

# 2 Samuel 7:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

## Analysis

**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.**

This verse contributes to the narrative of Davidic Covenant, emphasizing eternal promises, Messianic hope. The Davidic Covenant represents one of Scripture's most significant theological developments, promising an eternal dynasty culminating in Messiah. The Hebrew bayit (בַּיִת, 'house') functions as wordplay—David wanted to build God a house (temple), but God promises to build David a house (dynasty). Cross-references to Psalm 89, 2 Samuel 23:5, and New Testament passages (Luke 1:32-33, Acts 2:30) demonstrate this covenant's centrality to redemptive history.

## Historical Context

The historical setting of 2 Samuel 7 occurs during David's reign (circa 1010-970 BCE) over Israel's united monarchy. Archaeological discoveries, including the Tel Dan inscription mentioning the 'House of David,' corroborate biblical historicity. Ancient Near Eastern customs regarding eternal promises, Messianic hope provide crucial background. The geopolitical situation involved regional powers—Philistines, Ammonites, Arameans, Moabites, Edomites—as David consolidated and expanded Israel's territory. Cultural practices concerning kingship, warfare,

covenant relationships, family dynamics, and religious observance differed significantly from modern Western contexts, requiring careful attention to avoid anachronistic interpretation while extracting timeless theological principles applicable across cultures and eras.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does this passage deepen your understanding of eternal promises, Messianic hope?
2. What does this verse reveal about God's character, and how should that shape your worship and obedience?
3. In what specific ways can you apply this truth to your current circumstances and relationships this week?

## Interlinear Text

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אָבֹתֶךָ בְּאָתֶךָ יִשְׁכַּבְתָּךְ יְמִינָךְ וְכָלָךְ  
with thy fathers at thou shalt sleep and when thy days be fulfilled

וְאַשְׁר יְהִי יְמִינְךָ אַתָּה וְאַשְׁר יְהִי תְּקוּמָתְךָ  
with thy fathers and thou shalt sleep and I will set up thy seed

מִמְלְכַתְּךָ אַתָּה וְאַשְׁר יְהִי מִמְלְכָתוֹ  
and I will establish his kingdom and out of thy bowels

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 Kings 8:20** (Parallel theme): And the LORD hath performed his word that he spake, and I am risen up in the room of David my father, and sit on the throne of Israel, as the LORD promised, and have built an house for the name of the LORD God of Israel.

**1 Kings 2:1** (Parallel theme): Now the days of David drew nigh that he should die; and he charged Solomon his son, saying,

**Acts 2:30** (Parallel theme): Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne;

**Acts 13:36** (Parallel theme): For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell on sleep, and was laid unto his fathers, and saw corruption:

**1 Chronicles 17:11** (Kingdom): And it shall come to pass, when thy days be expired that thou must go to be with thy fathers, that I will raise up thy seed after thee, which shall be of thy sons; and I will establish his kingdom.

**Deuteronomy 31:16** (Parallel theme): And the LORD said unto Moses, Behold, thou shalt sleep with thy fathers; and this people will rise up, and go a whoring after the gods of the strangers of the land, whither they go to be among them, and will forsake me, and break my covenant which I have made with them.

**Isaiah 11:10** (Parallel theme): And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious.

**Isaiah 9:7** (Kingdom): Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

**1 Corinthians 15:51** (Parallel theme): Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

**1 Thessalonians 4:14** (Parallel theme): For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

