

Message #11**II Samuel 7:18-29**

Suppose someone were to ask you what is the most courageous thing you have ever done. What would be your answer? What is something that you did that took the greatest amount of courage?

Well if we asked that question to the pilgrims from England, I am sure most would say it took tremendous courage to get on a boat and sail to an unknown land with no idea whether we would even make it or if we did what we would face.

If we asked that question to Charles Lindbergh, he would probably say it took real courage to make that first non-stop flight from New York to Paris.

If we asked that question to Rosa Parks, she would probably say it took real courage not to give up my seat on a bus.

If we asked the police and firefighters in New York on 9/11, they would say it took real courage to rush into burning buildings to rescue people.

But there are not many who would say what takes the greatest amount of courage is to pray!

Of all the things David had done in life and of all the battles he had fought in life, David believed one of the greatest acts of courage was to pray (II Sam. 7:27).

We have in many ways lost this concept of prayer. People recite what is called the Lord's Prayer by rote memory and don't think it takes any courage at all. People go to prayer meetings almost as if it is an entitlement, which in some respects it is, but have no sense of what they are actually doing. That was not the case with David.

IN THE AFTERMATH OF ALL OF THE WONDERFUL THINGS GOD REVEALED TO DAVID THAT HE WAS GOING TO DO, DAVID HAD THE COURAGE TO RESPOND TO GOD BY OFFERING A VERY REVERENT PRAISE PRAYER TO GOD.

Verse 18 says that David the King went in and sat before the LORD. David had been living in His own beautiful home (7:1-2). The word "lived" (7:1) is the same Hebrew word used here for ("sat"). The idea is that you are living and sitting in your home. David's home was palatial and it was comfortable. But when God revealed to David what He was going to do, David immediately went to the Tabernacle and sat down in the presence of God.

When the ark was being moved to Jerusalem, David had been celebrating (6:5), dancing (6:14), shouting (6:15), leaping (6:16) and offering offerings (6:17), but now he is sitting. He went to the Tabernacle and was quietly sitting before the LORD.

There are some people who need to see this and heed this. Some people go to the place of worship and run around way too much, when they ought to be quietly sitting before the LORD and preparing their hearts.

This is the only time in the Bible where it is stated that someone sat before the LORD and prayed. This is interesting because I would say in the vast majority of cases, most people sit before the Lord and pray. Most do not stand and most do not kneel.

After we are informed that David is sitting before the LORD, we now are given the actual words He spoke and prayed to the LORD. We want to go through every word of this prayer. As near as I may ascertain, there are two parts to this prayer:

PART #1 – David’s words of praise. 7:18-24:

There are six main words of praise that David offers in this part of his prayer:

Praise Words #1 - David is overwhelmed with what God had done with him and for him. 7:18

David was overwhelmed with the fact that God had done what He did with him and the promises He made concerning him and his family. David realized the source of everything he had and had become and would become was from God. He is humbled and praising God for what God did.

David never believed that he was the one who climbed up the ladder and earned the right to be king of Israel. He believed every bit of it was from God. David had been a shepherd following sheep and now he was the king, ruling people. He never thought for one moment that he deserved that or earned that. He believed it was all of God’s amazing grace.

Notice that multiple times David addresses God as the “LORD God” (Jehovah, Adonai). Those proper nouns show God is the covenant God of Israel and the God who controls everything.

This is so refreshing to see someone who doesn’t view life as an entitlement but a blessing of God. So many people are so impressed with themselves that they think highly of themselves. Not David. He did not think he deserved any of this.

Praise Words #2 - David acknowledges that what God did from God’s perspective was insignificant. 7:19

David saw what God had done for him, from his perspective was truly amazing. But he also knew from God’s perspective this was nothing.

David viewed this promise to him as an unconditional promise concerning the distant future. He knew that what God had spoken had distant, future ramifications. Ten times in this prayer, David refers to himself as “your servant” (7:19, 20, 21, 25, 26, 27, 27, 28, 29, 29).

David believed that God had given him a tremendous privilege of being classified as a servant of God. David realized that it was God who controlled the destiny of him and his family and in fact, controls the destiny of every man.

What David is realizing is that of all the people on this earth, God had chosen him and his family to bless and in the distant future God would bring His Son into the world through the Davidic line.

Only God can know and control the future. David understood that God had an amazing future in store for him and his house and family.

Praise Words #3 - David acknowledges that God knows everything about him as a man. **7:20**

David did not quite know what to say. He didn't deserve this. David also knew that it was not the norm for God to reveal things to man about him and his family. The fate of a family's posterity is not normally revealed. David realized the uniqueness of this revelation.

God knew David was just a man and David knew it too. By saying "you know your servant," David is admitting I am not a perfect person. David is admitting to God that he knew he was not a perfect man and God knew it too. Yet God had decided to bless David and David didn't know what to say.

Praise Words #4 - David acknowledges that God has done this for the sake of His word and His heart. **7:21**

David realized that God was going to do great things for David not because of him, but because of the greatness of God, His program and His word. David had a sense of God's greatness and His ability to do great things.

David knew that God does things with people for His name's sake. God decided to let David know His word. It is a great thing when God does that. Out of His own heart, God decided to choose David and make him king and then reveal to him what He would ultimately do through his family.

Praise Words #5 - David acknowledges the greatness of God in revealing truth to man. **7:22**

David stood in total awe of the greatness of God. There is no one like God and there is no one but God. David was overwhelmed with the fact that God not only knew him and chose him, but that the God who controlled the future would do such wonderful things with him.

David was awestruck and could not get over the greatness of God in this. There is only one God. There is no one like God and the one true God is a great God.

Where did David get these ideas of God? Notice carefully the end of **verse 22**, but listening to and hearing the word of God. A high and holy and right view of God comes from carefully listening to the word of God.

Praise Words #6 - David acknowledges that God is the God of Israel. **7:23-24**

The covenant that God made with Israel is very unique. David acknowledges five realities of Israel:

(Reality #1) - There is no nation on earth like Israel. **7:23a**

The word of God from Genesis to Revelation clearly reinforces the fact that there is no nation on this earth like Israel. She came into existence as a covenant of God and God has promised her a specific land, king and kingdom.

(Reality #2) - There is no nation on earth that has had a national redemption like Israel. **7:23b**

There has never been another Exodus for any another nation as there was for Israel.

(Reality #3) - There is no nation on earth of which God has made a name for Himself as Israel. **7:23c**

Israel is the only nation on earth in which people will say there is the nation of God. This cannot be said about any other nation in the world.

(Reality #4) - There is no nation on earth for which God has done awesome things in the land as He did for Israel. **7:23d**

Think of what God did with Jericho. How about the night the Assyrians surrounded Jerusalem and by morning 185,000 soldiers died in the night (I Kings 19:35).

(Reality #5) - There is no other nation on earth over which God has made it His nation forever as Israel. **7:24**

God established a covenant with His people Israel:

- 1) Throne forever **7:13**
- 2) Kingdom forever **7:16**
- 3) Nation forever **7:24**
- 4) Promises forever **7:25**
- 5) Blessings forever **7:29**

God established that Israel is His nation and the Jewish people are His people forever.

PART #2 – David’s words of request. **7:25-29**

Now what David is about to request does take courage. This is not some name it and claim it prayer. Although, if anyone literally could name it and claim it, it could have been David and all God promised him.

Request Words #1 - David asks God to fulfill His word that He has spoken. **7:25**

This request has a very personal application to David. When David prays “thy will be done” it centers much on him and his family. David believed the fulfillment of what God promised was not due to him or his family, but due to the word of God. Notice two times David refers to that which God has “spoken.”

Request Words #2 - David asks God to magnify His name forever for Israel through David.
7:26

David realizes that by praying that God’s name be magnified forever would mean that his name would also be magnified forever. God, who controls everything, including the angelic world, had chosen David and his family to establish forever. It would be overwhelming.

For example, it would be overwhelming to pray, “Thy will be done” and realize that God’s will is going to be done with you.

Request Words #3 - David dared to pray this prayer because God revealed that He would build David a house. **7:27**

David said I would not normally talk to God this way that exalts me or my family. But the courage that I have to do this comes from the fact that God revealed to David that He was going to do all these things through him and his family.

Request Words #4 - David acknowledges that God is the only sovereign God. **7:28a**

Here is a critical key to prayer. David prays with this concept of God: O Lord (Adonai) GOD (Jehovah) You are God (Elohim).

So David prays acknowledging that God is the supreme ruler and master over everything (Adonai). God is the Holy, set apart covenant God of Israel who can do whatever He wants to do (Jehovah) and God is the sovereign creator of all things (Elohim).

This God is literally in Hebrew, “the God.” He is the only God.

Request Words #5 - David acknowledges that God’s words are truth. **7:28b**

Notice what is truth: God’s “words.” The “words” are God breathed and inspired and they are truth. God reveals Himself in words and those words are the truth.

Request Words #6 - David acknowledges that God has promised good things to David. **7:28c**

God had specifically promised good things, amazing things to David.

Request Words #7 - David asks God to be pleased to bless his house forever as His word said.
7:29

God is the One who is able to shower blessings on His people and David asks God to always do that for him and his family. Not because David thought he deserved it but because God promised to do it.

PRACTICAL APPLICATONS:

1. When we pray we need to think very humbly and reverently about God.
2. When we pray we need to acknowledge that God knows everything about us.
3. We need to always remember the words of God are forever true.
4. We need to quietly sit before God in His presence.