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Looking for a Leader

Studies in Samuel and Kings

Discussion Starter:

Have you ever tried to do something for God? How did you think God might respond to your initiative?

A House for God?

In our previous study we saw the beginning of David's reign as Israel's king—the king according to God's own purpose. In this study, we look at the high point of David's rule. This single event marks David's significance for Israel and the world.

Read 2 Sam 7:1-29

1. What is David's situation when he decides that he will build a 'house' for the Lord (v1-2)?
2. David wants to build a house for God but God, through Nathan the prophet, says 'no'. What reasons for God's answer do verses 5-7 suggest?¹
3. *Optional:* Verses 8-11a reveal the purposes of God for David and Israel in this situation. What are they and how will a 'house' achieve them?
4. In verses 11b-16 God declares that, instead of David building a 'house' for God, God will build a 'house' for David. What kind of house does David want to build for God and what kind of house does God promise to build David? (cf verses 5-6 and 16)

¹ *For further thought;* consider the following passages: 1 Chr 22:6-9; Heb 3:3-4; Acts 17:24-25. To explore the idea of God's temple, consider the following: 1 Kings 8:14-30; Jn 2:19-22; 1 Cor 3:16-17; 6:19-20.

5. The house for David is to be established through his 'offspring' who will succeed him after he has died. David's son Solomon does indeed establish a dynasty of kings to rule Judah. Which parts of verses 13-16 seem particularly applicable in describing Solomon and his rule?²

6. Which parts of verses 13-16 do not seem applicable to Solomon's rule?

Because Solomon's rule did not entirely fulfil the expectations created by v13-16, the people began to look for another and greater 'son of David'. This expectation is reflected in Psalms 2 and 110; Isa 11:10 (Jesse is David's father); Isa 16:5; Jer 23:5; Ezek 34:23; Dan 2:44; 7:14 and throughout the remainder of the Old Testament.

7. Each person in your group should look up one of the passages above, taking a few minutes to grasp the context of the verse and what it is really saying about this 'son of David'. Then, one at a time, read out the verses to the group and explain them *very* briefly.

8. How does Jesus fulfil the Old Testament expectations of the 'Son of David'?

9. How does David response to God's promise (v18-29) help us to respond to God's promises in Jesus?

Prayer Time

Pray for your response to God's promises to you in Jesus.

Pray for two people you know (by name!) to come to trust God's promises in Jesus.

² For a description of Solomon's rule, see 1 Kings 4:20-21, 29-34; 10:23-11:6