

# Second Samuel

## Lesson 8

### c) The Correct Perception (6:16)

Our compiler includes a note about David's wife, Michal. She did not have the correct perception. Verse 16. *"Then it happened as the ark of the LORD came into the city of David that Michal the daughter of Saul looked out of the window and saw King David leaping and dancing before the LORD; and she despised him in her heart."* Notice that the compiler did not tell us that Michal was the wife of David. Instead, he associated her with being the daughter of Saul. This designation must have been purposeful to show that Michal had come to the same point as her father did concerning David, *"she despised him in her heart."* No doubt, she was incapable of enjoying the happiness of David when she saw him in his exuberant state as he marched with the Ark and its arrival in Zion. We know from human nature that once someone despises someone, it is extremely difficult to change that attitude. Saul never did; Michal would never either. Did Michal only love the brave hero and king? Did she despise the dancing musician within him? Most likely.

### d) The Correct Presentation (6:17-19)

Before the first attempt to bring the Ark to Zion, David had prepared a tent for it to rest within. That tent was still waiting. When the procession arrived at the tent, we find that it was the correct presentation. Verse 17. *"So they brought in the ark of the LORD and set it in its place inside the tent which David had pitched for it; and David offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the LORD. <sup>18</sup> When David had finished offering the burnt and the peace of, he blessed the people in the name of the LORD of hosts. <sup>19</sup> Further, he distributed to all the people, to all the multitude of Israel, both to men and women, a cake of bread and one of dates and one of raisins to each one. Then all the people departed each to his house."*

From Obed's house to the tent in Zion, the LORD was pleased. At the tent, two offerings were completed. One was a burnt offering. From the LORD's instruction in Leviticus 1, with a burnt offering, everything was burned. The hide was not burned on the altar, it was burned outside the city, but it, too, was burned. The parts of the animal burned on the altar provided a sweet aroma to the LORD. The LORD also allowed in Leviticus for a peace offering. A peace offering was to thank the LORD for His great gifts and blessings. In that offering, only the fat portions of the animal were offered on the Altar. The hide was given as a gift payment to the priest. The rest of the animal was cooked to be consumed by the participants and the priestly families. In addition to a meal from the peace offering, every participant was given a cake of bread, a cake of dates, and a cake of raisins as they left to return home from the grand celebration and parade.

### e) The Correct Penalization (6:20-23)

One person did not participate in the celebration of the arrival of the Ark in Zion. For this person, the correct penalization was enacted. Verse 20. *"But when David returned to bless his household, Michal the daughter of Saul came out to meet David and said, 'How the king of Israel distinguished himself today! He uncovered himself today in the eyes of his servants' maids as one of the foolish ones shamelessly uncovers himself!'" <sup>21</sup> So David said to Michal, 'It was before the LORD, who chose me above your father and above all his house, to appoint me ruler over the people of the LORD, over Israel; therefore I will celebrate before the LORD. <sup>22</sup> I will be more lightly esteemed than this and will be humble in my own eyes, but with the maids of whom you have spoken, with them I will be distinguished.'" <sup>23</sup> Michal the daughter of Saul had no child to the day of her death."*

We have already discussed Michal's issue with David and his performance before the Ark as it arrived in Zion. Here, the writer tells us precisely what we already know. Michal was disgusted with David removing the royal robe of the king, marching for miles before the people of the nation with

only what was considered his underwear, although it did cover him completely. Nevertheless, she equated it with undressing before the servant maids with adulterous intent. But David would not hear of it. He invoked his position as the anointed successor to her father and boldly proclaimed that he had the right to celebrate before the LORD. He then makes an interesting statement that we must address. *“I will be more lightly esteemed than this and will be humble in my own eyes, but with the maids of whom you have spoken, with them I will be distinguished.”*

What does this mean? What does he mean when he says he will be *“more lightly esteemed...?”* It means that David would always be ready to be humbled in his mind before the LORD. He did not present himself as a king to the LORD. He introduced himself as a lowly servant in the base garment that was the regular wear of the lowliest of humanity. Yet, he knew that in the mind of the maidens, whom Michal interjected into the argument, he was still the king of Israel and highly distinguished in their eyes. David had a healthy balance between his position with the LORD and the people. Michal did not. She would pay dearly for her thoughts. She would remain childless. This one point meant that she would never have the hope that a son, born with the blood she inherited from her father, Saul, to be king after David. The LORD, the giver of life, made sure of that detail. No heir of Saul would ever sit on the throne of Israel.

### C. The Temple of the Kingdom (7:1-29)

#### 1. David's Plans to Build a Temple (7:1-7)

After David's triumph of being the second king of the nation of Israel with his declaration and covenant with the people, followed by his eventual success in bringing the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem, David turned his attention to the Temple of the Kingdom. In chapter 7, we see David's plans to build a Temple. Verse 1. *“Now it came about when the king lived in his house, and the LORD had given him rest on every side from all his enemies,<sup>2</sup> that the king said to Nathan the prophet, “See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells within tent curtains.”<sup>3</sup> Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that is in your mind, for the LORD is with you.”<sup>4</sup> But in the same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, saying,<sup>5</sup> “Go and say to My servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD, Are you the one who should build Me a house to dwell in?<sup>6</sup> For I have not dwelt in a house since the day I brought up the sons of Israel from Egypt, even to this day; but I have been moving about in a tent, even in a tabernacle.<sup>7</sup> Wherever I have gone with all the sons of Israel, did I speak a word with one of the tribes of Israel, which I commanded to shepherd My people Israel, saying, Why have you not built Me a house of cedar?’”*

Notice the LORD had been happy as He allowed the Ark of the Covenant to rest in a tent and a tabernacle. He had not complained one bit. What had gotten into the mind of David to think that the LORD needed a permanent place to dwell? But in this passage, we must also notice three things. First, the LORD hears all the plans of man. He listened to the desire of David to build a Temple. Point one, you cannot hide your thought from the LORD. The LORD will respond to those on the wrong path. David was on the wrong path, and the LORD let him know. Point two, you better listen to the LORD when He speaks to redirect your path in a different direction. The LORD will talk to you through a person in close contact with the LORD. David was headed on a path out of the will of the LORD, and the LORD used Nathan to speak into the life of David to correct his itinerary.

#### 2. David's Permission Concerning the Temple (7:8-17)

But even with the LORD's redirection of David, we come to David's permission concerning the Temple and what the LORD would allow David to do. Verse 8. *“Now 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, to be ruler over My people Israel.<sup>9</sup> I have been with you wherever you have gone and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make you a great name, like the names of the great men who are on the earth.<sup>10</sup> I will also appoint a place for My people Israel and will plant them, that they may live in their own place and not be disturbed again, nor will the wicked afflict them any more as formerly,<sup>11</sup> even from the day that I commanded judges to be over My people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. The LORD also declares to you that the LORD will make a house for you.*

<sup>12</sup> *When your days are complete and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your descendant after you, who will come forth from you, and I will establish his kingdom.* <sup>13</sup> *He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.* <sup>14</sup> *I will be a father to him and he will be a son to Me; when he commits iniquity, I will correct him with the rod of men and the strokes of the sons of men,* <sup>15</sup> *but My lovingkindness shall not depart from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you.* <sup>16</sup> *Your house and your kingdom shall endure before Me forever; your throne shall be established forever.”* <sup>17</sup> *In accordance with all these words and all this vision, so Nathan spoke to David.”*

The LORD delivered to David three important points. First, David was the LORD’s choice to be the king of Israel, drawn from the shepherd’s field. Second, one of David’s sons will sit on his throne when it is time for David to step down. Third, David’s son will build the Temple. We have read ahead, and we know his name will be Solomon. In this passage, the LORD reveals to David that his son, who will take the throne, will commit sins, and the LORD will correct him. Looking into the life of Solomon in the Scripture, the LORD was absolutely correct about Solomon. He made a mess of the kingdom and his own life. But the LORD did correct Solomon, and by the end of his life, Solomon said in his own words, “Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth, before the evil days come and the years draw near when you will say, ‘I have no delight in them.’” (Ecclesiastes 12:1). When Solomon said those words at the end of his life, he had wasted his forty years as king searching for the things of the world instead of the things of the LORD. Once he realized his mistake, he wrote the words to warn future generations to remember the LORD in their youth and not to waste their time with the evils of this world that only lead to heartache. The compiler of First Chronicles repeated this story with a little more detail. First Chronicles 17:1-15. “*When David was settled in his palace, he summoned Nathan the prophet. ‘Look,’ David said, ‘I am living in a beautiful cedar palace, but the Ark of the LORD’s Covenant is out there under a tent!’*” <sup>2</sup> *Nathan replied to David, ‘Do whatever you have in mind, for God is with you.’* <sup>3</sup> *But that same night God said to Nathan,* <sup>4</sup> *‘Go and tell my servant David, ‘This is what the LORD has declared: You are not the one to build a house for me to live in.’* <sup>5</sup> *I have never lived in a house, from the day I brought the Israelites out of Egypt until this very day. My home has always been a tent, moving from one place to another in a Tabernacle.* <sup>6</sup> *Yet no matter where I have gone with the Israelites, I have never once complained to Israel’s leaders, the shepherds of my people. I have never asked them, ‘Why haven’t you built me a beautiful cedar house?’*” <sup>7</sup> *‘Now go and say to my servant David, ‘This is what the LORD of Heaven’s Armies has declared: I took you from tending sheep in the pasture and selected you to be the leader of my people Israel.’* <sup>8</sup> *I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have destroyed all your enemies before your eyes. Now I will make your name as famous as anyone who has ever lived on the earth!* <sup>9</sup> *And I will provide a homeland for my people Israel, planting them in a secure place where they will never be disturbed. Evil nations won’t oppress them as they’ve done in the past,* <sup>10</sup> *starting from the time I appointed judges to rule my people Israel. And I will defeat all your enemies.* “*Furthermore, I declare that the LORD will build a house for you—a dynasty of kings!*” <sup>11</sup> *For when you die and join your ancestors, I will raise up one of your descendants, one of your sons, and I will make his kingdom strong.* <sup>12</sup> *He is the one who will build a house—a temple—for me. And I will secure his throne forever.* <sup>13</sup> *I will be his father, and he will be my son. I will never take my favor from him as I took it from the one who ruled before you.* <sup>14</sup> *I will confirm him as king over my house and my kingdom for all time, and his throne will be secure forever.”* <sup>15</sup> *So Nathan went back to David and told him everything the LORD had said in this vision.”*

Before we move on, we need to look at a line from each book and compare them. Second Samuel 7:15 says, “*but My lovingkindness shall not depart from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you.*” First Chronicles 17:13b says, “*I will never take my favor from him as I took it from the one who ruled before you.*” In both these lines, the LORD is making a promise concerning Solomon that He will uphold in the future even though Solomon will be so off track with the LORD that Solomon does not deserve the lovingkindness and favor of the LORD. “*So the LORD said to Solomon, ‘Because you have done this, and you have not kept My covenant and My statutes, which I have commanded you, I will surely tear the kingdom from you, and will give it to your servant.*” <sup>12</sup> *Nevertheless I will not do it in your days for the sake of your father*

David, but I will tear it out of the hand of your son.” (1 Kings 11:11-12) The LORD keeps His promises – we can be assured of that fact.

### 3. David’s Prayer (7:18-29)

By this time, David could not have understood the full ramifications of the message Nathan delivered, but David did what David always did; he prayed. We come to David’s prayer. Verse 18. *“Then David the king went in and sat before the LORD, and he said, ‘Who am I, O Lord GOD, and what is my house, that You have brought me this far?’<sup>19</sup> And yet this was insignificant in Your eyes, O Lord GOD, for You have spoken also of the house of Your servant concerning the distant future. And this is the custom of man, O Lord GOD.<sup>20</sup> Again what more can David say to You? For You know Your servant, O Lord GOD!<sup>21</sup> For the sake of Your word, and according to Your own heart, You have done all this greatness to let Your servant know.<sup>22</sup> For this reason You are great, O Lord GOD; for there is none like You, and there is no God besides You, according to all that we have heard with our ears.<sup>23</sup> And what one nation on the earth is like Your people Israel, whom God went to redeem for Himself as a people and to make a name for Himself, and to do a great thing for You and awesome things for Your land, before Your people whom You have redeemed for Yourself from Egypt, from nations and their gods?<sup>24</sup> For You have established for Yourself Your people Israel as Your own people forever, and You, O LORD, have become their God.<sup>25</sup> Now therefore, O LORD God, the word that You have spoken concerning Your servant and his house, confirm it forever, and do as You have spoken,<sup>26</sup> that Your name may be magnified forever, by saying, ‘The LORD of hosts is God over Israel’; and may the house of Your servant David be established before You.<sup>27</sup> For You, O LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, have made a revelation to Your servant, saying, ‘I will build you a house’; therefore Your servant has found courage to pray this prayer to You.<sup>28</sup> Now, O Lord GOD, You are God, and Your words are truth, and You have promised this good thing to Your servant.<sup>29</sup> Now therefore, may it please You to bless the house of Your servant, that it may continue forever before You. For You, O Lord GOD, have spoken; and with Your blessing may the house of Your servant be blessed forever.”*

Look now to the parallel passage in First Chronicles 17:16-27. *“Then King David went in and sat before the LORD and prayed, ‘Who am I, O LORD God, and what is my family, that you have brought me this far?’<sup>17</sup> And now, O God, in addition to everything else, you speak of giving your servant a lasting dynasty! You speak as though I were someone very great, O LORD God!<sup>18</sup> ‘What more can I say to you about the way you have honored me? You know what your servant is really like.<sup>19</sup> For the sake of your servant, O LORD, and according to your will, you have done all these great things and have made them known.<sup>20</sup> ‘O LORD, there is no one like you. We have never even heard of another God like you!<sup>21</sup> What other nation on earth is like your people Israel? What other nation, O God, have you redeemed from slavery to be your own people? You made a great name for yourself when you redeemed your people from Egypt. You performed awesome miracles and drove out the nations that stood in their way.<sup>22</sup> You chose Israel to be your very own people forever, and you, O LORD, became their God.<sup>23</sup> ‘And now, O LORD, I am your servant; do as you have promised concerning me and my family. May it be a promise that will last forever.<sup>24</sup> And may your name be established and honored forever so that everyone will say, ‘The LORD of Heaven’s Armies, the God of Israel, is Israel’s God!’ And may the house of your servant David continue before you forever.<sup>25</sup> ‘O my God, I have been bold enough to pray to you because you have revealed to your servant that you will build a house for him—a dynasty of kings!<sup>26</sup> For you are God, O LORD. And you have promised these good things to your servant.<sup>27</sup> And now, it has pleased you to bless the house of your servant, so that it will continue forever before you. For when you grant a blessing, O LORD, it is an eternal blessing!”*

In short, David was in awe of the wonderful blessing and honor bestowed on him by the LORD. To think that the honor would be eternal must have boggled his mind. And, because we have the rest of the Scripture, we know what David could not have known.