

**2 Samuel 7** <sup>4</sup> But that night the word of the Lord came to Nathan, saying:  
<sup>5</sup> “Go and tell my servant David, ‘This is what the Lord says: Are you the one to build me a house to dwell in? <sup>6</sup> I have not dwelt in a house from the day I brought the Israelites up out of Egypt to this day. I have been moving from place to place with a tent as my dwelling. <sup>7</sup> Wherever I have moved with all the Israelites, did I ever say to any of their rulers whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?”’  
<sup>8</sup> “Now then, tell my servant David, ‘This is what the Lord Almighty says: I took you from the pasture, from tending the flock, and appointed you ruler over my people Israel. <sup>9</sup> I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men on earth.  
<sup>10</sup> **And I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed.** Wicked people will not oppress them anymore, as they did at the beginning <sup>11</sup> and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders over my people Israel. I will also give you rest from all your enemies.  
“‘The Lord declares to you that the Lord himself will establish a house for you: <sup>12</sup> When your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, **I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom.** <sup>13</sup> **He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.**  
<sup>14</sup> **I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with a rod wielded by men, with floggings inflicted by human hands.** <sup>15</sup> **But my love will never be taken away from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you.**  
<sup>16</sup> **Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.’”**

**Mark 8** <sup>27</sup> Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked them, “Who do people say I am?”

<sup>28</sup> They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.”

<sup>29</sup> “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?” Peter answered, “You are the Messiah.”

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Ever reigning King  
**2 Samuel 7:4-16 Mark 8:27-29**  
Cholsey

Today, we see in our own nation: everyone increasingly doing what is right in their own eyes. losing all sense of a common morality or Christian values. So we have our politicians been threatened with murder and rape on a daily basis by those who don't agree with them and the same threatened to TV presenters that people decide they don't like; plus murder of Jo Cox

Indeed Christian values are often ridiculed or despised. We see this leading to a breakdown of marriage, of families, of child poverty and deprivation, to a widening gap between the rich and the poor as those with power and money grab more and more for themselves. **What hope is there for our nation** that once prided itself on its civilised and Christian values?

1000 years Before Christ, King David must have had similar concerns, as he neared the end of his life. He must have known the history of Israel: how in former generations God's people kept on turning away from God and falling into wicked ways, especially when they didn't have a strong, godly leader. Again and again, in their weakened state they would come under attack from their enemies. And even when God *did* give them a strong godly leader, that leader often strayed and of course in any event, he would eventually die whereupon the whole depressing cycle would start all over again.

We are told of Israel 4 times towards the end of *Judges* “*they had no king*” and twice that “*everyone did what was right in their own eyes.*”

And when David looked at his own sons, it didn't give him much hope. For that matter he was all too aware that even *he* had been far from perfect, having committed adultery with Bathsheba. So on a bad day, he too must have asked “What hope is there for our nation?”

It is in this context that God makes some wonderful promises to David, through the prophet Nathan about a coming King:

1. **He will be a descendant of David** <sup>12</sup> *I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood,*
2. **He will build a “house”**  
<sup>13</sup> *He is the one who will build a house for my Name*
3. **He will have a special relationship with God**  
<sup>14</sup> *I will be his father, and he will be my son.*
4. **Strangely, He will be severely punished by God and men**  
*When he does wrong, I will punish him with a rod wielded by men, with floggings inflicted by human hands.*
5. **but He will be always loved by God**  
<sup>15</sup> *But my love will never be taken away from him*

6. finally, **He will reign forever** v.12b *...I will establish his kingdom.* , v.14b *...and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.* v.16 *Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.*”

It might seem at first, both to us and indeed to David, that God is referring to David’s son, **Solomon**, who would build a magnificent temple for God and who would preside over a high point in Israel’s history, when the Kingdom of Israel enjoyed an unequalled time of peace and prosperity.

**However** as the prophecy goes on, we begin to realise that although prophecy was partly fulfilled by Solomon, in many ways it was not.

Yes, Solomon was **David’s own flesh and blood**.

Yes, **he built a house for God**, Solomon’s magnificent Temple, but God has told David in this prophecy that he doesn’t actually need a house:

*Did I ever say to any of their rulers whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?”*”

As Solomon himself recognised when he was dedicating the temple to God: *“The heavens, even the highest heaven, cannot contain you. How much less this temple I have built!”*

We might think that **Solomon had a special relationship with God** as he was given such extraordinary wisdom, but alas as time went on and Solomon made politically astute marriages with foreign princesses, Solomon was led astray to worship their pagan gods as well as the Lord.

And there might have been a time when as the Kingdom of Israel became more and more established under Solomon’s wise reign and rule **it would seem it would last forever**. But alas it did not. Even in Solomon’s own life-time towards the end of his 40 year reign the currents of rebellion and division were growing which would lead to the splitting of the kingdom of Israel into two very soon after his death.

So although Solomon might have given Israel a tiny glimpse of the promised Kingdom, he clearly was not the great King that God had promised.

**The promise had yet to be fulfilled**. As so often with Old Testament prophecy there would be a little foothill of fulfilment in the foreground but beyond that foothill there would be a huge mountain of fulfilment in the distance.

And so gradually, the God’s people began to look forward to the day when God would fulfil this promise made to King David by sending an anointed King, a descendant of David, who would rescue them from all oppression, who would rule with justice and mercy, whose kingdom would bring untold peace and prosperity and which would last forever. The more the people of God were oppressed the stronger this longing, this hope became.

So by the time of Jesus, there were any number of movements claiming that this leader or that was the promised anointed rescuing King, the Messiah. However, one by one they were crushed and destroyed.

**Was Jesus any different?** At first it seemed yes he was as he taught with such authority and proclaimed that the Kingdom of God had indeed arrived. He not only taught this but he demonstrated it by bringing a foretaste of God’s wonderful kingdom as he turned water into wine, fed thousands on a hillside, delivered people from demons, healed the sick and raised the dead.

**But then**, he was arrested, tried, crucified, dead and buried. So how could he be the Messiah, the anointed King? This is what his followers simply could not understand. This is why Jesus’ death was so devastating to them: they hadn’t just lost their beloved master, but all their hopes about God’s kingdom having arrived at last seemed to have been utterly crushed.

And this is why the resurrection is so important for it vindicated all the claims of Jesus. He is indeed the anointed King whose kingdom will last forever. His defeat of death itself, the last enemy is a prelude to the defeat of everything that threatens or opposes God’s kingdom.

**He is indeed building a house**, a dwelling place for God – that house is the church – not a building, nor an institution, but the world-wide family of God, amongst whom God has promised to dwell.

**What hope is there for our nation? What hope is there for our world?**

**It is that King Jesus has begun to reign**. And we as followers of Jesus are called first to believe it and then to live it out, not only to live as citizens of this new Kingdom of God but to be its ambassadors. For wherever God’s children do that, there is a little outpost of God’s kingdom, a little preview or fore-taste of what God’s kingdom will be like when one day Jesus returns in glory. **We see it in** the founding of schools and hospitals, in the abolition of slavery, in the giving of hope to communities through Tearfund and World Vision and Choko, in the giving of sight to the blind as with Baz’s work in Africa, in the enabling of individuals to discover their God-given potential through projects like the Ujima Bakehouse and GoMAD Tanzania, in the cancelling of debt through CAP debt-centres, in countless acts of kindness and compassion that are done every day and in answered prayers for healing without number, in millions of lives transformed by the gospel and the discovering of the love of Christ.

Yes, even in our messed up world, there are countless beacons of hope and pin-pricks of light that tell us, that assure us, that Jesus, God’s ever-reigning King is alive and well and one day his Kingdom will be seen in all its glory.