

How Great Things are Accomplished

2 Samuel 7:1-16

Introduction

2 Samuel 7 is one of the most significant passages of Scripture in the entire Bible.

2 Samuel 7:1-16 records the LORD's words to King David through the prophet Nathan. David aspires to build a house for the Ark of the LORD, which represents God's presence among the people of God. While David's aspirations are admirable, the LORD intends to teach David that instead of David building a lasting dwelling place for the Ark of the Covenant, the LORD will build David "a house, a kingdom" by providing a son through David that will ultimately build a dwelling place for the LORD. So, while David aimed to build a physical house for the Ark of the LORD, the LORD aims to build an everlasting dynasty for offspring of David.

Read 2 Samuel 7:1-16

Exposition

In the accomplishment of great things...

I. God's purpose always prevails (Vss. 1-3)

In verses 1-3, we find David making great plans to build a house for the Ark of the Lord. His intentions are good. His vision for a great work in the name of the LORD are praiseworthy. He wants to prioritize the LORD in the midst of the people. Yet, even good intentions for great plans do not guarantee that it is God's will. God's purpose for His people will always prevail. As the Proverbs 16:9 reminds us: "In their hearts humans plan their course, but the LORD establishes their steps."

Thus, for us this morning, these verses teach us that there is a need to recognize and submit to God's purpose for our lives, even in the midst of our responsible plans. For, as we will see in the next few verses, God's purpose will be accomplished through His people as His presence goes with them...

II. God's presence is always necessary (Vss. 4-10)

In verses 4-10, through the prophet Nathan, God redirects David's plan by revealing the LORD's purpose. Furthermore, these verses stress the activity of God. They highlight the necessity of God's presence with David and His people. Notice how active God is in verses 8-10...

While David has aspirations, God's purpose will prevail, and it will only prevail as God's presence is with him and his descendants.

Here, we are once again reminded of our dependence upon God. Our minds are drawn to Psalm 127, a psalm of King David's son, Solomon, which begins by stating, "Unless the LORD builds the house, the builders labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain. In vain you rise early and stay up late, toiling for food to eat—for he grants sleep to those he loves."

Nothing of eternal consequence or value can or will be accomplished apart from the presence of God. We are always dependent upon His work in and through us, which leads us to the final point...

III. God's promise is always secure (Vss. 11-16)

In the instance of God's Words to David, we encounter God's promise in verses 11-16. In particular, God promises David that his "house and kingdom will endure forever before the LORD; His throne will be established forever." Of course, for those who know the history of what happens with David's children, on the surface, this promise of an everlasting kingdom can be troubling. We know that David's children eventually fail and forfeit the sovereignty of the kingdom of Judah to Babylon in Babylonian captivity in 586 BC. This reality makes us ask, "If God's promise is always secure, what happened in regard to this promise?"

Well, instead of having an unending succession of kings from the Davidic family sit on the throne from the time of this promise till eternity, God Himself took on flesh and became a descendant of David. The eternal Son of God, the second person of the Trinity, came down to earth as the Messiah, the Christ, the anointed one. He was named Jesus, and unlike David's descendants before Him, he lived in perfect obedience to God's law. He fulfilled God's purpose as the very presence of God and He secured the promise of God for all who would place their trust in Him, accomplishing the great work the world has ever witnessed...

Conclusion

The greatest accomplishment the world has ever known is the reconciliation of sinners to God in Jesus Christ.