

<sup>1</sup> Now it came to pass when the king was dwelling in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies all around, <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 inside tent curtains.” <sup>3</sup> Then Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you.” <sup>4</sup> But it happened that night that the word of the LORD came to Nathan, saying, <sup>5</sup> “Go and tell My servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD: “Would you build a house for Me to dwell in? <sup>6</sup> For I have not dwelt in a house since the time that I brought the children of Israel up from Egypt, even to this day, but have moved about in a tent and in a tabernacle. <sup>7</sup> Wherever I have moved about with all the children of Israel, have I ever spoken a word to anyone from the tribes of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd My people Israel, saying, ‘Why have you not built Me a house of cedar?’”’” <sup>8</sup> Now therefore, thus shall you say to My servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts: “I took you from the sheepfold, from following the sheep, to be ruler over My people, over Israel. <sup>9</sup> And I have been with you wherever you have gone, and have cut off all your enemies from before you, and have made you a great name, like the name of the great men who are on the earth. <sup>10</sup> Moreover I will appoint a place for My people Israel, and will plant them, that they may dwell in a place of their own and move no more; nor shall the sons of wickedness oppress them anymore, as previously, <sup>11</sup> since the time that I commanded judges to be over My people Israel, and have caused you to rest from all your enemies. Also the LORD tells you that He will make you a house. ... <sup>16</sup> And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever.”’”

Text: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 A 12/29/24 Galatians 4:1-7 Luke 2:22-40 Psalm 89 Resp. Ps.: 24  
Hymns: 98, 645, 62, 94

### **LET CHRISTMAS REMIND US OF OUR REAL HOME!**

Fellow redeemed in Christ,

At Christmas time, what a blessing it is to be home together with family! We enjoy each other’s companionship and love, we catch up on what has been happening in each other’s lives, we have good food together, we exchange gifts, and we play games and have fun together. A happy family and home is one of God’s greatest gifts in life. On this Sunday after Christmas, our Lord invites us to **LET CHRISTMAS REMIND US OF OUR REAL HOME!**

David had a very difficult time before he became king. The old king, Saul, was jealous of David, because God had chosen David to take his place. Saul chased David all over the countryside to try to kill him. But the Lord protected David, and eventually David did become king. David’s troubles didn’t end there. He had to lead the children of Israel in several battles against some of the surrounding nations in order to secure the Promised Land, which God had given them.

Finally the main battles ended, and God gave His people peace. That’s where our text begins: “The king was dwelling in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies all around.” David said to Nathan the prophet, “See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells inside tent curtains.” While the Israelites traveled through the wilderness for forty years, their church was a huge tent. It couldn’t be a permanent building, it had to be something which they could take down and set up again as they went from one place to another. Now their wandering in the wilderness was over, and God had given them a wonderful home in the Promised Land. Out of love and gratitude toward God, David wanted to have a nice temple built. The Lord had given David a beautiful palace, and David wanted to have a beautiful temple

built in which he and the people could worship the Lord. The prophet Nathan told David, “Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you.” Nathan thought it was a good idea, too.

But the Lord had other plans. He told Nathan, “Go and tell My servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD: “Would you build a house for Me to dwell in? For I have not dwelt in a house since the time that I brought the children of Israel up from Egypt, even to this day, but have moved about in a tent and in a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about with all the children of Israel, have I ever spoken a word to anyone from the tribes of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd My people Israel, saying, ‘Why have you not built Me a house of cedar?’”’” Instead of the plans David had in mind for the Lord, the Lord had something special in mind for David.

God told Nathan, “Say to My servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts.’” Before, Nathan had expressed his personal feelings in telling David to go ahead and have the temple built. But now God told Nathan and David the way it was really going to be. God instructed Nathan to convey His message as “Thus says the LORD of hosts.” This wasn’t Nathan’s personal opinion on the matter, this was the final word from “the LORD of hosts.” (Other translations have it, “the LORD almighty.”) This name by which God calls Himself emphasizes that He is a God of free and faithful grace who is also the God of all the heavenly hosts (think of the “multitude of the heavenly hosts” who praised God before the shepherds when Jesus was born). God was reminding David and Nathan that He, “the LORD of hosts,” was in charge.

“Thus says the LORD of hosts: ‘I took you from the sheepfold, from following the sheep, to be ruler over My people, over Israel.’” David had been a shepherd boy. God had made him the king of Israel. The Lord was beginning to explain to David how he, and what God had done for him, was a part of God’s plan of salvation.

“I have been with you wherever you have gone, and have cut off all your enemies from before you, and have made you a great name, like the name of the great men who are on the earth.” God had made David king in place of Saul. God had blessed David’s leadership in battle and given him and the children of Israel all their victories over their enemies. It was all part of the Lord’s eternal plan to set up the house, or family, from which the Savior would eventually be born.

The Lord wasn’t finished establishing that house. He had more things to do to accomplish His plan of salvation. One was to make David’s name among the greatest names on earth. That way, forever after, whenever the children of Israel heard the Messiah referred to as “David’s Son,” that designation would stand for greatness, and hold a special place in their hearts. Remember what the people shouted out as the Messiah, Jesus Christ, entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday?: “Hosanna to the Son of David” (Mt. 21:9). The Lord wanted to make a definite connection between the greatness of David’s earthly kingdom, and Christ’s glorious, eternal kingdom.

The Lord told David, “I will appoint a place for My people Israel, and will plant them, that they may dwell in a place of their own and move no more; nor shall the sons of wickedness oppress them anymore, as previously....” The Lord would establish the children of Israel in their own home there in the Promised Land. He assured His people, “I will ... plant” you. He would plant them firmly there. Although they were already there, there were still enemies around them which the Lord would help David defeat. God would make certain that the kingdom that would

be associated with the coming of the Messiah would be a glorious kingdom with peace on all sides.

The Lord acknowledged to David and all of His people, *“The sons of wickedness [shall not] oppress [you] anymore ... since the time that I commanded judges to be over My people Israel, and have caused you to rest from all your enemies. Also the LORD tells you that He will make you a house.”* The children of Israel had been attacked and oppressed by others since the time they first entered the Promised Land, and ever since God had appointed judges, or leaders over them. Up until the time David became king, Israel had had to fight repeated battles with their enemies, never being at rest from war. But now under David God would finally bring His people political rest. David’s kingdom, blessed with earthly peace, offered a picture of the spiritual rest and peace in the kingdom of Christ.

God told David, *“The LORD tells you that He will make you a house.”* Rather than David building a house for the Lord, the Lord would establish the house of David, and the kingdom of David. If the Lord allowed David to be overthrown and another king to take his place, if the Lord allowed the nation of Israel to be defeated at that time and be absorbed into another nation, there would be no descendants of David left from whom the Savior could come. But God had promised that the Savior would be a descendant of David, and God always keeps His Word.

He told David, *“Your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever.”* David would eventually die and the glory days of his earthly kingdom would come to an end. But the kingdom of David’s Descendant, Jesus Christ, the Messiah, lasts forever. David was a great earthly king. Jesus Christ is our glorious, almighty, eternal Heavenly King! As our Heavenly King, Jesus gave His life on the cross and rose again, defeating our greatest enemies: Satan, death, sin, and hell!

Whether we have a happy family and home or not, you and I have been made members of God’s family through faith in His Son, Jesus. The glory and peace of earthly families and homes and kingdoms fades, but never Christ’s heavenly kingdom. Isaiah prophesied about Christ at His birth, *“His name will be called ... Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this”* (9:7). As God gave His people rest from their enemies through King David, so He has given us rest from sin and all its effects in His Son, Jesus Christ, our eternal King! Jesus says, *“Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ... You will find rest for your souls”* (Mt. 11:28-29).

At Christmas time, while we enjoy the great blessing of home and family, we especially thank God for sending us His Son, David’s great Descendant, born in Bethlehem, crucified on Calvary, and risen and living forever. In the Christ Child, God gives us forgiveness for all of our sins, salvation, and eternal life. **LET CHRISTMAS REMIND US OF OUR REAL HOME!**

Oh, come, Thou Key of David, come and open wide our heavenly home;  
 Make safe the way that leads on high and close the path to misery.  
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel. Amen.  
 (TLH #62:4, my emphasis)