

PRAYING In The Bible

Prayer in the Bible: David's Prayer

2 Samuel 7 and 1 Chronicles 29 tell the same prayer from a different angle, yet the purpose is the same. David was preparing materials for the house of the Lord. In 2 Samuel we have conflict between David and his wife. While in 1 Chronicles David is assembling his kingdom. The timeline is bigger than we know. How much time is between Nathan talking to David about construction and this prayer to God? Michal, David's wife (conflict) is within this timeline. Some would like to say that the two prayers are different. Yet, many of the words within are the same. Just as the timeline talks about different incidents, the overall theme of kingdom building is the same.

This is a great prayer of exaltation. It is a tribute to the Lord. Even more, this prayer is a prayer of thanks. Imagine all that David had gone through. From Saul to Absalom. How many times did David think he would never be king? Would this kingdom stand? So, the man after God's own heart decides. I will build you a house Lord God. Then God turns this prayer around. David was a sinner. God would not have a bloody warrior build Him a holy temple. Instead, God blesses David in two ways. The first is that God will build David a house. Then God went farther by saying the Lord will bless him and build David a kingdom that would last forever.

In 2 Samuel we find David thinking He would build a kingdom. He had the Ark of God. In 1 Chronicles we have David realizing that it is God who must build and defend the kingdom. No matter which prayer you read, the adoration and respect for God is there. David understands his place. He also respects and understands God's place as the true head of the kingdom. Both

versions of David's prayer begin with "who am I." I do not think he chose those words by mistake. God is the great "I am." A name that was not to be spoken in reverence. David says "who am I." the humble prayer from a humbled man.

David then goes on to mention Gods own heart did these things. Look at the gratitude found in 2 Samuel 7:22 *"How great you are, Sovereign Lord! There is no one like you, and there is no God but you, as we have heard with our own ears."* I would also like to mention David reference to Jacob and Abraham. Although this phrase was a common saying it is a perfect choice of words. God had promised those men a kingdom that would last forever. I do not think that fell short on David. In that moment he realizes what was going on. He would be continuing the line of Abraham and Jacob. That was a very big deal

Verse 24 of 2 Samuel 7 says the word confirm. Then verse 25 says the word establish. Then verse 26 sums it up by saying Gods name will be over Israel forever. Finally, in verse 28 David mentions that Gods words are true. What words? It is the words spoken to Abraham and Jacob. I also think it hit him that Nathan the prophets' words to David were not fake. I am sure that David still wanted to build the temple to the Lord. He had assembled all that was needed to build it. Yet, clearly David had an epiphany. Nathans words are true.

It is important for people to be baptized. This tradition is also an honor. You get to declare to the world that God chose you. That you are the Lords. Do not let this get lost on you. God could choose anyone or nobody. The Lord will establish His kingdom with or without you. Yet, the highest is choosing to ask you to help build a kingdom. That is exactly what happened to David. Yet, it is the Lords to decide. David assembled all the current kingdom before the unbuilt temple. They were ready to do what David wants. Then we get this humble prayer.

In baptism you can tell of your story. Yet, the better way is to tell of Gods story. Not of how you fit in, but that God chose you. People call it a decision for Christ. A choice to let it be known that you follow God. It is also a declaration that God will lead you. Baptism is not about power, but about humbleness. What David desired was put aside. Instead, this King blesses and exults the Lord. David does not say that He will defend God. Instead, he thanks God for defending them. For giving them a reason to live. This was an amazing scene.

So, our prayers should be at-least 80% about exaltation. Thank you, Lord, for choosing us. Thanks be to God for continuing the plan. We should be praising Gods word for being true. That the promises of the past were solid. That Gods kingdom will be solid. Most of the prayer in the Bible centers around lifting God and bringing ourselves to our knees. Yet, it should not be a public spectacle. Instead, it should be a reason to have faith. A reason to believe in God. Whether it is building a church or a baptism. Something is new and something will help the kingdom grow. How about giving a prayer today that honors that.