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# THE LOOKOUT

JUNE 2021

## UNIT: History of Israel (2 Samuel; 2 Chronicles)

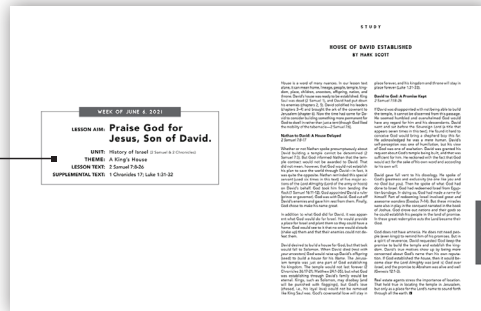
### THEME: A King's House

#### OVERVIEW:

Israel reached her zenith during the reigns of Kings David and Solomon. The only reign to surpass them would be the coming of the true Son of David, Jesus Christ. This month, students will learn of the house (kingdom) of David being established, threatened, rescued, and secured.

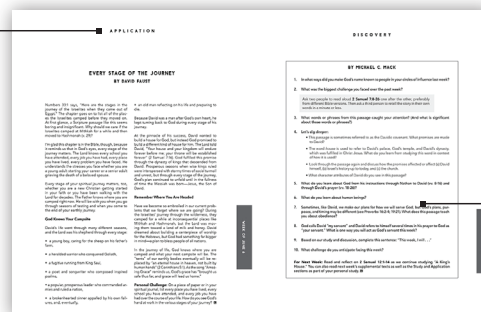
#### HOW TO USE

Each week has a **lesson aim**, **lesson text**, and **supplemental text**.



Tabs indicate the week of each lesson.

Each week features three sections: **Study**, **Application**, and **Discovery**.



Use the **Discovery** questions to study, discuss, and apply the Scripture passages in a group or class.

WEEK OF JUNE 6, 2021

**LESSON AIM:** **Praise God for  
Jesus, Son of David.**

**UNIT:** History of Israel (2 Samuel & 2 Chronicles)

**THEME:** A King's House

**LESSON TEXT:** 2 Samuel 7:8-26

**SUPPLEMENTAL TEXT:** 1 Chronicles 17; Luke 1:31-32

## HOUSE OF DAVID ESTABLISHED

BY MARK SCOTT

*House* is a word of many nuances. In our lesson text alone, it can mean home, lineage, people, temple, kingdom, place, children, ancestors, offspring, nation, and throne. David's house was ready to be established. King Saul was dead (2 Samuel 1), and David had put down his enemies (chapters 2, 5). David solidified his leaders (chapters 3–4) and brought the ark of the covenant to Jerusalem (chapter 6). Now the time had come for David to consider building something more permanent for God to dwell in rather than just a *tent* (though God liked the mobility of the tabernacle—2 Samuel 7:6).

**Nathan to David: A House Delayed**

2 Samuel 7:8-17

Whether or not Nathan spoke presumptuously about David building a temple cannot be determined (2 Samuel 7:3). But God informed Nathan that the temple contract would not be awarded to David. That did not mean, however, that God would not establish his plan to save the world through David—in fact, it was quite the opposite. Nathan reminded this special *servant* (used six times in this text) of five major actions of the *Lord Almighty* (Lord of the army or hosts) on David's behalf. God *took* him from *tending the flock* (1 Samuel 16:11-12). God *appointed* David a *ruler* (prince or governor). God was *with* David. God *cut off* David's enemies and gave him *rest* from them. Finally, God chose to *make* his name great.

In addition to what God did for David, it was apparent what God would do for Israel. He would *provide* a *place* for Israel and *plant* them so they could have a *home*. God would see to it that no one would disturb (shake up) them and that their enemies could not defeat them.

David desired to build a house for God, but that task would fall to Solomon. When David died (*rest with your ancestors*) God would raise up David's *offspring* (seed) to *build a house* for his *Name*. The Jerusalem temple was just one part of God establishing *his kingdom*. The temple would not last forever (2 Chronicles 36:17-21; Matthew 24:1-35), but what God was establishing through David's family would be eternal. Kings, such as Solomon, may disobey (and will be punished *with floggings*), but God's love (*chesed*, i.e., his loyal love) would not be removed like King Saul was. God's covenantal love will stay in

place forever, and his *kingdom* and *throne* will stay in place forever (Luke 1:31-33).

**David to God: A Promise Kept**

2 Samuel 7:18-26

If David was disappointed with not being able to build the temple, it cannot be discerned from this passage. He seemed humbled and overwhelmed God would have any regard for him and his descendants. David went and *sat before the Sovereign Lord* (a title that appears seven times in this text). He found it hard to conceive God would bring a shepherd boy *this far*. He acknowledged he was a *mere human*. David's self-perception was one of humiliation, but his view of God was one of exaltation. David was granted his request about God's temple being built, and that was sufficient for him. He reckoned with the fact that God would act *for the sake of his own word* and *according to his own will*.

David gave full vent to his doxology. He spoke of God's greatness and exclusivity (*no one like you and no God but you*). Then he spoke of what God had done to Israel. God had *redeemed* Israel from Egyptian bondage. In doing so, God had made a *name for himself*. Part of redeeming Israel involved *great and awesome wonders* (Exodus 7–14). But these miracles were also in play in the conquest narrated in the book of Joshua. God drove out *nations and their gods* so he could establish his people in the land of promise. In these great redemptive acts the Lord became their *God*.

God does not have amnesia. He does not need people (even kings) to remind him of his promises. But in a spirit of reverence, David requested God *keep* the promise to build the temple and establish the kingdom. David's true motives show up by being more concerned about God's name than his own reputation. If God established *the house*, then it would become clear *the Lord Almighty was* (and is) *God over Israel*, and the promise to Abraham was alive and well (Genesis 12:1-3).

Real estate agents stress the importance of location. That held true in locating the temple in Jerusalem, but only as a place for the Lord's *name* to sound forth through all the earth. ■

## APPLICATION

### EVERY STAGE OF THE JOURNEY

BY DAVID FAUST

Numbers 33:1 says, “Here are the stages in the journey of the Israelites when they came out of Egypt.” The chapter goes on to list all of the places the Israelites camped before they moved on. At first glance, a Scripture passage like this seems boring and insignificant. Why should we care if the Israelites camped at Mithkah for a while and then moved to Hashmonah (v. 29)?

I’m glad this chapter is in the Bible, though, because it reminds us that in God’s eyes, every stage of the journey matters. The Lord knows every school you have attended, every job you have had, every place you have lived, every problem you have faced. He understands the stresses you face whether you are a young adult starting your career or a senior adult grieving the death of a beloved spouse.

Every stage of your *spiritual* journey matters, too, whether you are a new Christian getting started in your faith or you have been walking with the Lord for decades. The Father knows where you are camped right now. He will be with you when you go through seasons of testing and when you come to the end of your earthly journey.

#### God Knows Your Campsite

David’s life went through many different seasons, and the Lord was his shepherd through every stage:

- a young boy, caring for the sheep on his father’s farm,
- a heralded warrior who conquered Goliath,
- a fugitive running from King Saul,
- a poet and songwriter who composed inspired psalms,
- a popular, prosperous leader who commanded armies and ruled a nation,
- a brokenhearted sinner appalled by his own failures, and, eventually,

- an old man reflecting on his life and preparing to die.

Because David was a man after God’s own heart, he kept turning back to God during every stage of his journey.

At the pinnacle of his success, David wanted to build a house for God, but instead God promised to build a different kind of house for him. The Lord told David, “Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever” (2 Samuel 7:16). God fulfilled this promise through the dynasty of kings that descended from David. Prosperous seasons when wise kings ruled were interspersed with stormy times of social turmoil and unrest, but through every stage of the journey, God’s plan continued to unfold until in the fullness of time the Messiah was born—Jesus, the Son of David.

#### Remember Where You Are Headed

Have we become so embroiled in our current problems that we forget where we are going? During the Israelites’ journey through the wilderness, they camped for a while at inconsequential places like Mithkah and Hashmonah, but the Lord was moving them toward a land of milk and honey. David dreamed about building a centerpiece of worship for the Hebrews, but God had something far bigger in mind—a plan to bless people of all nations.

In the journey of life, God knows where you are camped and what your next campsite will be. The “tents” of our earthly bodies eventually will be replaced by “an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands” (2 Corinthians 5:1). As the song “Amazing Grace” reminds us, God’s grace has “brought us safe thus far, and grace will lead us home.”

**Personal Challenge:** On a piece of paper or in your spiritual journal, list every place you have lived, every school you have attended, and every job you have had over the course of your life. How do you see God’s hand at work in the various stages of your journey? ■

## DISCOVERY

BY MICHAEL C. MACK

1. In what ways did you make God's name known to people in your circles of influence last week?
2. What was the biggest challenge you faced over the past week?

Ask two people to read aloud **2 Samuel 7:8-26** one after the other, preferably from different Bible versions. Then ask a third person to retell the story in their own words in a minute or less.

3. What words or phrases from this passage caught your attention? (And what is significant about those words or phrases?)
4. Let's dig deeper:
  - This passage is sometimes referred to as the Davidic covenant. What promises are made to David?
  - The word *house* is used to refer to David's palace, God's temple, and David's dynasty, which was fulfilled in Christ Jesus. What do you learn from studying this word in context of how it is used?
  - Look through the passage again and discuss how the promises affected or affect (a) David himself, (b) Israel's history up to today, and (c) the church.
  - What character attributes of David do you see in this passage?
5. What do you learn about God from his instructions through Nathan to David (vv. 8-16) and through David's prayer (vv. 18-26)?
6. What do you learn about human beings?
7. Sometimes, like David, we make our plans for how we will serve God, but God's plans, purposes, and timing may be different (see Proverbs 16:2-4; 19:21). What does this passage teach you about obedience?
8. God calls David "my servant" and David refers to himself several times in his prayer to God as "your servant." What is one way you will act as God's servant this week?
9. Based on our study and discussion, complete this sentence: "This week, I will . . ."
10. What challenge do you anticipate facing this week?

**For Next Week:** Read and reflect on **2 Samuel 12:1-14** as we continue studying "A King's House." You can also read next week's supplemental texts as well as the Study and Application sections as part of your personal study. **📖**