

Sermon Series: Promises We Can Count On To be used with Session 5: God's Promise of a King Sermon Title Possibilities: "Made" To Reign Scripture: 2 Samuel 7:8-16

Connection with Unit Theme: To complement the Bible study "Promises We Can Count On," this sermon demonstrates how David's present was sanctified, how his past coincided, and how his future was solidified for God's glory. In 2 Samuel Chapter 6, the Ark of the Covenant was returned to Jerusalem. David, in response, prepares his heart to receive anew from God. This process involves being set apart, reflecting on the past, and receiving a promise of a solidified future. Similarly, God takes us through the journey of sanctification to prepare us for His intended purpose. This sermon will explore the life of David, illustrating how God guides all of us through moments of sanctification, allowing us to reflect on the journey He has led us through revealing the promises in store for those who walk uprightly.

Introduction: According to forbeshome.com, the foundation of a home stands as the most crucial element, serving as the backbone that bears the weight of the entire structure and its contents, transferring it safely to the ground. Beyond mere support, the foundation also ensures the stability of the house, guaranteeing that doors and windows function smoothly and floors remain level. While the cost of establishing a foundation can be significant, its value lies in providing a stable and enduring home. In 2 Samuel 7:8-16, God reminds David of his foundational support and the structures in place for his success as king, which is evident how God sustained him during his lifetime. This sermon will examine God's reminder to David, illustrating how he was sanctified and solidified for his kingly duties by God's stabilizing hand. In our own lives, we are designed to be productive, valuable, and contributive to the world for God's glory. This sermon serves as a reminder that God has been with us every step of the way, guiding us through challenges and obstacles. Through it all, He remains our source of strength and peace. Let us always remember that we were "Made to Reign."

• Sanctified (2 Samuel 7:8-9).

In this passage of scripture, God establishes a covenant with David through the prophet Nathan, who serves as the intermediary between God and the king in this moment. This event underscores the significance of prophets during this era, as they relayed God's messages to the rulers, particularly to a king like David, who valued hearing and obeying God's voice. On this occasion, the word of the Lord comes to Nathan, instructing him to approach David and propose the construction of a temple, as recorded in 2 Samuel 7:6. God acknowledges the wandering nature of His dwelling thus far, expressing sensitivity to the idea of residing in a permanent structure. Through Nathan, God reminds David of his humble beginnings as a shepherd boy, elevated by God to "rule over His people Israel" (verse 8). God recounts His steadfast presence with David, granting victory over his enemies, and expresses His desire to establish a covenant with David, similar to the covenant with Abram in Genesis, to make him a great nation (verse 9). This highlights a consistent pattern in God's dealings with His covenant partners. By entrusting David with this task, God sanctifies him, setting him apart and preparing him for his divine purpose. Through this covenant with David, God continues to demonstrate His unwavering commitment to His people and His desire to see them flourish.

• Coincide (2 Samuel 7:10-11a).

Reflecting on these verses, especially verse 10, recalls the imagery of Psalm 23, where God prepares a table in the presence of enemies. In Nathan's conversation with King David, this imagery underscores the assurance of God's blessings even during adversity, enabling the children of Israel to coexist with their enemies while still experiencing God's promised provision and protection. The task of finding a homeland for the children of Israel amidst hostile nations is indeed daunting. Yet, God assures them of His provision by designating a place for His people and firmly planting them there. This imagery suggests permanence and security, as nothing can uproot what God plants. In this designated place, God desires peace and serenity for His people, enabling them to coexist peacefully with their enemies without fear or disturbance. Moreover, God promises an end to the oppression they have endured, replacing it with His divine protection. This assurance is significant as it lifts the anxiety associated with abused nations. God's presence and protection alleviate the need to constantly look over their shoulders, providing a sense of security and peace.

• Solidified (2 Samuel 7:11a-16).

As Prophet Nathan continues to relay the words of God to King David, he highlights several crucial points for consideration. Nathan reassures King David that he need not worry about

establishing the kingdom, for God promises to raise up a descendant after him who will establish God's kingdom (verse 12). Furthermore, in verse 13, David is informed that his son will build a throne for the kingdom that will endure forever. However, there is a caveat: if David's son strays from the path of righteousness, there will be consequences for his disobedience. Nevertheless, God's steadfast love will endure, even in times of waywardness. This unwavering love is of paramount importance for David, who witnessed King Saul being replaced due to his disobedience. In contrast, Nathan assures King David that God will remain steadfastly loving toward his descendants forever—a testament to David's own relationship with God. This assurance underscores the significance of our relationship with God. Despite our flaws and sinful ways, God's love for us remains unchanging and unwavering. Just as God promises to remain faithful to David and his descendants, so too does He remain faithful to us, demonstrating the enduring nature of His love and the importance of our relationship with Him.

Conclusion:

Just as peanut butter and jelly, bacon and eggs, and cookies and milk are examples of things that naturally complement each other, God's faithfulness and our obedience must go hand in hand. Having one without the other can lead to an absence of blessings and favor. It's important to recognize that God has a role, and we have a role, as illustrated in Proverbs 3:5-7. We are instructed to trust God with all our hearts, lean not on our own understanding, and acknowledge Him in all our ways. In return, God promises to direct our paths and bless us. However, this blessing comes with the expectation that we will be obedient to Him. By aligning our actions with God's will and being obedient to His commands, we can experience the fullness of His blessings and ultimately reign with Him in His kingdom. Are you willing to be obedient?

Author Bio

Dr. Mark Louis Johnson Sr. is an Assistant Professor of Evangelism and Pastoral Ministry and Director of the Doctor of Ministry Program at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary in New Orleans, Louisiana. Additionally, he serves as the Interim Pastor of First Baptist Church of Kenner, Louisiana.