

2 Samuel 7:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

That the king said unto Nathan the prophet, See now, I dwell in an house of cedar, but the ark of God dwelleth within curtains.

Analysis

That the king said unto Nathan the prophet, See now, I dwell in an house of cedar, but the ark of God dwelleth within curtains.

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 (בַּיּוֹת, '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

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

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

אָנֹכִי נְאָרָא הַנּוֹבֵט יְאָמַר
said That the king H413 unto Nathan the prophet See H4994 H595
H559 H4428 H5416 H5030 H7200

בְּתַּחַת וְנָגָן יְשִׁיבָה יְהִי מִבְּבִבְיָה אֶלְעָזֶר אֶלְעָזֶר יְמִינֵי אֶלְעָזֶר
dwelleth in an house of cedar but the ark of God dwelleth within H3427 H8432
H3427 H1004 H730 H727 H430

בְּיַרְיעָה:

curtains
H3407

Additional Cross-References

2 Samuel 5:11 (Kingdom): And Hiram king of Tyre sent messengers to David, and cedar trees, and carpenters, and masons: and they built David an house.

2 Samuel 12:1 (Parallel theme): And the LORD sent Nathan unto David. And he came unto him, and said unto him, There were two men in one city; the one rich, and the other poor.

Acts 7:46 (References God): Who found favour before God, and desired to find a tabernacle for the God of Jacob.

1 Chronicles 16:1 (References God): So they brought the ark of God, and set it in the midst of the tent that David had pitched for it: and they offered burnt sacrifices and peace offerings before God.

1 Chronicles 29:29 (Kingdom): Now the acts of David the king, first and last, behold, they are written in the book of Samuel the seer, and in the book of Nathan the prophet, and in the book of Gad the seer,

John 2:17 (Parallel theme): And his disciples remembered that it was written, The zeal of thine house hath eaten me up.

Haggai 1:4 (Parallel theme): Is it time for you, O ye, to dwell in your cieled houses, and this house lie waste?

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