



ROSE
HILL
CHURCH

2 Samuel 7:18-29
David: A Complex Man After God's Own Heart
"The Davidic Prayer"

Rev. Brian North
August 3rd, 2025

Pray. Today we continue our series on the Life of David, a complex man after God's own heart. Last Sunday, Pastor Rob preached on the verses immediately before today's passage, with a great message that dove into God's covenant promises to David in the short-term, but also in the long-term, through Jesus (Historic/prophetic telescoping). So, if you missed it, I encourage you to go to our YouTube page or our website and watch or read the message.

Today's passage flows right out of last week's: It is David's response to the covenant God makes (through the prophet Nathan) with David. God promises that David will have a house, a dynasty, and a throne that will last forever. And so, it is important to remember as we read through his response, which comes in the form of a prayer...it's important to remember that this is David's *response* to what God has said he's going to do. So, we are in 2 Samuel 7:18-29 this morning. We'll read the passage in sections today, beginning with half of **7:18**.

We won't go through this whole thing a half verse at a time, or we'd be here until...dinnertime...but I do want to pause after the first half of this verse. **"King David went in and sat before the Lord..."** We aren't told exactly what he went "in" to but based on the phrase "sat before the Lord" it was probably the inner portion of the tabernacle, or what was sometimes called the "tent of meeting." Until the temple is built later by David's son Solomon, the central place of worship for Jews was a tent. It was a portable sanctuary, essentially, that was first constructed when they were wandering around in the desert, roughly 500 years or so before this. Undoubtedly the whole thing had been repaired and materials replaced over time, so it wasn't still made of the original materials...but it was essentially the same tent.

And in the center of it was "the most holy place" where the ark of God, or the ark of the covenant was placed. We talked about the ark a couple weeks ago. It was their holiest worship object. It was the place where heaven met earth, and God's presence dwelled. Not that God is confined in a box, but

this ark was the thing they gather around as the holiest of holy places to engage with God. So, when text tells us that David went in and “sat before the Lord” it is almost certainly describing him going into the inner part of the tent of meeting, and sitting down, and being still, in front of the ark of the covenant.

And we learn something from this: **Sometimes, when you want to spend time with God, it helps to get away from the usual places where you live and work and play.** It helps to get into a quiet place whether it’s a holy place such as a church sanctuary, or at a park, or out in the woods, or even just a designated place somewhere in your house (closet? Bathroom?) where you can block out the distractions of life. If you just need to be still and stay centered on the Lord, it helps to have a place to go. That is what David is doing here. Let’s continue on, reading all of **18-21...**

So: **The first thing David does here is something we would all do well to do, and that is to come before the Lord with humility.** “Who am I” he begins saying. Unfortunately, sometimes Christians are perceived as being prideful about being in a relationship with God. It’s more, “Look who I am” rather than “who am I?” We can come off the wrong way in our relationships with non-believers as if we are better than other people because we have this relationship with God. David shows us, however, that it really is a humbling thing to walk with God; we want to have humility in our relationship with Him, and then let that carry over into the rest of life. We certainly see Jesus modeling this as well. He shows us what it means to live with humility and to be a disciple of his that flows from that place of humility.

So, David recognizes that anything he has or is, is because of God. **Anything he has, any titles he has, any position, or power, or influence, is not because *he* is so great, but because *God* is so great.** God has led him from being a shepherd boy to this position of king of Israel and the covenant that God has now made with him. It is a completely unexpected journey up until he is anointed to be the king in waiting. And even then he probably wondered if it really would come to fruition – it took a long time to go from “king in waiting” to having the crown placed on his head – 7 or 8 years to be

king over Judah, and then another 7 or 8 years until the kingdom was unified and he was king over all of Israel.

So, he just is in awe at God's grace. His position in life, and the impact it has had on his family, is all because of what God has done. As he says verse 21, it is because of God's will. It's not his own will, it's the will of God that has brought David to this position as king. And that brings him to this place of humility. And so that's how he begins his prayer, from this place of humility. Let's continue on with **verses 22-24**.

David says in verse 22, 'How Great you are, sovereign Lord! There is no one like you and there is no God but you.' Right there, in just a few words, is a synopsis of why our faith exists: because God is great and there is no one like him. There is no God but him. This God we worship is not just another off the shelf idol, or myth elevated to some superior status above others. This is the God of the universe, the one who created everything out of nothing. Science might seek to explain *how* everything came to be. And while that's interesting and fascinating, it seems to me that the more we think we know about the cosmos and creation, the more we realize we don't know jack squat. There are *innumerable* unanswered questions in the scientific realm.

But Scripture doesn't answer the "how" question of creation, at least from a scientific sense. God speaks and creation happens – that's "how" things happen. Humankind is made from dirt – there's some science to study there, I guess. **Instead, Scripture answers "who" created it all which makes "how" less important to understand even if it is still a fun conversation to have.** "Who" created it all? This God we worship. This God David worships. He is this God who is "great" and, as David prays, there is "none like you." There is no thing, no idea, no accomplishment, no value, no ideal... there is *no nothing*...sorry, bad grammar...no "anything" greater than this God of the universe.

And so, what we see in David's prayer is that prayer is not just about bringing our needs before God and committing them to him...**Prayer is also worship.** He makes a statement of worship here about the greatness and

uniqueness and singular superiority of this covenant-making God of the universe. There is no one else like God. And the only proper response is to come to him in worship, as David does here, in this prayer. We too, can worship God in our prayers, declaring his greatness, his uniqueness, his majesty and grace and love and all the other attributes of God. That is worship. Let's continue reading now, **verses 25-29**.

So, as we read these verses we must keep in mind that David is responding to the word of the Lord that came to him through the prophet Nathan, where God said what he would do, and makes this covenant with David. David isn't coercing God or telling him what to do...he's not trying to manipulate God. Rather, **David is asking God to keep this covenant and to be faithful to it**. He's responding to what God has already said, and what God has shown himself to be. David doesn't really *need* to do this. God is faithful and keeps his covenant regardless...but David prays it anyway. So, this is his request to God. It's his petition: asking God to keep the covenant and do what he says he will do.

And his closing line, in verse 29 is, **“Be pleased to bless the house of your servant, that it may continue forever in your sight; for you, Sovereign Lord, have spoken, and with your blessing the house of your servant will be blessed forever” (2 Samuel 7:29)**. God has previously spoken of a kingdom that will not end, coming through David. What he doesn't know, is how that will actually look or what it means. And as usual, it's beyond the scope (historic/prophetic telescoping) of human imagination. David could never have envisioned what this “forever” kingdom would actually be or look like. But what happens is that the generations that come after David lead right to Jesus' earthly parents and to Jesus.

And so, with Jesus, the eternal kingdom is established in a new and profound way, beyond what David could ever have intended with his prayer. And frequently God works this way. We bring a petition to the Lord hoping for a few crumbs of bread and he provides a banquet beyond our wildest dreams. 30 years ago after graduating from the UW, I moved to Sun Valley, ID, hoping for one good season as a ski bum before I figured I'd end up in the business world doing some business-related thing putting my

degree to good use. 20 months after moving to Sun Valley, not only did I have two good seasons as a ski bum instead of just one, I came back to Seattle engaged to Gwen, and with a whole new trajectory in life in ministry, with my application to Fuller Seminary completed. God shows himself to be so faithful, and exceed our hopes and dreams, even when we least expect it. We petition him for one thing, and God grants something beyond what we ever anticipated.

Of course, not all of life is a trajectory upward and onward. Sometimes life is really difficult. **But God is faithful even then, such as when we find ourselves in the presence of our enemies, as Psalm 23 says.** It is one of the 70 or so Psalms penned by David. It's a good reminder that even when we have a hard time seeing God's faithfulness because of difficult circumstances, God is in fact there, blessing us beyond our wildest dreams. "You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies, you anoint my head with oil, my cup overflows. Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever" (Psalm 23:5-6).

This last week my family was at a Christian summer conference in Cannon Beach. Last summer we went as well, as part of my sabbatical, and it was our first time going. We met a family a year ago who had twin kids, a boy and a girl, who were both heading to college in the fall – they were skiers, and outdoorsy-people and we really hit it off with them. Heather and Rex Pickett are the parents, and their daughter was going to Pepperdine, same as our daughter, Brooke. So, another "small world" connection. One of the Heather's closest friends in Salt Lake City, where they live, was a college roommate of Gwen's and is still one of Gwen's closest friends. The Pickets had been going to this camp, this particular week of the summer for years and years, and welcomed us into their lives and circle of friends. So, there were all these unexpected connections and blessings and signs of God's faithfulness in the midst of a joyous season of life.

Then, about a month into our two daughter's start at Pepperdine, we got word that Rex, the father, had died of a heart attack at age 61. Heather, his wife, was heartbroken and stunned as you can imagine. I think I shared some

of that with you all last October as a prayer request when this all happened. But since then, God has written another chapter and shown his faithfulness. And, long story short, Heather and her two kids were at the conference again this past week. And several times, in talking with Heather, the thing she said about this past year, and even right there last week at camp, was about God's faithfulness. She told us about the comfort of Scripture, and of people God put in her life who were able to minister to her, strengthen her, cry with her, and just walk with her – and her kids – through what has been a year filled with all kinds of firsts without Rex: first birthdays, first Christmas, first mission trip, first wedding anniversary, first Cannon Beach trip, and so much more. And in the midst of a difficult year of “firsts” God has continued to show himself faithful. She had story after story.

One of the other attendees of the conference shared with us the idea of looking back at your life from two years before, and taking stock of how God has shown himself to be faithful in those two years. **It is good to sit down and do that sometimes to reflect and be reminded of God's goodness and his faithfulness, especially when we are going through difficult and challenging times, so that our faith would be encouraged.** That reflection helps us live with the assurance that indeed God is faithful as he has always been.

In scripture, I think of Joseph, in the book of Genesis, who got sold off by his brothers, ended up in Egypt and going through challenging, difficult situations down there – plus the hurt and the anger and the grief over his brothers actions toward him. But God was faithful, brought him through it, and in the end, used it to bless his family with food in a famine; and ultimately they were all reunited. God was so faithful to him through that years-long ordeal.

That faithfulness is what David expresses here in today's passage. And: **When you look at the whole of this passage and this prayer, we see a model for our own prayer life in response to God's faithfulness.** We see it in the place David went to sit before the Lord, his posture of humility, his worship of God as the great God of the universe, and his expression of God's faithfulness. It's a model for our own life of prayer. We can't *always* find a

place to sit before the Lord in silence, but it is good to do that on occasion, at least. We always want to approach him in humility, to worship him for who he is, and to remember his faithfulness. So, David's prayer shows us that prayer is a humble, worshipful *response* to God's faithfulness—grounded not in our worth or greatness, but in God's greatness and his faithfulness. Ultimately, that faithfulness culminates in Jesus Christ, the one who is faithful all the way to the cross for you and me and for all who would humbly repent and turn to him as Savior and Lord. Let's pray...Amen.