

# 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 (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

---

**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

---

אָנְכִי י	נָא	רְאֵה	הַנָּבִי יֵא	נָתַן	אֶל	הַמֶּלֶךְ לֵךְ	וַיֹּאמֶר
		See	the prophet	unto Nathan		That the king	said
H595	H4994	H7200	H5030	H5416	H413	H4428	H559

בֵּית וְ	יֵשֵׁב	הָאֵלֹהִים	וְאֶרֶן	אֲרֵץ יִם	בְּבֵית	יֵשֵׁב	
within	dwellleth	of God	but the ark	of cedar	in an house	dwellleth	
H8432	H3427	H430	H727	H730	H1004	H3427	

הִרְיָעָה:

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?