

## David Responds to God's Gracious Covenant

Call to Worship: Psalm 146

1st Scripture: 2 Samuel 7:1-17

2nd Scripture: 2 Samuel 7:18-29

Hymn Insert- *Shout to the Lord*

Hymn Insert- *By Faith*

Hymn #50- *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

### Introduction:

David comes out of his palace, and is troubled by the fact that the ark of God rests in a tent, while he dwells in a beautiful and luxurious house of cedar. And so, he expresses a desire to Nathan the prophet, to build God a glorious temple, within which, the ark would reside. At first, Nathan sends David forth with his approval and blessing, but then he receives a vision from God that evening, which brings him to recant his first response.

God sends Nathan back to David with a glorious response, which contains the Davidic covenant within it. After alleviating any guilt that David might feel for leaving the ark in a tent, and after reminding David of all that God has done for him thus far, God then proceeds to unveil His glorious covenant with David! And the substance of the Davidic covenant included a two-fold fulfillment (Solomonic and Messianic), which guaranteed that the Davidic royal dynasty would last forever. Through David's seed, Israel would find rest, prosperity and permanent victory over her enemies. The rest, which the people of Israel were presently experiencing was indicative of this. It was a sign, pointing to a more permanent and perfect reality. The wealthy and prosperous reign of Solomon, which began to fulfill this covenant in a lesser sense (than its ultimate fulfillment), also pictured this reality, being the most prosperous and thriving time, in the history of Israel, and that time, within which Solomon had built God's Temple. However, the ultimate, and far more perfect fulfillment of this Covenant, would come in the kingdom and reign of Christ, David's Greater Son and Lord, who would secure true, permanent and perfect rest and peace, for all of His people; true, *spiritual* Israel! Unlike the case of Saul, God would extend mercy to David's seed, disciplining him when necessary, ensuring that his royal dynasty would continue forever, in fulfillment of this covenant.

Well, needless to say, David is far more than flattered by these gracious, covenant promises. He is floored, and overwhelmed with a deep sense of his own unworthiness, along with a proper understanding of God's amazing grace. He is amazed and quite puzzled by this glorious and gracious obligation, which God has, of His own desire, placed upon Himself. And

so, he goes into the tent, and sits before the Lord, only to pour forth the response, which will be the focus of our study for this morning. And brethren, one of the wonderful blessings, which emits out of this response, is that we, who are children of God, by faith (in Christ), ought to be able to identify with it, in some significant respect. There is a common catalyst in God's special grace, which causes every object of His grace, to identify with the experience of all who know it. [Ex: Snapping down the dividing wall, which once separated the base and catalyst of a glow stick. Then shake it...bringing the two liquids together, and it glows!]

## **I. David's Response to God's Gracious Covenant**

Now brethren, in our consideration of David's response, we will break it down into four parts:

- 1- David recognizes his own unworthiness (vs. 18-20)
- 2- David acknowledges God's greatness (vs. 21-24)
- 3- David calls for the right and proper result (vs. 25-26)
- 4- David expresses his confidence in God's Word (vs. 27-29)

### 1) David recognizes his own unworthiness (vs. 18-20):

"Then King David went in and sat before the LORD; and he said: "Who am I, O Lord GOD? And what is my house, that You have brought me this far?" (vs. 18).

Notice brethren, the great humility of David here, as he clearly expresses his realized unworthiness, in the light of God's covenant with him. And brethren, it is critical to understand that David is in no way, seeking to flatter God here. In other words, there is no artificiality here. Rather, he has a sincere, keen awareness of his true, lowly condition before God, and in that light, he is dumbfounded by the fact that God would covenant with David; that God would bind Himself to such a profound and far reaching oath, here. Notice the manner of David's humble awe and shock. He says, as it were, "Lord, all that you have done for me already; that which You have just summarized so well...why have You done it? Who am I, O Lord God, that I should be the object of blessing and attention, in any respect, from the living God? What is my house, that you have brought me this far, already? What is it about me; why has my life, in any sense, commanded such attention from You, O Lord? I look, but nothing is there? I cannot

locate a thread of merit, for attaining the least of your mercies. And yet, you have brought me here! You have made me a shepherd over your people."

And he moves on to say, "And yet this was a small thing in Your sight, O Lord God; and you have also spoken of Your servant's house for a great while to come. Is this the manner of man, O Lord God?" (vs. 19) What is David saying here? "And yet, all that you have done so far, Lord; all that You have done on my behalf, is but a small thing in Your sight! Not only have you unfolded the whole history of my life, with hardly a wink of an eye; not only have you taken what is large to me, and with but a flicker of the finger, brought me to this place, but furthermore, You have done all of this; You have given me such a large amount of Your attention, as if it were a light matter. This is incomprehensibly large to Me, but You do all of this, as if Your condescending to meet me in such glorious ways, were a small thing."

You see, brethren, David was overwhelmed by the grace of God toward him, such that he could not possibly, even begin to comprehend, how God could lower Himself to the place of giving such value and recognition to David. And now, even beyond what He has already done, God would actually covenant to place such significance on David's house; God would so elevate David's lineage, in the sphere of this wondrous creation; out of all of the many souls in this world, to the place that He would secure a royal dynasty for David forever! This absolutely blew the mind of David! And so David asks, "Is this the manner of man, O Lord God?" "Is there any human being; any flake of "breathing dust," in this world, that could ever, possibly be the object of such blessing? Is the living, eternal and holy God, ever mindful of mere, sinful men...and to this extent? I just cannot fathom this, Lord...How can this possibly be?"

You see, brethren, David had a keen sense of his own lowly state; his true humanity, and fallen humanity at that. And this drove him to respond in this way. David was a "realist," who had truly come face to face with his natural, humble state. [Ill: Imagine a very famous Hollywood star, searching you out, coming to you, blessing you, and making you his/her close companion for the rest of your life. Now, imagine *God*, who is infinitely pure, holy and eternal; who could never be your equal, even if you were without sin, fixing His attentive grace upon you!]

"Now what more can David say to You? For You, Lord GOD, know Your servant" (vs. 20). "Lord, what else can I say? Everything is before Your face. You, the All-knowing God and Creator, know what You are doing. You know me, inside and out, up and down, backward

and forward. While I cannot possibly comprehend your favor toward me, You make no mistakes. You knew what You were doing all along, and I can only leave it right there. Somehow, this is all right, but I just cannot comprehend it. It is outside of me and beyond me." [Note: David's humble response to Saul, when Saul was preparing to take him as a son-in-law, 1 Sam. 18:18, 23]

2) David acknowledges God's greatness (vs. 21-24):

"For Your word's sake, and according to Your own heart, You have done all these great things, to make Your servant know them. Therefore You are great, O Lord GOD. For there is none like You, nor is there any God besides You, according to all that we have heard with our ears" (vs. 21-22).

And so, David, humbled by His own unworthiness, turns his attention to God, to find the only possible motivation for God's unfathomable, gracious favor toward David. All other reasoning is impossible. "For Your word's sake, and according to Your own heart, You have done all these great things, to make Your servant know them." "Lord, there is nothing in me, whatsoever. The motivation finds its only existence in You; in Your character, Your Being, and Your purpose. That You might be glorified in the accomplishing of all Your Word, and in accordance with the unfathomable, incomprehensible virtue of grace, that exists within Your own heart and Being, You have done all of these things, and have caused me to know them. I am the object of Your blessing Lord, solely because of the greatness and wonder of Your being! You are great, O Lord God! There is none like You, anywhere, ever! You are in a unique and eternal class of Your own; You are holy in the most infinite and untouchable sense! Nor is there any God besides You, according to all that we have heard with our ears!" "Though there are many professed gods out there, throughout the whole earth, they are all worthless, dead, useless idols. They do not exist in truth! You alone are God! And the greatness of Your Being; the unmatched, incomprehensible virtue of Your amazing grace, reveals the uniqueness of who You are, unlike the gods of the world, which are created in accordance with the imaginations and thoughts of men. You excel all of our thoughts, and prove Your greatness, by revealing such glorious things within Your character that cannot be known or fathomed in the hearts of men, or the god's made in the image of men!" And David then moves on to profess God's faithfulness to Israel, as a prime example of His greatness and uniqueness as God.

"And who is like Your people, like Israel, the one nation on the earth whom God went to redeem for Himself as a people, to make for Himself a name—and to do for Yourself great and awesome deeds for Your land—before Your people whom You redeemed for Yourself from Egypt, the nations, and their gods? For You have made Your people Israel Your very own people forever; and You, LORD, have become their God" (vs. 23-24).

Here, David holds Israel out, among all peoples on the earth, not because of anything inherently in Israel, at all, but as a means of further emphasizing the greatness of God, as the One, who has lifted up, blessed, and secured Israel, from the moment that He sovereignly and graciously set them apart from all other peoples. "Who is like Your people, like Israel, the one nation on earth whom *God went to redeem for Himself as a people...*" You see, David is here confirming further his proclamation about the greatness of God, by recalling all that God has done with Israel, especially, but not limited to, the way in which He has powerfully redeemed them out of Egypt. And where again, could God have found the motivation for doing this? Was it anything in Israel? No, as David had already done with himself, he can only make sense of it all, when he casts his gaze away from man, and onto the glorious character of God! Why did God redeem and raise up Israel, as a nation? "To make for Himself a name!" In a world, which was created by and for God, but which has rebelled against Him, turning away from Him, only to worship all manner of idols and creatures, God had set apart a people, to reveal and glorify His Name! God ordained to glorify Himself, to lift up a standard for His Name, by graciously redeeming and setting apart a people for Himself! And so, He did great and awesome things for, by and through them, bringing them into the Promised Land, of His choice, so that they might stand out as His special people. Wholly on the basis of His own sovereign will and initiative, God had set apart and blessed His people, unto the glory of His great Name!

### 3) David calls for the right and proper result (vs. 25-26)

Since all of this is about God and His greatness, to no merit of David or Israel (or anyone else for that matter), David calls for the right and proper result to follow. "Now, O LORD God, the word which You have spoken concerning Your servant and concerning his house, establish it forever and do as You have said. So let Your name be magnified forever, saying, 'The LORD of

hosts is the God over Israel.' And let the house of Your servant David be established before You" (vs. 25-26).

Seeing that the only explanation for all that God has done, and all that He continues to do on behalf of His people, rests within the greatness and goodness of His own character, David pleads, as it were, "O Lord God, indeed, do all that you have spoken and promised concerning your servant David and his house. Establish it forever, as you have so determined. But, in doing so, accomplish that which is most proper and right, by this very means. Magnify Your Name forever! Use your servant and His house, as a means of magnifying your great and glorious Name, forever! Let your glory be seen in the fulfillment of this gracious covenant, that you have made with me, out of the sheer goodness and kindness of your gracious Being! Make my house; make all of Israel a huge banner, hanging from one end of the earth to the other; a neon sign, declaring boldly and loudly, that the true and living God; indeed, "The Lord of Hosts," (of all heavenly beings) is the God of Israel! And to that end, O Lord, let the house of your servant David be established before You, as you have determined, and so desired!" And finally...

#### 4) David expresses his confidence in God's Word (vs. 27-29)

"For You, O LORD of hosts, God of Israel, have revealed this to Your servant, saying, 'I will build you a house.' Therefore Your servant has found it in his heart to pray this prayer to You. "And now, O Lord GOD, You are God, and Your words are true, and You have promised this goodness to Your servant. Now therefore, let it please You to bless the house of Your servant, that it may continue before You forever; for You, O Lord GOD, have spoken it, and with Your blessing let the house of Your servant be blessed forever" (vs. 27-29)

Here David, expresses his confidence in God's Word, with the utmost sense of certainty, because of who God is. "And now, O Lord God, You are God, and Your Word is true..." "You cannot lie. You have both the ability and the integrity to do all that You have promised. And because this covenant is based completely on Your character and in accordance with Your holy desire, I know that it will come to pass, exactly as You have graciously vowed. If it were based on my doings, or even my faithfulness, I would have little hope of securing such a blessing. But because it all begins and ends with You, I know that all that You have stated, will most assuredly

come to pass. And so, let it please You to do all that You have promised, on behalf of Your servant and his house. What You have spoken, will come to pass. Therefore, let a royal dynasty be forever established, through the seed of Your servant, and may his house be blessed forever!

Again, here we see David exhibiting great faith and confidence in the certainty of God's Word. In many ways, David, here reminds me of Mary, many years later, when she is unexpectedly visited by an angel, who informed her of the fact that she would bear and bring forth the Messiah, from out of her womb. In the face of the humanly impossible, Mary responded there, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to Your word." And the angel departed from her" (Luke 1:38). In both cases, we find a humble, confident and submissive faith, exercised, in the light of God's incomprehensible promise!

## **II. Concluding Thoughts and Applications**

Brethren, let us then conclude our time, by considering a few closing thoughts and applications:

1) Brethren, let us ever be aware; indeed, let us constantly be about the business of reminding ourselves; let us never let anything draw our attention away too long from the reality of God's *gracious* favor toward us. To take that for granted, brethren, is criminal!

David had a keen awareness of his own unworthiness of receiving any blessing from God. Consider, brethren, that God's grace is never merited, it is never random, and it finds its complete and total motivation, in the very character of God Himself. And with respect to our salvation, ought we not always to say with David, "Who am I, O Lord God? And what is my house, that You have brought me this far?" You see brethren, it is not even as if God took a paint bucket full of grace, and tossed it in the air, and some just "luckily" fell upon you. That would be reason enough to marvel and to thank and praise God. But rather, you were to be the very specific object and target of God's grace, even before He had created the world! In Romans 9:21, the Apostle Paul states, "Does not the potter have power over the clay, from the same lump to make one vessel for honor and another for dishonor." You see, brethren, from the very righteous standpoint of God, the entire lot of humanity, in Adam, is bred and born in a large vat of corruption and defilement. We are *by nature*, children of wrath. But God, out of the sheer goodness of His will, and in accordance with His own divine pleasure, reaches in, with eyes open wide (and specifically focused), plucks out a chosen people for Himself, who will be wholly

cleansed and sanctified in the shed blood of His Son. And He adopts them as His children forever! And to be one of those, who was consciously plucked out of the mire, not randomly, but specifically, is the "greatest of all privileges." Let us never grow dull toward the grace of God, brethren! For, when we were without hope, contrary to God in every moral sense, running in the wrong direction by nature, Christ died for us!

You see, brethren, God's gracious favor toward us, originates not in who *we* are, but in who *God* is! The wonder of this, blew David away, altogether! He could not fathom it! It knocked him right off of his feet! He could only make any sense of it all, by turning his attention away from himself and toward God, so as to behold and magnify the mysterious and glorious, greatness of our God, unlike any fictitious god, made up in the minds of sinful men! And such greatness, brethren; such grace, cannot even begin to be fathomed by the world, which is always looking for something redeemable in man. This just flies right in the face of a "man-centered," "man-focused," theology, which always attempts to find something good in man...even if it is a "free choice" to believe in Christ! But those who grasp, even a fraction of the truth of their own unworthiness and the greatness of God, find themselves responding to God's grace, much like the way in which David responds here, in our text.

2) Brethren, seeing that our salvation, from start to finish; indeed, the whole package, is of God; seeing that it is a work preordained and fully accomplished by Him, let us strive to ensure that the "end" of our salvation, complies with its origin. In other words, with David, let us plead with God, and let us strive with all of our being, to bring about the proper end, namely, the glorification of God! Let us be concerned that God's great and glorious Name, would be magnified in His work...us! Since He is the architect and builder of our entire salvation, let us live out His signature, brethren, ensuring that everyone knows, by our lives, our words, our actions, our pursuit of holiness, our commitment to His church, our honoring of the Lord's Day...etc, that there is a God, and He can be found and known, in His Son, Jesus Christ!

Amen!!!

Benediction: Ephesians 3:14-21