

2 Samuel 7-Promise to David

2 Samuel 5:4; 7:1-16, 18-26

Based on NLT

2 Samuel 5:4

Many years passed and David did become the new king. God had brought peace to his land...

2 Samuel 7:1-3

When King David was settled in his palace...*he* summoned Nathan, *God's spokesman**. "Look," David said, "I am living in a beautiful...palace, but *God's presence* is out there in a tent!"

Nathan replied to the king, "Go ahead and do whatever you have in mind, *because God* is with you."

2 Samuel 7:4-10

But that same night *God* said to Nathan, "Go and tell my servant David, 'This is what *God* has declared: Are you the one to build a house for me to live in?...I took you from tending sheep in the pasture and selected you to be the leader of my people...I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have destroyed all your enemies before your eyes. Now I will make your name as famous as anyone who has ever lived on the earth!...

2 Samuel 7:11-16

"*'In fact, you won't make a house for me, but I will make a house for you—a dynasty of kings that will last forever! If your descendants sin***, I will...discipline them...like any father would do.*

But...your house and your kingdom will continue...for all time, and your throne will be secure forever.' "

2 Samuel 7:17

So Nathan went back to David and told him everything *God* had said in this vision*.

2 Samuel 7:18-26

Then King David went in and sat before *God* and prayed, "Who am I, O *God*...that you have brought me this far? And now, *Oh God*, in addition to everything else, you speak of giving your servant a lasting dynasty!...And now, O...*God*, I am your servant; do as you have promised concerning me and my family...And may your name be honored forever so that everyone will *praise you!*

Why This Story?

This is an optional third story in the David mini-set that is used as a part of the larger *Purpose* story set. You may use this story if you would like to establish that David's purpose went beyond his own life, or if you would like to set up the idea of Jesus coming as King, which is a good complement to the later *Son of Man* story found in the *Purpose* set. This story also affirms the special relationship God had with David, thus setting up the shock of the *David and Bathsheba* story for your audience.

This story shows God's extraordinary love in that he doesn't require lavish gifts from us in order for him to lavish gifts on us. He has the ability to bring people from a lowly background into extraordinary places where they can fulfill his purposes.

This story gives us a beautiful example of a servant of God accepting God's plan for him and praising him for it.

The audio version of this story has not yet been recorded.

Story Crafting

We've used Nathan's name in this story because it appears later in *Nathan's Story*. You may need to indicate that Nathan is not the same person as the spokesman in the Anointing story by saying something like "*he summoned Nathan, another of God's spokesmen...*".

If your descendants sin refers to God's warning to David's offspring that if they don't obey God, they will be punished. Although the word referring to *descendants* used here in the biblical text is singular, it is widely understood to refer to all of David's offspring, so we

have included that implicit information in our story.

We changed 'ark of the covenant' to ***God's presence***, because many audiences will not have heard the story of Moses or the ark. The ark of the covenant was the place where ***God's presence*** inhabited. If your audience is familiar with the ark and its story, you may keep its reference in this story. Your audience may understand the reference to God's presence needing or having a place to stay, but if not, you may say something like *It isn't right that I have such a big and beautiful house, but God doesn't have one.*

We've omitted most of the dialogue related to why David would not be building God a house, including the prophecy that his son would do that in his place. We wanted God's promise of an everlasting kingdom to David to remain the focus of this story.

David refers to himself as God's servant. If your audience does not understand that David is referring to himself rather than to a third party, you may say something like *me, his servant*.

Words/Phrases to

Consider

Spokesman*

Choose a term for 'prophet' that adequately describes the prophet's function. A prophet:

1. receives a call from God;
2. takes God's message to men because he had been given it by God himself;
3. has as his only priority bringing the Word of God to men.

We chose 'spokesman' because, in English, it can convey these three meanings but doesn't carry the unwanted

connotation of a fortuneteller. If you use a religious term, be sure that it has meaning that the average hearer will understand.

Vision*

Visions refer to a supernatural experience in which a divine revelation is given to a person when they are awake, whereas ‘dreams’ are what God causes people to see when they are asleep. If your language only has one word for ‘vision’ and ‘dream,’ you may want to specify whether the person was awake or asleep when they received the message from God.

Sin*

Sin refers to an act of disobedience to God. Be sure that the word you use here does not mean that someone has failed to perform a religious act (i.e. alms, ritual prayer, following religious dietary rules, etc.). If necessary, you can use ‘disobedience.’

Intra-Story Cohesion

This story is an optional third story in the David mini-set. If you use this story, you may use references to God’s promise to David throughout the New Testament stories about Jesus, (eg. when Jesus is referred to as ‘the son of David’)

Use the same words for **spokesman**, **sin**, and **vision** that you have used in other stories.

This story is best understood told within a David mini-story set, and in a story set in which you will be referring to Jesus as the fulfillment of this promise to David.

This story will not be well understood unless your audience has heard the *David’s Anointing* story.

Worldview

Your audience may not be familiar with a ‘throne’ or with the figure of speech ‘your throne will be secure’. If not, you may choose to say *your kingdom will be secure*.

Story Set Themes

Purpose

Relationship/Restored Relationship

Leadership

Holy Spirit/God’s Spirit

King/Kingdom

Obedience

God Speaks