

Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further ***International Bible Lessons***

2 Samuel 7:1-17

Sunday, October 22, 2017

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Some Bible study groups or classes can further discussion by asking some or all of the **Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** below. Others may want to send the bulletin size *International Bible Lesson* home with their students for further study in the coming week to encourage continuing Bible study. The *Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further* below are not actually intended to be *the answers* to the discussion questions. These indeed are “hints” a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class. The *Class Preparation Guide* includes the questions below, and it can be given to students at the end of the previous class so they can pray, read, and think ahead to prepare for the next week’s Bible class.

Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further

1. Why do you think Nathan immediately told David to do all that he had in mind?

David’s plan was not contrary to the laws of God or immoral. Perhaps Nathan knew that David loved God and was right with God; therefore, because God was with David, God may have inspired David’s plan. The plan sounded good at first because David wanted to build a house for God to honor God and thank God for all God had done for him.

2. What made Nathan change his mind? What did Nathan do then?

Nathan changed his mind only after God spoke to him that very night and told him that even though He had done much for King David, David was not to build Him a house.

Nathan went to David and told him God’s exact words.

3. Did God ever want a house of cedar? What reason did God give for His answer to Nathan and King David?

No. God said that He had never requested anyone to build Him a house of cedar. God said that He had lived in a tabernacle and tent so He could move about among His people. God was satisfied living in a tent that He had designed and Moses had built according to God’s design.

4. What are some of the things God said He had done for David? What are some of the things God said He would do for David?

God had taken David from the pasture. God had changed him from being a follower of sheep to being a leader of His people. God was with David wherever he went. God had defeated all of David's enemies.

God promised to make his name great, like the names of the great ones of the earth. God would give him rest from all of his enemies. God would make him a house. God would establish his house, his kingdom and his throne forever. After King David died, God would raise up one of his children after him to be king (King Solomon).

5. Who eventually built a house for God? Describe what God said He would do for him?

King Solomon eventually built the temple. As God had said to David through Nathan, one who came forth from David's body would become king and build him a house. God would be as a father to him, and He would treat him as a son. When King Solomon (or any king in the Davidic line) sinned, God would punish them through the actions of other human beings (for example, their enemies eventually led the Israelites into exile). God would not take His steadfast love from King Solomon as He had from King Saul for his sins. God would establish his kingdom and throne forever.

[Note: God would not take His steadfast love from King Solomon, but would establish his throne forever, because God promised that the Messiah was to be born of the line of King David and King Solomon. God did not show partiality toward King Solomon, who sinned grievously; however, because of his sins, one of his sons, who became king after King Solomon died, destroyed (divided) his earthly kingdom. God told David: "I will establish his (King Solomon's) kingdom" and "I will establish the throne of his (King Solomon's) kingdom forever" (2 Samuel 7:12, 13). God had promised that the Messiah would be born through King David and King Solomon's line, and God kept His promise in spite of King Solomon's sins (See Matthew 1:6).]