

God, Be Resolved

1 Samuel 7:25 - 29

Nutshell: David affirms God as the source of the mercies He has pronounced. This was an affirmation of grace. David recognized that he didn't deserve these promises, Yet he rightly counted on God to back them to the hilt. God is honored when we expect Him to perform according to His words and to tell Him so.

I. Context: David's desire to build God a permanent house.

II. Text

2 Sam 7:25 And now, YHWH God, the word which You have spoken concerning Your servant and concerning his house, establish unto perpetuity, and do as You have spoken.

Literal Standard Version with modifications

The next four outline items, III. - VI., are based on the 4 uses of Scripture listed in 2 Tim 3:16 AND the 3 depictions of preaching in 2 Tim 4:2.

III. Teaching

- A. The Book of Kingdoms, our 1 & 2 Sam + 1 & 2 Kings, is the story of Israel's kings, beginning with the prophet Samuel, who anointed both of the first two kings, Saul and David
 - 1. Samuel warned Israel vs. having a king, 1 Sam 10:19, Hos 13:11
 - 2. **Saul** was apostate *man's* version of king. God previewed *His* version via **David**, 1 Sam 13:14
- ✿ B. 1 Kings 15:5 tells us that David kept God's commands *except* in the Bathsheba incident. This dramatically shapes our approach to each incident in David's life.
- C. The chronicler presents David as God's chosen king, a *picture* of Messiah, but *not* the Messiah; a *reference point* for all subsequent kings of Judah, e.g., 2 Kings 14:3
- D. David was anointed king over **Judah**, 2 Sam 2. 2 Sam 2:12-32 showed that the split between Israel (the 10 northern tribes) and Judah (with Benjamin) would only bring harm.
- E. Saul's general, Abner, made Saul's son Ishbosheth king of Israel
 - 1. David's general, Joab, wrongfully (but not criminally)

- killed Abner (avenging a relative)
- 2. Assassins killed Ishbosheth, hoping to gain favor with David. He had them executed, 2 Sam 4.
- 3. **Israel's** elders anointed David KING over them, 2 Sam 5:1-5
- F. David finally vanquished Jebus (Jerusalem), 2 Sam 5:6-10, where he had taken Goliath's head, 1 Sam 17:54
 - 1. David rebuffed 2 large-scale Philistine invasions, 5:17-25
 - 2. David retrieved the Ark from its 'wanderings', 6:1-19;
 - a. first, ignoring God's instructions, leading to a death;
 - b. then properly, with great joy-
 - c. except for David's cynical wife, Michal, 6:20-23, 16
- G. Now David wants to build a **permanent** form for the Tabernacle. This will be the **Temple**, 7:1-2
 - 1. Nathan agreed with David, 7:3
 - 2. But God first realigned their perspectives: *He* was the one who had established *David*, 7:4-11
 - 3. God will have David's **heir** build this house, whose kingdom God would permanently establish, 7:12-13
- ★H. This was a **turning point in the history of Redemption**
 - 1. God had chosen **Abraham** to make a nation from which Redemption would come. That nation had been God's "son," Exod 4:22-23.
 - 2. Now God said that **David's** kingdom would be permanent, culminating in King Jesus, 7:14-17

Kid-speak: Who did God tell, "I'm going to make a **nation** starting with you"? Abraham. And who did God tell, "I'm going to make **kings**, starting with you"? David.

- 3. David saw that God was the one bringing this to pass, freely acting according to His own goodness, 7:18-21
- 4. That God is an utterly unique God, making Israel, His chosen people, a unique and blessed people, 7:22-24
- I. 7:25, David has humbled himself and worshiped. What more can he add?
 - 1. Only for God to do as He said
 - 2. David understood that this marked a new *trajectory* for God's people, with his *lineage* added to its hub (w/ Abe)
 - 3. May the God who devised it be pleased to bring it to pass
- J. Secret code to prayer ☺ "Do as you have spoken."

1. That's all we ask God in prayer: simply do as He has said
2. He has defined our blessedness in Christ: we receive it. He has promised our sanctification: we seek it.
3. Boldness in prayer is merely asking for what God has already provided. **KNOW** what He has promised!

2 Sam 7:26 And Your Name is magnified unto perpetuity. Let it be said [lit. "To say"], "YHWH of Hosts [*is*] God over Israel, and the house of Your servant David is established before You"

- K. In establishing what He promised for David, God was magnifying His own Name/Reputation from then on.
- L. What is God's "Name?"
1. It is however He describes or designates Himself
 - ★ 2. Ps 138:2 says that God has magnified (same word as here) His Word above all His "Name" (same word as here)
 - a. Meaning that of all the ways God describes or designates Himself, Scriptures are tops
 - b. Why is that? Because if God spoke audibly right now, it would still only be part of an ongoing process. The *permanent* part of the process has been what is written.
 - c. Jesus says the written stuff will be permanent, even when we later have Him right there to talk to us, Lk21:33
 - d. Anything God says in the future will just be the next installment of His already-laid-down truth

Kid-speak: What is the main way God makes us know Him? The Bible.

3. How did David know God so well (or at all)? Through what was written.
 - a. To the degree we take Scriptures as God talking to us in permanent (eternal) terms, *we* can draw as near to Him as David did
 - b. That's really what walking by faith and walking in the Spirit is
 4. God's "Name" is also found in what He made, Rom 1:20, making all men accountable
- M. V 26 is excellent instruction for praying according to Jesus' outline (The Lord's Prayer). "Magnifying" God's Name is

probably the chief way of “sanctifying” it, or “setting it apart,” which is what Jesus tells us to ask concerning God’s Name.

1. Matt 6:9 is imperative, not declarative. It’s not “Your name is holy,” but “**Let Your name be made holy/set apart**”- or, the usual word, “be sanctified.”
 - a. “Holy” is the adjective of which “sanctify” is the verb
 - b. *Making this a request makes a huge difference!*
 - c. An active vs. a passive mentality, for one thing
2. KJV readers knew that “hallowed” was a verb. As the word “hallowed” went out of fashion, the Church has been crippled by ignorance about *the lead request we’re instructed to ask of God!*

Kid-speak: When Jesus taught us to pray, what’s the first thing He told us to ask? That the most important thing would be God’s Name. What is God’s Name? Kind of like one of your names: boy, girl, child, etc. Words that describe you. God’s Name is any way He describes Himself. The main way He describes Himself is- the Bible.

3. What does it mean to ask that God’s Name be set apart?
 - a. We request that who He is be the most important thing
 - i. among all people
 - ii. to me in particular
 - b. We ask that how He has defined Himself (Scriptures) be honored just as He is honored, Ps 56:4, 10
 - c. We ask that we be mindful of Him, setting Him apart
 - i. Mindful by Scripture meditation
 - ii. Mindful by prayer
 - iii. Mindful by mingling the two
 4. When we honor God’s Name, we honor God, Isa 29:23; 60:9; Pa 99:3
 5. God sanctifies His own Name, so we are just joining Him, Ezek 36:23
 6. When we set apart God’s Name, we better cooperate with him setting us apart, Lev 22:32
- N. David says, in effect, Now that You have declared this, let it become part of Your ongoing testimony
1. That people will say that God is over Israel. He has chosen that they, from all nations, will be *His* nation.
 2. That people will also say that God has established David’s

house as part of His ongoing plan and means of self-glorification

3. Why should God want His own glorification?
 - a. It's mostly a matter of who He is. The angels are likely our best view into the naturalness of glorifying God.
 - b. The angels, by being in His presence, know that He is to be revered. They are somewhat overwhelmed by His holiness, Isa 6:2.
 - c. Our existence *away* from His direct presence makes this world a special test

Kid-speak: Is God like a bragger when He tells us to praise Him? No. A bragger is never *really* the biggest or the best. But God really is. He made everything and holds it all together and makes things work out the best for everyone who trusts Him—including you!

- O. Who is “Yahweh of hosts?” The God of all the hosts/multitudes in Heaven, the heavens, and on earth.
 1. Perhaps the angelic hosts are primarily referenced; perhaps Israel’s hosts.
 2. “Of hosts” sees God as a God who groups things (angels, stars, kinds of animals, etc.). Whatever groups He has created, he oversees them.

2 Sam 7:27 for You, YHWH of Hosts, God of Israel, have uncovered the ear of Your servant, saying, I build a house for you. Therefore Your servant has found his heart to pray this prayer to You.

- P. Here, David is basically saying that this is at *God’s* say-so. David is really only repeating what God had just told Him.
 1. What marvelous prayer example!
 2. Take the Word straight to prayer! “You said *this*, **therefore**, I declare/request *this*.”
- Q. Note that it’s not “found it in his heart,” but “found his heart.”
 1. When God speaks, revealing Himself, that’s when we find our heart (song “Noticed” by MuteMath)
 - ☀ 2. Just as He creates a new heart with a word, every word He speaks should cause us to find that heart anew

Kid-speak: When God gives us a new heart to love Him, every time we hear Him speak, we should say, “That’s the God who loves me! I love to listen to Him!”

2 Sam 7:28 And now, Lord YHWH, You [*are*] He- God, and Your words- they are Truth, and You speak this goodness to Your servant,

- R. David properly realizes that all this is contingent on God’s character and capabilities: “And now, Lord Yahweh, You are He- God.”
 - 1. David is saying, “This is *You* doing all this, not me. I’m just a blessed recipient.”
 - 2. After all, this is what God had reminded him of, v 8-9
 - ☑ 3. In prayer, make yourself tell God who He is! It will feel very unnatural (unless you’ve memorized and used Psalms, etc. as prayer templates, as they’re intended).
- S. How much is packed into that declaration, that He is God!
 - 1. To simply let the definition of “God” sink in while we pray
 - 2. He made me, yet I didn’t know Him. Now I know Him.
- T. “And Your words- they are Truth.” God is a speaking God
 - With Scriptures, God could not speak any louder or more clearly if the whole sky were one, big speaker, amplifying His voice from Heaven
- U. “And You speak this goodness to Your servant”
 - 1. With a conceptual emphasis on “You.” David can merely echo God’s declarations of intended goodness.
 - 2. Can there be any better prayer pattern? Just repeat what God says about Himself and His intentions towards me. Eph 1 is great.

Kid-speak: When you read or hear about God saving us from our sins, if you believe it, you can say, “God, these are the good things you’ve done for *me!*”

2 Sam 7:29 and now, be resolved, and bless the house of Your servant to be in Your presence [“to Your face”] unto perpetuity; for You, Lord YHWH- You have spoken, and from Your blessing the house of Your servant is blessed unto perpetuity.”

V. Yeah, let's tell *God* to "be resolved!"

1. But think. What request could He love better? It means we've *thought* about what He said, we take it completely *seriously*, and we believe that the Promiser is the Doer!
2. Praying that way puts you in elite company
 - a. Part of the Christian world expects God to act, but they mishandle Scriptures
 - b. Most of the part that handles Scriptures better don't pray expectantly

W. "In Your presence"

1. Like Moses: "If You won't go with us, I call it quits," Ex 33:15
2. Many approach Christianity the opposite: "If You won't go with me, I'll just trudge on." (Mother Teresa)
3. It's only real and it only matters to David IF God is *with* him and his house

X. Again, "You- You have spoken." Once God speaks, nothing else matters until we are hearing *all* He says, *all* the way, with obedient intent.

1. If God is speaking, everything depends on us listening. We listen by reading/hearing the words of Scripture.
2. Rev 1:3 indicates that hearing the Word is paired with its reading
 - a. For those who can't read, hearing is enough
 - b. Both reader *and* hearer are blessed if they "keep" what's in the prophecy.

Y. "From Your blessing... is blessed"

1. If there's any true blessing, it has to come from God's hand.
 - a. Meaning He *can't* bless disobedience
 - b. Someone prospering in sin is not truly, fully blessed
2. But many are only concerned with peace and plenty
 - a. If that's all blessedness is, the Sermon on the Plain has it backwards, Lk 6:20-26
 - b. That version of Christianity is not limited to the 'Name it and claim it' or 'Health and Prosperity' clans.
 - c. Just being in the American 'clan' is enough to divert true thanks away from God
 - d. One purpose of helping the needing is to demonstrate to *ourselves* the true source of our goods

IV. How does this relate to Christ?

Again, Eph 1:3-14 is a doxology/list of our blessings in Christ.

Those blessings are the ones David's house was waiting for!

- V. For the Walking Wounded (1 Thess 5:14, "Uphold the strengthless")

The more we are able to focus on God's gifts despite our weakness/insufficiency, the more we should be able to look beyond our crutches.

- VI. Conviction (2 Tim 4:2, "Convince, rebuke"): **What have I done wrong? How have I lost righteousness?**

Have I taken God's promises and mercies in Christ seriously enough to lay them back before Him as David did?

- VII. Correction/ Realignment (2 Tim 4:2, "Exhort/encourage"): **How will I correct my error? How will I regain uprightness?**

Lord, I will recite specific mercies, thanking You for their application to me.

- VIII. Schooling in Righteousness: **How will I avoid the error and follow Christ?**
This all becomes real when we can confess it in the midst of trials that make the promises and mercies seem hollow.

Wrap-up: Once God made man, He tied Himself to us.

Once we sinned, 'doing right by us' only meant our eternal judgment. God will 'do right' by many in this way.

But even before we sinned, God had already devised the means by which He would redeem many, binding Himself even more closely to them, sharing their flesh, sharing their sin, and giving them a share of a sufficient righteousness.

All this was implicit in God's promises to David.

CHRIST'S HOUSE IS THE FULFILLMENT OF THOSE PROMISES.

We who believe are in that house.

We owe even greater thanks and expectation than David!