much difference between the rocks from the moon and the rocks in my backyard. I noticed they don't talk much about them anymore. I'm sure I am missing something. What I know for sure is that mankind was attempting to ignore the Word of God in that era; but has now miraculously rediscovered God has already written our history. A famous rock and roll group proudly proclaimed they were more popular than Jesus at one time. Interestingly, that musical group won't be producing any more records, but a very much alive Jesus seems to have made a remarkable comeback....

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.

18 Then went King David in, and sat before the LORD, and he said, Who am I, O Lord GOD? and what is my house, that thou hast brought me hitherto?

19 And this was yet a small thing in thy sight, O Lord GOD; but thou hast spoken also of thy servant's house for a great while to come. And has regarded me and the arrangement about the Man that is to be from above, O Lord GOD Jehovah?

~ All of the prophets were looking for the One to come from the seed of a woman and from the tribe of Judah. This is where we are told it would be from the family of David. David was a little overwhelmed by all of this,

obviously. Have you ever poured out your heart to God until you simply had nothing else to say? Have you ever prayed until you were as empty as a spilled glass of water? Have you ever told God all that you could possibly think of? Sometimes I pray until there is nothing else for me to say – how about you? God is wonderful – we're not....

20 And what can David say more unto thee? for thou, Lord GOD, knowest thy servant.

21 For thy word's sake, and according to thine own heart, hast thou done all these great things, to make thy servant know them.

22 Wherefore thou art great, O LORD God: for there is none like thee, neither is there any God beside thee, according to all that we have heard with our ears.

23 And what one nation in the earth is like thy people, even like Israel, whom God went to redeem for a people to himself, and to make him a name, and to do for you great things and terrible, for thy land, before thy people, which thou redeemedst to thee from Egypt, from the nations and their gods?

24 For thou hast confirmed to thyself thy people Israel to be a people unto thee for ever: and thou, LORD, art become their God.

25 And now, O LORD God, the word that thou hast spoken concerning thy servant, and concerning his house, establish it for ever, and do as thou hast said.

26 And let thy name be magnified for ever, saying, The LORD of hosts is the God over Israel: and let the house of thy servant David be established before thee.

27 For thou, O LORD of hosts, God of Israel, hast revealed to thy servant, saying, I will build thee an house: therefore hath thy servant found in his heart to pray this prayer unto thee.

28 And now, O Lord GOD, thou art that God, and thy words be true, and thou hast promised this goodness unto thy servant:

29 Therefore now let it please thee to bless the house of thy servant, that it may continue for ever before thee: for thou, O Lord GOD, hast spoken it: and with thy blessing let the house of thy servant be blessed for ever.

~ Doesn't it do your heart good to simply read this passage? Most people rarely ever pass through this section of Scripture, friends – and that's a shame. We have a wonderful God Who reveals Himself to us supernaturally. David rested upon what God had promised him and that, actually became his salvation. God has made a promise to me and you – when He said, *“whosoever believeth in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life.”* David believed God. Abraham believed God. Moses believed God. Joshua believed God. Samuel believed God. Andrew Hunt believes God. Will you believe God? If you will trust Christ, He shall save you to the uttermost. That's His covenant with us. The Word of God just happens to be very, very important.

2 Samuel 23: 5 Although my house be not so with God; yet he hath made with me an everlasting covenant, ordered in all things, and sure: for this is all my salvation ~