

VV STUDY NOTES: 16th November 2024

Andrew Gebbie's

2 Samuel 7 (God's Promise to David & David's Prayer)

The actions of David are by our modern standards a combination of being commendable on some occasions and deplorable in many others.

By our standards he was a genocidal maniac: killing with impunity, wiping out cities and their entire populations – men, women & children. He condoned or ignored revenge killings, and by our modern western world standards would be considered an international criminal.

Consequently, we tend to conclude that all this was done as part of God's Will , and the God of the OT is incompatible with the God of the NT. David was God's Man, wasn't he?

The current and upcoming passages bring these issues into stark focus and cannot be ignored.

There are several realities and questions that need to be considered as we address these issues.

1. Does God control humanity, or has he given us freedom of choice in what we do, or how we behave?
2. Is God limited by the cultural realities of humanity on its onward journey over time?
3. In the moral, ethical, and political realities that pervaded the Ancient World of the OT, where 'People were expendable' and 'might was right' capable of allowing any other philosophy to coexist therein?
4. Would God have to tolerate violence and warfare as a necessary evil to protect his own chosen people? Is there evidence to suggest that this is how God saw the reality of the situation?

2 Sam 7: 1-11, 17 David wants to build a Temple in Jerusalem (READING)

What prompted David to desire to build the Temple? How did Nathan react to the suggestion?

POINT TO PONDER: Do "AND?" or "BUT!" have the same meaning!

God's gives feedback through NATHAN. The passage ends with the statement "Nathan reported to David all the words of this entire revelation." ## **Why do you think that statement is specifically recorded!**

Let's discuss all the implications of what God tells DAVID! (Make a list of your own observations)

2 Sam 7: 12- 17 God's Promises to David (READING)

I will bless your house.... **BUT** I may punish your house.

Blessings & Curses; Salvation & Judgment seem crop up all the way through Scripture OT & NT. **Why?**

2 Sam 7: 18-29 David's Prayer (READING)

How would you describe this prayer?

Did he overlook anything?