



**WELCOME
TO
BIBLE HOUSE
OF
GRACE**

If you think items presented on this site to be in error, please let me know and I will gladly reconsider the content.

**God's Promise
to
David.**

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



**Learn
The Bible
At Home**

Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

God's Promise to David.

Topics.

- God's promise to King David through the prophet Nathan, in (2 Sam. 7:14) (1 Chron. 17:13) (1 Chron. 22:10) (1 Chron. 28:6).
 - The Lord will build David a house.
 - God will make David a prince over his people.
 - God will raise up David's seed and establish his kingdom.
 - The true house God promised to build David.
 - The house God is building for David today.
-

2 SAMUEL 7

This chapter concerning God's promise to David shines a brilliant spotlight on the royal majesty and wonder of biblical prophetic language and God's eternal foreknowledge, his eternal wisdom and the magnificence of Scripture, especially when it enters into the New Testament.

THE LORD WILL BUILD DAVID A HOUSE

- **2 Samuel 7:1-9:** Now when the king (David) lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, ²the king said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent." ³And Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you." ⁴But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, ⁵"Go and tell my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: Would you build me a house to dwell in? ⁶I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling. ⁷In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" ⁸Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. ⁹And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth.

NOTE: during the Old Testament era the word house was common language and can refer to a temple or a kingdom, today we would most likely use the word dynasty. The word house is the perfect word to symbolize the Kingdom of God because the word house carries the idea of a family and loving and protective parents caring for their children. Added to this the true global and worldwide house of God (the Kingdom of Christ) is made up of brothers and sisters who are united in love because of their common faith and love toward the Lord Jesus Christ. King David looked around and saw that he dwelt in palaces while God's ark dwelt in tents so David intended to make a house for God to dwell in. Nathan seems to think this is a good idea and therefore tells David to build a house for the LORD, but the LORD comes to Nathan that night and tells him, to tell David that it is not David who will build God a house for God, but God who will make a house for David.

NOTICE: the LORD tells Nathan from the time He delivered Israel from the bondage of Egypt through the ages of the Judges up until the time of David He has always dwelt in tents and has never dwelt in any house nor

has He ever asked anyone to build Him a house, after telling Nathan these things the LORD then tells Nathan to tell David that it is not David who will build God a house for God, but rather God will build David a house.

FLUID CHRISTIANITY

The words, "I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling (v6) symbolise that God's Spirit is not bound to any one place and that Christianity is fluid meaning it is moving it is not bound to one special place. New Testament Christianity is fluid and not restricted to a particular building or even a special day. The Christianity Christ taught is so exciting and real, it cannot be contained. It has no limitations and overflows into every moment of a Christian's life; which shows that the New Testament church is global, moving and manifested in the lives of all those who are faithful and who belong to the Lord Jesus Christ.

GOD WILL MAKE DAVID A PRINCE OVER HIS PEOPLE

The LORD tells Nathan to tell David that God will make him a prince over His people and make of him a great name (v8-9). Certainly, David became a great king amongst his people, but these prophetic words immediately take the mind of the ardent Bible student to the majestic and royal words the Angel Gabriel spoke to Mary saying:

- Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God and behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High and the Lord God will give to him the *throne* of his father *David* and he will reign over the *house* of Jacob *forever* and of his kingdom there will be *no end* (Luke 1:26-33).

It is interesting to consider that David believed God's promise that his name would be made great would be accomplished through his kingship and through his son Solomon. David will not know how majestically and eternally great the LORD has made his name until he sees Jesus his promised seed from his own bloodline face to face at the resurrection when the Lord returns in glory.

THE LORD WILL GIVE HIS PEOPLE A PLACE OF REST

- **2 Samuel 7:10-11:** And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house.

Certainly, God gave David and Solomon rest during their reign and planted the people of Israel in their own land. The years of David and Solomon are commonly known as the golden years of Israel, but they did not last forever. Here is the wonder and splendor of Bible prophecy, it almost always has an immediate comfort and fulfillment for the people the prophecy is spoken to, but the language is such that it leaves the prophecy open to take up wings and transcend time and history until it arrives upon its true and perfect fulfillment. The fulfillment of the LORD'S words to David that God will give His people a place of rest will be perfectly fulfilled when Christ returns in glory as, King of kings and Lord of lords (Rev. 19:11-16) to rule and reign from God's Holy City Jerusalem (on Mount Zion God's Holy Mountain) to establish God's Kingdom on earth during his glorious millennial reign. In the first resurrection (Rev. 20:4-6) the dead in Christ and the faithful, who are alive, will be gathered together to rule and reign as kings and priests with the Lord over those nations who are left outside the Holy City of God. Christ the King united with his

people will not only bring peace to the Middle East, but establish God's Kingdom of steadfast love, faithfulness, righteousness, joy and peace throughout the world and the glory of God will cover the earth. Jesus will do justice to the poor and oppressed, he will be a faithful and compassionate King forever. He will not allow anyone to strike terror in the earth or use lies and deception to enlarge their own wealth and power. The land will abundantly produce and even the deserts will flourish. The animals will not feed on each other and even the lamb will be able to lie down with the wolf and everyone will eat of their own hands because all that they plant will produce. All nations the LORD has made will come and worship before the Lord Jesus Christ. They will glorify God's Name, proclaiming the LORD is great and does wondrous things and that He alone is God. The book of Revelation states:

- Jesus Christ, the faithful witness who loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood has made us kings and priests unto God and his Father is coming in glory and every eye shall see him, and they also who pierced him and all kindreds of the earth (Revelation 1:5-7).

And in Revelation chapter five we are told that:

- Christ was slain, and by his blood he redeemed a people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation and made them a kingdom and priests to God and they shall reign on the earth (Revelation 5:9-10).

At the end of this glorious Kingdom age God descends to earth on a Great White Throne the sea, death and hades (the grave) give up the dead. They stand before God and are judged according to what is written in certain heavenly books according to what they have done. Death and those counted unworthy are cast into the Lake of Fire a symbol of eternal destruction (i.e., total extinction) (also called the, Second Death) (Rev. 20:11-15). Christ hands the Kingdom over to his heavenly Father and God is ALL in ALL and ETERNITY begins in all its fullness and majestic royal glory. For further information see titles:

- Kingdom of God (ON WEBSITE MENU).
- The Second Resurrection or Great White Throne Judgment.

In, Resurrection (ON WEBSITE MENU).

THE LORD WILL MAKE DAVID A HOUSE

The house the LORD is building for David at this present time is spiritual it is being established in the heart and mind of every faithful brother and sister in Christ worldwide. It is a global house made up of Jews and Gentiles who have faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and who trust in God's grace to be counted righteous and worthy of eternal life. This house is also called the Kingdom of God; a new creation; a new nation in Christ and the church. It is called a new creation and new Nation because it is made up of Jews and Gentiles worshipping together, Israel's Messiah the Christ and Saviour of the world. The Kingdom parable of the net clearly shows that Christ will return in glory to his present spiritual Kingdom and separate out of his Kingdom the corrupt and self-serving servants from his good and faithful servants and then the sons and daughters of God which all creation waits with eager longing for will be revealed (Rom 8:19) and they will be like him, because they will see him as he is (1 Jn. 3:2). For further detail concerning the Kingdom of God, see the title:

- Kingdom of God (ON WEBSITE MENU).

GOD WILL RAISE UP DAVID'S SEED AND ESTABLISH HIS KINGDOM

- **2 Samuel 7:12:** When your (David's) days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your seed after you, who shall come from your body (bowels in the KJV) and I will establish his kingdom.

Coming from the bowels: means coming from your body (i.e., a descendant).

The LORD told David that after his death God will set up David's seed from his own descendants (bowels in the KJV) and establish a Kingdom for David's seed. Here is the glory and wonder of these words of the LORD. Jesus is a direct descendant of David for the following two reasons:

1. Heli came through the bloodline of David's son Nathan and many scholars accept the idea that Heli (Eli) was the father of Mary so Mary is also of the bloodline of David through his son Nathan.
2. Jacob the father of Joseph is of the bloodline of David's son Solomon so Joseph the foster and legal father of Jesus is also of the Bloodline of David. With this view in mind Jesus was biologically born of the royal line of David through his mother Mary and was by marriage legally the rightful heir of the royal line by his foster father Joseph.

GOD WILL BE THE FATHER OF DAVID'S SEED

- **2 Samuel 7:13-14:** He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. ¹⁴I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men.

God says King David's seed will build a house for God's Name and God will establish the Kingdom and throne of King David's seed forever. It is certain David (as the following studies will show) had his son Solomon in mind when God made this glorious and eternal promise to him, but it is not Solomon who is the central focus that God had in mind when He made this majestic and eternal promise to David. We know this because Solomon's Kingdom and his throne were not forever.

Added to this the LORD tells David God will be the father of his seed and he will be God's Son. This immediately takes the mind of New Testament Christians to the following glorious words God spoke from heaven at Jesus water baptism and the Mount of transfiguration.

At Jesus baptism:

- A voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." (Matt 3:17).

At the mountain of transfiguration:

- A bright cloud overshadowed Peter, James, and John and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him" (Matt. 17:5) (Mark 9:7) (Luke 9:35) (2 Peter 1:17).

These heavenly declarations of God clearly show that though David might have had Solomon in mind God in His eternal wisdom and foreknowledge had the Lord Jesus Christ in His mind and not Solomon. Here we see the glorious majesty and wonder of biblical prophetic language, because the seed of David is not named in the prophecy the words of God allow for it to apply to Solomon giving it a the local and immediate fulfillment (clearly with certain limitations) and for the prophetic words to rest for a little while upon the golden era of David and Solomon and then take up wings and transcend through time and history until God's prophetic words spoken by Nathan descend on the true seed of David that God had in His eternal mind thousands of years ago when he was telling Nathan what to say to David.

The words, "When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men" (2 Sam. 7:14) cannot be intended for Christ since the Bible tells us he was without sin (Heb. 4:14). It is interesting to notice that in the same account of Nathan's word to David recorded in (1 Chron. 17:10-15) these words are completely omitted. Nevertheless Nathan's words can be applied David's son Solomon and to David's offspring who committed many gross sins and transgressions and who God did chasten with many afflictions after they fell into idolatry and they can also be applied to David's spiritual offspring growing in Christ today since even faithful believers have infirmities, but though they maybe spiritually disciplined to bring them to repentance they will not be cast off. It means God will correct his children, but not to destroy them, but to chastise them for their good. It refers to moderate corrections given in love which serve some good purposes.

NOTE: this does not mean every discipline has to be with a rod, rather it is discipline suited to humanities weakness. God used Nebuchadnezzar King of Babylon as His servant to chastise the people of Israel for their good in the same way parents use all kinds of discipline to correct their children for their own good.

The idea is that whatever type of discipline is being used it will cause a certain amount of suffering for the one being disciplined, but it is always to be carried out with all possible tenderness and compassion. It is almost certain that if some children today were given a choice of a smack with a rod given in love (in contrast to anger) or have their I-Pad or mobile phone taken away for a few a few days many would choose the smack.

In this chapter verse four through to verse ten are exactly the same as the previous section (2 Sam 7:5-13), but this chapter gives us a little more detail concerning God's glorious promise to David's and David's attitude toward God's eternal promise.

The LORD tells Nathan to:

- **1 Chronicles 17:4-13:** Go and tell his servant David, "Thus says the LORD: It is not you who will build me a house to dwell in. ⁵For I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up Israel to this day, but I have gone from tent to tent and from dwelling to dwelling. ⁶In all places where I have moved with all Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" ⁷Now, therefore, thus shall you say to my servant David, "Thus says the LORD of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be prince over my people Israel. ⁸and I have been with you wherever you have gone and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ⁹And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall waste them no more, as formerly, ¹⁰from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will subdue all your enemies. Moreover, I declare to you that the LORD will build you a house. ¹¹When your days are fulfilled to walk with your fathers, I will raise up your seed after you, your seed which shall be of your sons and I will establish his kingdom ¹²He shall build a house for me, and I will establish his throne forever. ¹³I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. I will not take my steadfast love from him, as I took it from him who was before you."

Up to here the words of Nathan are exactly the same as recorded in the previous section (2 Sam 7:5-13), but the following verses now give us a little more detail concerning this eternal and glorious promise God made to David's and David's attitude toward it.

- **1 Chronicles 17:14-17** --- ¹⁴but I will confirm him (settle him in KJV) him (David's Seed) in my house and in my kingdom forever and his throne shall be established forever."
¹⁵In accordance with all these words, and in accordance with all this vision, Nathan spoke to David. ¹⁶Then King David went in and sat before the LORD and said, "Who am I, O LORD God, and what is my house that you have brought me thus far? ¹⁷And this was a small thing in your eyes, O God. You have also spoken of your servant's house for a great while to come, and have shown me future generations, O LORD God!

God tells David that He will not only confirm his seed meaning one of his sons in God's house and in God's Kingdom forever, but would also establish his throne forever according to all the words Nathan spoke. It was not Solomon who God confirmed this eternal promise through and established the Kingdom and throne forever, but through David's seed the Lord Jesus Christ. It was by the death and resurrection of God's most beloved Son that God confirmed his eternal promise to David that He would build David a house and establish his throne forever. David though a mighty warrior and king was a humble man before God and overwhelmed with amazement that God would honour him with such a glorious and eternal promise.

Though David understood that this promise was eternal and believed God would make him a great name through his seed he could never have imagined that it would come about as it did (i.e., though the death and resurrection of Christ), but it was not important for him to know every detail of God's eternal promise for it to comfort him and for it to come to pass. Likewise every brother or sister in Christ believes God's promise that Jesus will return in glory, but no-one fully understands every detail of this promise or how Christ will return in glory and what his eternal Kingdom will look like, but having a clear understanding of these things is not important to being saved or to the promise coming to pass since it is having faith in God's promise and trusting that God will bring it to pass that the Lord honours.

The following studies: will show that David believed the promise would come through his son Solomon and continue through the succeeding kings of Israel.

2 SAMUEL 22

DAVID RETELLS GOD'S PROMISE TO SOLOMON

Prior to these verses David prepares abundantly to build the house of the Lord in Jerusalem before he dies. He tells his son Solomon that the house that is to be built for the LORD must be magnificent so that it attracts fame and glory throughout the world and that though he desired to build it God had told him he couldn't because he was a man of war and shed much blood. Now in the following verses David is telling his son Solomon what God had said to him through the prophet Nathan.

David tells Solomon that God said to him:

- **1 Chronicles 22:9-13:** Behold, a son shall be born to you who shall be a man of rest. I will give him rest from all his surrounding enemies. For his name shall be Solomon, and I will give peace and quiet to Israel in his days. ¹⁰He shall build a house for my name. He shall be my son, and I will be his father, and I will establish his royal throne in Israel forever. ¹¹"Now, my son, the LORD be with you, so that you may succeed in building the house of the LORD your God, as he has spoken concerning you. ¹²Only, may the LORD grant you discretion and understanding, that when he gives you charge over Israel you may keep the law of the LORD your God. ¹³Then you will prosper if you are careful to observe the statutes and the rules that the LORD commanded Moses for Israel. Be strong and courageous. Fear not; do not be dismayed.

David, when retelling the story of what God through Nathan had told him, said to Solomon that God told him the message from Nathan was for his son named Solomon, but it is not recorded anywhere in the Bible that God said the promise was for David's son Solomon. God said David's seed (meaning one of his sons), He did not name who the seed would be. God in the original promise that Nathan spoke to David did not say David's son Solomon will build a house for God, but that David's seed will build a house for David. Solomon became the local or partial fulfillment of this prophecy, but it was not Solomon that God had in mind when He was speaking to David through Nathan. The following are three reasons David most likely believed Solomon was the promised son:

1. Many sons were born to David's wives and his concubines, but none of them were told God would be their Father; it is most likely that David loved Solomon because he was born of Bathsheba and it was in David's heart and mind for Solomon to be King
2. The focus of Israel at this time was perpetuity of kingship and their kingdom through the inheritance of their sons.
3. Even though the Bible does not record God saying that the promised seed would be Solomon, God may have told David Solomon would build the house of God when He gave him the instructions for the temple and its furniture since that is not recorded in Scripture either.

Even though the promised seed ultimately refers to the Lord Jesus Christ this does not mean that it was not in the will of God for David to believe that Solomon was the promised seed. Obviously, God would have known how David would have interpreted what Nathan the prophet had said to him and clearly it was what God purposed for David's Kingdom at that time.

THE HOUSE SOLOMON BUILT IS COMPLETED

7

When Solomon had completed building the house of the LORD he prayed; "I have built an exalted house for the LORD to dwell in forever." Then blessed the LORD, for fulfilling what He promised to David when he said, "Since the day that He brought Israel out of Egypt, He chose no city in which to build a house for His name, but chose David to be King over Israel, because it was in David's Heart to build a house for the name of the LORD, but it would be Solomon his son who would build the house and not David. Then Solomon thanked the LORD for fulfilling His promise to David by raising him up to sit on the throne of Israel in the place of his father David and for allowing him to build the house for the name of the LORD as He had promised his father David (1 Kings 8:12-20). Solomon then prays that the LORD will keep his promise to David that he will not lack a man to sit before the LORD on the throne of Israel if David's sons walk before the LORD as David did (1 Kings 8:25).

The LORD answered Solomon's prayer, saying, "I have consecrated this house by putting my name there forever. My eyes and my heart will be there for all time." Then tells Solomon if he follows the LORD keeping His Commandments He will establish Solomon's royal throne over Israel forever as He promised David saying, "You shall not lack a man on the throne of Israel, but if Solomon or his children turn from the LORD and serve other gods then He will cast out of His sight the house and the people of Israel" (1 Kings 9:3-7), but this does not mean that Solomon and the temple he built was the ultimate fulfillment that the LORD had in mind when he told David God would raise up from his own body a seed who would reign on his throne forever. The principal here could be likened to the principal that applied to Israel when they desired a King, it was not at that time God's perfect plan for Israel to have Kings, but He accepted their desire and gave them Kings. Here is the glory, the beauty and the wonder of prophetic Scripture. The Bible in God's original promise to David through the prophet Nathan deliberately does not record God naming

Solomon as David's seed so that the prophecy can rest upon Solomon for a time and then take up wings and transcend time and history until it settles on the true seed of David (the Lord Jesus Christ) who God had in His eternal mind when speaking through the prophet Nathan to David

NOTE: in almost all biblical prophecies have an immediate and local fulfillment to comfort or warn the people the prophet is speaking to, but the language is such it allows the prophecy to take up wings and transcend through time and history to rest upon Christ or another similar event to take place on a much grander scale at a much later time in the future. This is the glory of God and the wonder of Bible prophecy.

1 CHRONICLES 28

DAVID RETELLS GOD'S PROMISE TO SOLOMON

- **1 Chronicles 28:5-6:** And of all my sons (for the LORD has given me many sons) he has chosen Solomon my son to sit on the throne of the kingdom of the LORD over Israel.
⁶He said to me, 'It is Solomon your son who shall build my house and my courts, for I have chosen him to be my son, and I will be his father.

Here David is retelling the promise that came to him through the prophet Nathan so it is the same as what we have already covered, but in the following verses we are given greater insight into how much David understood of this majestic and glorious eternal promise concerning the throne and the Kingdom of his promised seed being established forever. Remember though David says God had chosen Solomon to build God's house it is not recorded anywhere in the Bible that God Himself said He had chosen Solomon to build the house of God.

SOLOMON'S KINGDOM WILL BE ESTABLISHED IF HE KEEPS GOD'S COMMANDMENTS

8

David assembled all the princes of Israel, the captains, the stewards, the officers and the mighty and valiant men to Jerusalem (1 Chron. 28:1) and told them that the LORD had said:

- **1 Chronicles 28:7-10:** I will establish Solomon's kingdom forever if he continues strong in keeping my commandments and my rules, as he is today.⁸ Now therefore in the sight of all Israel, the assembly of the LORD, and in the hearing of our God, observe and seek out all the commandments of the LORD your God, that you may possess this good land and leave it for an inheritance to your children after you forever.⁹ And you, Solomon my son, know the God of your father and serve him with a whole heart and with a willing mind, for the LORD searches all hearts and understands every plan and thought. If you seek him, he will be found by you, but if you forsake him he will cast you off forever.¹⁰ Be careful now, for the LORD has chosen you to build a house for the sanctuary; be strong and do it."

David tells Solomon that his kingdom will continue forever if he continues to keep God's commandments and serve God with a whole heart and with a willing mind, but if he forsakes the LORD God will cast him off and bring his kingdom to an end. These verses show that David believed God's promise applied to his Son Solomon and that the way it would be fulfilled forever was by Solomon obeying the commandments of the Lord and then the promised Kingdom and promised throne would continue through Solomon's offspring and their offspring after them. Solomon did not keep God's commandments, nor did he follow God with his whole heart, but turned to other gods. This clearly shows that the future fulfillment of Nathan's message from God to David could not have been about Solomon since God in his original promise to David through Nathan said that He would establish David's seed and his kingdom and his throne forever which shows that though David had Solomon in mind God in His eternal mind had the Lord Jesus Christ in focus the true and eternal seed of David.

Thousands of years after God had made this majestic royal and glorious promise to David, we read in the New Testament that God sent His angel Gabriel to a godly woman named Mary who said to her:

- Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God and behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High and the Lord God will give to him the *throne of his father David* and he will reign over the *house of Jacob forever* and of his kingdom there will be no end (Luke 1:26-33).

GOD'S PROMISE TO DAVID IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

This is where Nathan's prophecy to David becomes absolute beauty and the majesty and wonder of prophesy and God's wisdom all come together. The heart of the ardent Bible student is thrilled and overjoyed when the link between the Old and New Testament is seen and the majestic and royal plan God purposed in his eternal mind before the ages began is fully understood. Jesus when looking at the house of Solomon (now called Harrods temple) said to his disciples:

- Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt thou rear it up in three days? But he spoke of the temple of his body (John 2:19-21).

And Paul in his letter to the Corinthians said to those who belong to Christ:

- Know ye not you are the temple of God (i.e., God's house) (1 Cor. 3:16-17).

Those in Christ are the house of God the LORD had in mind, when He promised David through Nathan that he would build a house for David." Remember the LORD did not say that David would build a house for God, but that God would build a house for David and it was not God, but David who said, "Solomon was the king God promised him." After Solomon had completed building the house God told him if he and Israel keep all Gods commandments then there will be a man on the throne of David's Kingdom forever as the LORD promised his father David, but both Solomon and Israel turned to serve other gods so God used Babylon to destroy the house of God Solomon had built. Later Herod completely rebuilt the temple of Solomon. Then in the New Testament Christ the true promised seed of David appears and the temple is destroyed by the Romans in 70AD.

THE TRUE HOUSE GOD PROMISED TO BUILD DAVID

God at this present time is building the house he promised to build for David through David's seed the Lord Jesus Christ, this is the true eternal house God promised He would build for David. The prophet Isaiah wrote:

- Thus says the LORD: "Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool; what is the house that you would build for me, and what is the place of my rest? (Isaiah 66:1)

Stephen said:

- The Most High does not dwell in houses made by hands, as the prophet says, "Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. What kind of house will you build for me, says the Lord, or what is the place of my rest? (Acts 7:48-49).

These verses clearly show that neither David nor Solomon could build a house for God and that it is God who is building a house for David. Added to this when Jesus was in the temple at Jerusalem the Jews asked him for a sign and Jesus said to them, "Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews then said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple and will you raise it up in three days?" But Jesus was speaking

about the temple of his body (John 2:18-21). When Jesus said, "Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up," he was not speaking of the temple that Solomon built, but the temple of his own body which they did destroy and God did raise up in three days. The eternal house God promised to build for David through his seed is at this present time is a spiritual Kingdom being established in the hearts and minds of every faithful brother and sister in Christ worldwide. This is the true house God promised through the prophet Nathan that He would build for David.

The author of Hebrews states:

- Christ is faithful over God's house as a son. And we are his house if indeed we hold fast our confidence and our boasting in our hope (Heb. 3:6).

Paul wrote:

- You are the temple of God if any man defile the Temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple you are (2 Cor. 6:16).

When Jesus gave up his life, the veil of the temple was ripped in two from the top to the bottom, testifying that it was not only the end of the Old Covenant, but also the end of the Old Testament temple (i.e., the house of God). Christ's Kingdom is the true eternal house that God promised to build for David and Jesus Christ is the promised Son to rule on David's throne forever.

GOD GAVE DAVID THE PLAN FOR THE HOUSE OF GOD

David told Solomon, "All the plan of God's house and its furniture God made clear to him in writing from the hand of the LORD and that all the work was to be done according to the plan (1 Chron. 28:19), but it is not recorded in the Bible when God actually gave these plans to David. It may well have been that God told David Solomon would build the house of God at the time He was giving David the pattern for it, but it is not recorded in the Bible. This is the amazing and wonderful wisdom of God, by not recording God Himself saying Solomon would be the eternal promised seed of David the prophecy remains open and allows it to take up wings and continue through time when Solomon fails. In a sense you could say, God by His eternal foreknowledge made provision in His eternal plan and His promise to David for Solomon's failure.

It is interesting to notice: when the Jewish religious leaders were trying to prove Jesus guilty of crimes so that they could have the Romans put him to death certain false witnesses accused Jesus of saying that he said, "I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to rebuild it in three days" (Matt. 26:61) (Mark 14:58), but this is not a true statement Jesus actually said, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up" (John 2:19) he never said he would destroy the temple, but he did say he would raise it up. (The literal temple was destroyed by the Romans in 70AD).

SUMMARY

The house God is building David is being established by faith in the heart and mind of every faithful brother and sister in Christ. It is called a new creation, one nation in Christ, the church, the Kingdom of God and the body of Christ. This is the house or temple God had in His eternal mind when He told David through Nathan that he would build a house for David, forever and from David's seed would come a king who would reign on David's throne forever. Paul said to the men of Israel and all who fear God, "It is written that after God removed King Saul He raised up David to be Israel's king, of whom God testified and said, I have found in David the son of Jesse a man after my heart, who will do all my will." Then Paul

tells us that from David's seed God has brought to Israel a Saviour, Jesus as he promised (Acts 13:21-23), clearly showing that it has always been Jesus who is the central focus of God's eternal promise to David. Christ the true promised seed of David is building the Gospel temple, a house for God's name; the spiritual temple of true believers, to be a habitation of God through the Spirit. The establishing of his house, his throne and his Kingdom forever, can be applied to no other than to Christ and his Kingdom since David's house and kingdom long since came to an end.

THE HOUSE GOD IS BUILDING FOR DAVID TODAY

The house God is building for David in this present New Testament era is the global and worldwide church of God. Sadly, amongst much of the secular global world today there is a mindset that the church is a Sunday meeting in a religious building but the church should never be limited to the established religious institutions, denominations or church buildings. They may form a part of the house of God, but they are not the only part. There are many individual Christians in all countries of the world who meet in coffee bars, social outings and mostly their own homes to give thanks to Christ and share their discoveries of God's word and their spiritual experiences with Him. Many of these people are helping others and simply manifesting the reality of their faith to the people that come into their lives. God is not limited to any one pattern or organisation; He is far too creative for that. Jesus house is global and is manifested in a vast variety of ways across the face of the earth. In many third world countries church is held outside under a tree (for shade) with its members sitting on the dusty ground often with dogs, chooks and other animals roaming around. It is also important to be aware that the word church does not embrace everyone simply because they confess to be Christians. When the Bible uses the term church it primarily refers to those who belong to Christ and those who do the will of his Father.

11

The will of God in this context is to follow Jesus command to love your neighbour as yourself. (Matt. 19:17-20) (Matt. 22:37-40) (Mark 12:29-31). In the New Testament this is called the royal law (James 2:8) and means, do-good to others. Those who deliberately harm or use people, especially those who belong to Christ for their own selfish gain and greed, sexually, financially, emotionally and spiritually are referred to by Christ himself as workers of iniquity (Matt. 7:21-23). The Bible teaches that some will be cast out of God's house which means not everyone who confesses to know Christ is part of his house there are those in his present Kingdom who he calls wicked servants. They use his name and his Gospel for their own selfish gain and line their own greedy pockets with the wealth and riches of this world by making merchandise of those who do belong to Christ. Nevertheless Jesus knows those who are his and those who are not and will not only reject anyone who uses his message of grace, mercy, compassion and love for their own selfish gain, but when he returns will deny them entry into his eternal house (Matt. 8:12) (Matt. 22:13) (Matt. 25:30).

Jesus said:

- I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, but you do not believe because you are not part of my flock. My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me (John 10:14) (John 10:26-27).

Building God's house is not about financing opulent mega million dollar buildings, but rather it is about people gathering together to share their faith in any place they are able, nevertheless a building maybe required for practical purposes (i.e., the size of the congregation etc.), but if it is built using guilt and borrowing such vast amounts of money that not only the oversight of that church, but also the congregation are put under financial oppression it is not in the will of God. Building God's house (temple) is about becoming more Christ like, and living in the will of God. New Testament Christianity is fluid and not restricted to a particular

building or even a special day. The Christianity Christ taught is so exciting and real, it cannot be contained. It has no limitations and overflows into every moment of a Christian's life; which means that the New Testament house of God is global, moving and manifested in the lives of all those who are faithful and who belong to the Lord Jesus Christ

THE GLOBAL FAMILY OF GOD

Since the Bible was written in an entirely different culture to ours and the body of Christ is a global family filled with people from different nations, countries, cultures, backgrounds, knowledge, levels of education, hurts and troubled pasts there is always going to be certain amount of Scripture we will all understand differently. Paul in the book of Romans tells us to avoid those who cause divisions contrary to the doctrine that he taught the brothers and sisters in Rome, but in the context of his letter the doctrines he has in mind are:

1. Doctrines that are contrary to the teaching that salvation is by grace through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ contrasted to works of the law, self-effort and keeping religious customs and traditions etc.
2. Doctrines that are contrary to the truth that Jews and Gentiles who accept Christ become one nation in Christ, contrasted to them being two separate nations.
3. Doctrines which are contrary to godly behaviour and lead people away from the Lord Jesus Christ.

These are the three major topics Paul has focused on in his letter to the brothers and sisters in Rome and the doctrines he has in his mind when he says be careful of those who cause divisions and create obstacles. Naturally within the global house of God there are many varied understandings of many Scripture, but not all teachings are important to know to be saved to eternal life nor does one have to have perfect understanding of every teaching from Genesis to Revelation to know Christ and be in union with him. No-one has to be a walking Bible encyclopaedia to be in the family of Christ and saved to eternal life, but should any teacher proclaim a message of works and self-effort to be saved or teach that Jews and Gentiles are two separate groups/nations in Christ, or teach doctrines that lead people away from godly behaviour and from Christ Paul says they should be avoided (Romans 16:17-19).

NOTE: though the visible global church in many regions has not presented a good reflection of Christ to the secular world, it should always be remembered that there are literally hundreds of thousands of humble Christian brothers and sisters in Christ spending their time helping the poor and the less fortunate, but sadly this type of news does not attract the attention of global T.V. news media since there is no profit to be made in good news. The body is the reflection of Christ on earth and therefore should be walking in the same Spirit of love, kindness, compassion and grace etc. that Christ walked in while on earth.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF ISRAEL

It is important to understand that the promised seed of Abraham and David is Christ, all the promises to Israel are now fulfilled in Christ therefore they are not limited to Israel only but extend and embrace all those who belong to Christ because God is now creating one new nation in Christ made up of both Jew and Gentiles. (Gentiles are everyone who is not a Hebrew or Jew) this means that Jews and Gentiles become one new nation in Christ (also called, a new man, a new creation, the church, the body of Christ and the Kingdom of God).

The apostle Paul said:

- **Ephesians 2:11-22:** Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called "the uncircumcision" by what is called the circumcision (Jews), which is made in the flesh by hands— ¹²remember that you (Gentiles) were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the *COMMONWEALTH OF ISRAEL* and *STRANGERS* to the *COVENANTS* of *PROMISE*, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³But now in Christ Jesus you (Gentiles) who once were far off (from God) have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴For he himself is our (Jews and Gentiles) peace, who has made us both *ONE* and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility ¹⁵by abolishing the law of commandments and ordinances, that he (Jesus) might create in himself *ONE NEW MAN* (or Nation) in place of the two (Jews and Gentiles), so making peace, ¹⁶and might reconcile us (Jews and Gentiles) both to God in *ONE BODY* through the cross, thereby killing the hostility (between the Jews and Gentiles). ¹⁷And he (Jesus) came and preached peace to you (Gentiles) who were far off (from God) and peace to those who were near (Jews). ¹⁸For through him (Jesus) we both (Jews and Gentiles) have access in *ONE SPIRIT* to the Father. ¹⁹So then you (Gentiles) are *NO LONGER* strangers and aliens, but you are *FELLOW CITIZENS* with the *SAINTS* (the Jews) and members of the *HOUSEHOLD* of God, ²⁰built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone ²¹in whom the *WHOLE STRUCTURE* being joined together (Jews and Gentiles) grows into a holy temple in the Lord. ²²In him you (Jews and Gentiles) also are being built together into a *DWELLING PLACE* for *GOD* by the Spirit.

Gentiles were separated from Christ, alienated from the, Commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus they have been brought to God by the blood of Christ. Jesus has made Jews and Gentiles both one by abolishing the law of commandments and ordinances so that Jesus might create in himself one new man (Nation) in place of the two (Jews and Gentiles). In Jesus both Jews and Gentiles are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit. Christ is the head of this new nation and its Jewish and Gentile citizens are now equal in status before God since in Christ we are all brothers and sisters in the same eternal family that God is now establishing in the Lord Jesus Christ throughout all nations of the world.

THE PRACTICAL APPLICATION OF WHAT THIS MEANS TO THOSE WHO BELONG TO CHRIST

If you belong to Christ, all the future and eternal promises God made to Israel also apply to you. The book of Revelation states: -

- When Christ returns in glory every eye will see him, even those who pierced him and all the tribes of the earth (Rev. 1:7).

And in Revelation chapter five we are told that:

- Christ was slain, and by his blood he ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation (i.e., Jews and Gentiles) and he has made them a kingdom and priests to God and they shall reign on the earth (Rev. 5:9-10).

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.
