

## Redemptive Failure | Fall and Rise of the House of David

### Legacy

First Chronicles 29.10ff

11.13.22

*So David blessed the LORD in the sight of all the assembly; and David said, "Blessed are You, O LORD God of Israel our father, forever and ever. <sup>11</sup> "Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, indeed everything that is in the heavens and the earth; Yours is the dominion, O LORD, and You exalt Yourself as head over all. <sup>12</sup> "Both riches and honor come from You, and You rule over all, and in Your hand is power and might; and it lies in Your hand to make great and to strengthen everyone. <sup>13</sup> "Now therefore, our God, we thank You, and praise Your glorious name.*

*<sup>14</sup> "But who am I and who are my people that we should be able to offer as generously as this? For all things come from You, and from Your hand we have given You. <sup>15</sup> "For we are sojourners before You, and tenants, as all our fathers were; our days on the earth are like a shadow, and there is no hope. <sup>16</sup> "O LORD our God, all this abundance that we have provided to build You a house for Your holy name, **it is from Your hand**, and all is Yours. <sup>17</sup> "Since I know, O my God, that You try the heart and delight in uprightness, I, in the integrity of my heart, have willingly offered all these things; so now with joy I have seen Your people, who are present here, make their offerings willingly to You. <sup>18</sup> "O LORD, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, our fathers, preserve this forever in the intentions of the heart of Your people, and direct their heart to You; <sup>19</sup> and give to my son Solomon a perfect heart to keep Your commandments, Your testimonies and Your statutes, and to do them all, and to build the temple, for which I have made provision."*

*<sup>20</sup> Then David said to all the assembly, "Now bless the LORD your God." And all the assembly blessed the LORD, the God of their fathers, and bowed low and did homage to the LORD and to the king.*

*<sup>21</sup> On the next day they made sacrifices to the LORD and offered burnt offerings to the LORD, 1,000 bulls, 1,000 rams and 1,000 lambs, with their drink offerings and sacrifices in abundance for all Israel. <sup>22</sup> So they ate and drank that day before the LORD with great gladness.*

*And they made Solomon the son of David king a second time, and they anointed him as ruler for the LORD and Zadok as priest. <sup>23</sup> Then Solomon sat on the throne of the LORD as king instead of David his father; and he prospered, and all Israel obeyed him. <sup>24</sup> All the officials, the mighty men, and also all the sons of King David pledged allegiance to King Solomon. <sup>25</sup> The LORD highly exalted Solomon in the sight of all Israel and bestowed on him royal majesty which had not been on any king before him in Israel.*

*<sup>26</sup> Now David the son of Jesse reigned over all Israel. <sup>27</sup> The period which he reigned over Israel was forty years; he reigned in Hebron seven years and in Jerusalem thirty-three years.*

*<sup>28</sup> Then he died in a ripe old age, full of days, riches and honor; and his son Solomon reigned in his place. <sup>29</sup> Now the acts of King David, from first to last, are written in the chronicles of Samuel the seer, in the chronicles of Nathan the prophet and in the chronicles of Gad the seer, <sup>30</sup> with all his reign, his power, and the circumstances which came on him, on Israel, and on all the kingdoms of the lands.*

This is the final sermon on the *Life of King David*. The Season of Advent begins in two weeks, so we have a "gap" week in which I hope to address a topic central in today's passage, i.e. stewardship in the spiritual life ... or managing the resources, money, time, and talents God loans to us (two-part miniseries: this week and next).

David died last week and it's told again THIS week (a second version). This scene is a flashback for US to when David attempted to build a house for God... but God wouldn't let David build the Temple because David's a warrior king with too much blood on his hands. He's spent most of his life fighting... and the Temple is a place for peace/reconciliation. So, it'll fall to the son of David to build the Temple... Solomon can mean replacement but it's most often seen as a variant of shalom, peace or rest. David's a man of war – Solomon a man of peace.

David must have been disappointed not to be able to build the Temple as it became the epicenter of the Jewish world. The Temple plays such a pivotal role in the Bible... right up to 70AD when it was destroyed by the Romans. It would have been David's crowning achievement...Nathan thought it was a no-brainer.

God said NO.

So what happens when we don't accomplish what we hoped to? How should we respond when we are (what our grandparents might have called) "providentially hindered" – i.e. when we're blocked or thwarted from doing what we once believed was God's will for our lives? "I always thought my life would be different...now I see my hopes will never be realized in the ways I expected." When what we once hoped and planned to undertake and complete never comes to pass – what then?

**Let's look at: 1) Unrealized Dreams**

**2) Spiritual Recall**

**3) The Builder and His Materials**

A lot of people have unrealized dreams. When you were a child and people asked, "What do you wanna BE when you grow up?" WELL... IS that what you're doing or did?

Did you hope to get more education but now it's really not feasible or even possible? Did you plan on being married? Did you plan on having children? Did you want to answer a calling on your life into some sort of vocation or job or ministry...or to a place? Did you hope to play music or sports professionally? But you ended up not....

Some people... when they were young...had what they thought was a spiritual experience and God (at least you THOUGHT it was God) impressed some goal, pursuit on your heart... You imagined how your life would unfold in this calling but... it never came to pass. Maybe, you look back and laugh... or you wonder... or you DON'T look back because it's too painful.

And many of these pursuits...or dreams...or aspirations are noble and good; it's not just a vacation to Tahiti or your own private jet; bucket list...but some solid GOOD.

This was the case for David. He'd built himself a house fit for a king... but the Ark of the Covenant was still sitting in a tent. The box that symbolized the very presence of Israel's God was in a temporary shelter. Undignified.

But when David reasons this way and Nathan the prophet sees it as OBVIOUS that David should DO this, God has objections that David hadn't considered. God never TOLD David to build God a house. It wasn't like God was cold or needed more space. God is omnipresent and even the universe can't contain Him... so what's a few acres? David seems to think he's helping God. NO!

Then, there's the matter of David shedding blood. The Temple was a house of prayer (Luke 19.46) and a place where peace was made between sinful people and the Holy God. This was not a job for a violent man.

If people sort of let go of their dreams and what they hoped and even thought was a real calling from God, the letting go is usually gradual and even imperceptible but for David it was an actual point in time and a revelation from God by a prophet (Nathan). It was a hard NO.

He might have been ...dejected, bummed out, sad and said, "Fine! I'll take that vacation to Tahiti!"

But David comes away from this sharp denial in an amazingly buoyant and joyful mood... It's like he's given the hard "No!" to his dream (of building the LORD's house) and David is so-o-o-o happy! Why?

Well, you can read about it in CH 17 and you'll find that God's bottom line is this: *"I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader over My people Israel. I've been with you wherever you've gone, and have defeated all your enemies and I will make you a name like the name of the great ones who are in the earth... Moreover, I tell you that, I, the LORD, will build a house for you."* (1 Chr. 17.7-10)

The reason David can both LOSE his life's dream AND be ecstatic about it is because of God's promise. God has something far better for David than what David could ever have dreamed.

"YOU will not build a house for ME – but I will build a house for YOU!" It's a crucially clear statement of the Gospel for David. "In the end, YOU don't DO for me – I do for YOU! I accomplish for YOU because I am ALL GIFT and YOU ARE ALL NEED."

You didn't come searching for Me, David... I came searching for YOU. I found you like a lost lamb among the sheep... I never chose you so you could do something for Me...as if I needed something ... I NEED NOTHING... and YOU NEED EVERYTHING!!"

It goes back to C.S. Lewis very, VERY useful quote: Every faculty you have, your power of thinking or of moving your limbs from moment to moment, is given you by God. If you devoted every moment of your whole life exclusively to His service you could not give Him anything that was not in a sense His own already. So that when we talk of a man doing anything *for* God or giving anything *to* God, I will tell you what that is really like.

It is like a small child going to its father and saying, 'Daddy, give me sixpence to buy you a birthday present.' Of course, the father does, and he is pleased with the child's present. It is all very nice and proper, *but only an idiot would think that the father is sixpence to the good on the transaction. When a man has made these*

*two discoveries God can really get to work. It is after this that real life begins. The man is awake now.* (Mere Christianity; p. 192)

And it's this covenant with David, this return to RAW grace and the basic order of God's relationship with humans – that God loves US with gift-love and we love God with need-love and that God's grace means, *"things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, and which have not entered the heart of man, all that God has prepared for those who love him."* (1 Cor. 2.9; Isa 64.4) David is now awake!

"David... let your dream go... because I have something infinitely better. I will build a house for YOU... I will establish your legacy. I will make your line of descendants kings forever!"

And David then... (as Lewis said) comes awake: *"When a man has made these two discoveries God can really get to work. It is after this that real life begins. The man is awake now."*

And far from being angry or petulant or sulky, David gains spiritual recall. He's able to look back on his (often difficult) life through the lens of grace and see that anything David has given to God was first given to David BY God.

David's now happy for his son to take the project and he even devotes himself to raise the funds and gather all these materials, the furnishings and utensils for the sacrifices, the nails (had to be forged) gold and silver and brass, imported lumber, stone and gems and the blueprints. It had to have been a massive effort... David gives up his dream of building and takes on the really hard work of shopping, buying, gathering, organizing.

The people too...they give these materials so freely and energetically that when David sees all the stuff that's come in from the citizens, David himself puts it plainly: *"But who am I and who are my people that we should be able to offer as generously as this? For all things come from You, and from YOUR hand we have given You...O LORD our God, all this abundance that we have provided to build You a house for Your holy name, it is from Your hand, and all is Yours."* (14, 16)

And when everyone has this overwhelming sense of God's grace...they celebrate! They offer sacrifices (some of which are reduced to ashes and some become a national barbecue!) And David welcomes his son, Solomon to the "LORD's throne" (23) and Solomon will later write these words: *"Unless the LORD builds the house, they labor in vain who build it..."* (Ps. 127.1) Solomon learned about grace from David.

Solomon will be the Temple Builder and David will be the materials collector... and David prays that his son be equipped NOT only with the physical supplies and materials but with (v. 19) *"a perfect heart to keep your commandments..."* and we know that Solomon (under God's grace) DID indeed build the house but... (spoiler-alert!) Solomon did NOT have a perfect heart (1<sup>st</sup> Kings 11.4).

And it turns out that in God's providence (the way He cares for and governs the world/church) that another Son of David... One greater than Solomon (Luke 11.31) would be the Real Temple Builder and the imported materials used in the Temple built by Jesus Christ would be "living stones". He will be the Foundation Stone and believers the structure. (1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2.4-10)

He would refer to Himself as the Temple (the dwelling of God!) – that would be destroyed and then raised again on the third day (John 2.19-20). The Church would be called a *Temple of the Holy Spirit*, persons from every tribe, nation, tongue and people. See, even that Temple that Solomon completed would ultimately be a disappointment and a dream that failed to measure up... but the House that Jesus is building will never be destroyed. It's a house that not only protects but goes on the offensive. Even the gates of Hell will not withstand its assault. (Mat 16.18)

This, Son of David, Jesus of Nazareth, comes with the Perfect Heart for God and a Heart to keep all God's Law: A Perfect Heart. And any obedience we render, any project we complete, any fruit we bear in God's Kingdom, any true love we offer to God and to people is FIRST GIVEN TO US BY THE GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST (John 15.5) Apart from Him we can do nothing.

When we see the Grace and Glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ (2<sup>nd</sup> Cor 4.6), Son of God, Son of David, Builder of the House (Heb 3.3) – when we see Him as the grace of God given to us, when we see that IN CHRIST there are infinite riches (Eph 1.3ff) *WHEN WE SEE THAT HE REALIZED HIS DREAM by death...* and from His death came light and life – THEN we're not so afraid to let go of our paltry dreams because we also see that God has something infinitely better ...even unimaginable in store.

When we see life, as David did (and sometimes he sort of lost the vision) but in the end the vision of God's grace is firmly rooted in David's heart and in his spiritual eyesight – *when we see this way*, we're glad for others to succeed where we have failed or been hindered by God from realizing our dream.

In this posture, we're able to look back on our past failures AND successes, our dreams that HAVE been fulfilled and those that'll NEVER materialize and we're able to say, *"Blessed are you, O LORD, God of Israel...Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty, indeed everything in the heavens and earth YOURS IS THE DOMINION..."*

And we're compelled to WONDER ("Who am I that God should be this generous to me?") and we're compelled to celebrate – to worship together with other "grace people" in this Living Temple.

In this way of approaching life may it be said spiritually of us (who believe) as it was said of our brothers and sisters: *"So they ate and drank that day before the LORD with great gladness... and David died at a ripe old age, full of days, riches and honor..."* (1 Chr. 29.22, 28).

## QUOTES:

I don't want to achieve immortality through my work... I want to achieve it through not dying.

– Woody Allen

Rather than reading Scripture as if it's a Christian variety of Aesop's Fables, punctuated with good and bad exemplars of behavior, I began to read it as a multilayered web of interconnections that gradually construct the Big Story of Scripture.

The final and overarching reason that I shifted away from reading the Old Testament as a sort of handbook of morality was this: I began to take seriously the New Testament's insistence that everything from Genesis to Malachi is, in one form or fashion, about Jesus the Messiah... To follow the Messiah entails following how he interpreted the Scriptures. And judging by his words, he interpreted them, in their totality, as a testimony about himself.

– Chad Bird, *The Christ Key: Unlocking the Centrality of Christ in the Old Testament* (p. 3) (1517 Publishing; 2021)

Every faculty you have, your power of thinking or of moving your limbs from moment to moment, is given you by God. If you devoted every moment of your whole life exclusively to His service you could not give Him anything that was not in a sense His own already. So that when we talk of a man doing anything *for* God or giving anything *to* God, I will tell you what that is really like.

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– C. S. Lewis (1898-1963), *Mere Christianity*  
(New York: HarperCollins, 2001) p.192