

## Lesson II.

## GOD'S COVENANT WITH DAVID

October 11, 1903

2 Sam. 7: 4-16. Study vs. 1-29. Commit to memory, vs. 8, 9. Read 2 Sam. chs. 8-10.

4 And it came to pass <sup>1</sup> that night, that the word of the Lord came unto Na<sup>2</sup>than, saying,

5 Go and tell my servant Da<sup>3</sup>vid, Thus saith the Lord, Shalt thou build me an house for me to dwell in?

6 <sup>4</sup>Whereas I have not dwelt in <sup>5</sup>any house since the time that I brought up the children of Is<sup>6</sup>rael out of Egypt, even to this day, but have walked in a tent and in a tabernacle.

7 In all the <sup>8</sup>places wherein I have walked with all the children of Is<sup>9</sup>rael spake I a word with any of the tribes of Is<sup>10</sup>rael, whom I commanded to feed my people Is<sup>11</sup>rael, saying, Why <sup>12</sup>build ye not me an house of cedar?

8 Now therefore <sup>13</sup>so shalt thou say unto my servant Da<sup>14</sup>vid, Thus saith the Lord of hosts, I took thee from the sheepcote, from following the sheep, <sup>15</sup>to be ruler over my people, over Is<sup>16</sup>rael.

9 And I <sup>17</sup>was with thee whithersoever thou wentest, and have cut off all thine enemies <sup>18</sup>out of thy sight, and have made thee a <sup>19</sup>great name, like unto the name of the great <sup>20</sup>men that are in the earth.

10 Moreover I will appoint a place for my people

Is<sup>11</sup>rael, and will plant them, that they may dwell in <sup>12</sup>a place of their own, and move no more; neither shall the children of wickedness afflict them any more, as <sup>13</sup>beforetime.

11 And as <sup>14</sup>since the time that I commanded judges <sup>15</sup>to be over my people Is<sup>16</sup>rael, and <sup>17</sup>have caused thee to rest from all thine enemies, <sup>18</sup>Also the Lord telleth thee that <sup>19</sup>he will make thee an house.

12 And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom.

13 He shall build an house for my name, and I will stablish the throne of his kingdom for ever.

14 I will be his father, and he shall be my son. If he commit iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the children of men:

15 But my mercy shall not depart <sup>16</sup>away from him, as I took <sup>17</sup>it from Saul, whom I put away before thee.

16 And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be <sup>17</sup>established for ever.

**Revised Version**—1 the same; 2 for; 3 an; 4 have ye not built; 5 thus; 6 that thou shouldst be prince; 7 have been; 8 from before thee; and I will make; 9 ones; 10 their own place, and be moved; 11 at the first; 12 from the day; 13 I will cause; 14 Moreover; 15 the Lord; 16 Omit away; 17 made sure.

## EXPLANATION

**Connection**—The Lesson contains the message brought from the Lord to David by Nathan the prophet, when the king had announced his desire to build a temple for the worship of God, vs. 2, 3. In vs. 18-29 we have David's prayer for blessing.

4, 5. **That night**; probably in a dream. The word of the Lord; different from Nathan's own opinion, v. 4. **My servant**; a title of special honor, shared by David with such great men as Moses and Joshua, Josh. 1: 1; 24: 29. **Shalt thou build?** The meaning is "Thou shalt not build." For the reason, see 1 Chron. 22: 8; 28: 2, 3.

6, 7. **Any house**; because there had been no safe and suitable place for a house. **A tent**; the outward covering of skins, Ex. 26: 7, 14. **A tabernacle**; the framework of boards and bars, Ex. 26: 15-30. **To feed**; care for, as a shepherd tends his sheep: the duty of rulers. Here the tribe, from which the ruler was taken, is represented as governing the other tribes. **Cedar**; the finest and most costly timber. The time for such a building had not yet come.

8, 9. **I took thee**. The Lord had directed Samuel to anoint David as king, 1 Sam. 16: 12. **Sheepcote**; sheep-fold. **I was with thee**. David owed all his safety and success to God. **Thine enemies**; the Lord's enemies, too, and therefore overthrown. **A great name**. See Ps. 18: 35.

10, 11. **Will plant**; like a tree with deep, firm roots. **Children of wickedness**; wicked men.

**As beforetime**; during the days of cruel slavery in Egypt. **Since the time**; of their oppression in the days of the judges. **To rest**. God had now delivered His people from their enemies. **Make thee an house**; give thee children. David had spoken of building a house for God, but God promises to build a house for him.

12, 13. **Thy days be fulfilled**; when the end of life should come. **Thou shalt sleep**; a beautiful description of death. (See John 11: 11.) **Fathers**; his ancestors. **Set up thy seed**. This promise was

fulfilled, first in Solomon (1 Kings 8: 15-20), then in his descendants who sat on the throne of Judah, and finally in Christ, Luke 1: 31-33; Acts 2: 29-31; 13: 22, 23. **He shall build**; that is, Solomon. (See 1 Kings 6: 1.) So David's desire would be granted. **My name**; that is, God Himself.

14-16. **Chasten him**; punish his faults. Solomon is referred to. **Commit iniquity**. Not even a king can escape punishment, if he sins against God. **With the rod of men, etc.**; as earthly fathers correct their children. **Shall not depart**. God

would continue His care for ages to come. **Took it from Saul**; because Saul had forsaken God. **For ever**; a promise fulfilled by the coming of Christ, who shall reign for ever.

Vs. 18-29 contain David's prayer and thanksgiving to Jehovah, the mighty God of Israel.



Shepherd Tending His Sheep