



**Mustard Seed Children's Summary for 9 March 2008  
Released on March 5, 2008**

**"God's Special Promise" (God's Covenant with David)**

**MEMORY VERSE:**

**"...I took thee from the sheepcote, even from following the sheep, that thou shouldst be ruler over my people Israel" (1 Chronicles 17:7)**

**SCRIPTURE LESSON TEXT: 1 Chronicles 17:1, 3-4, 6-15**

**1** Now it came to pass, as David sat in his house, that David said to Nathan the prophet, Lo, I dwell in an house of cedars, but the ark of the covenant of the LORD remaineth under curtains.

**3** And it came to pass the same night, that the word of God came to Nathan, saying,

**4** Go and tell David my servant, Thus saith the LORD, Thou shalt not build me an house to dwell in:

**6** Wheresoever I have walked with all Israel, spake I a word to any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to feed my people, saying, Why have ye not built me an house of cedars?

**7** Now therefore thus shalt thou say unto my servant David, Thus saith the LORD of hosts, I took thee from the sheepcote, even from following the sheep, that thou shouldst be ruler over my people Israel:

**8** And I have been with thee whithersoever thou hast walked, and have cut off all thine enemies from before thee, and have made thee a name like the name of the great men that are in the earth.

**9** Also I will ordain a place for my people Israel, and will plant them, and they shall dwell in their place, and shall be moved no more; neither shall the children of wickedness waste them any more, as at the beginning,

**10** And since the time that I commanded judges to be over my people Israel. Moreover I will subdue all thine enemies. Furthermore I tell thee that the LORD will build thee an house.

**11** And it shall come to pass, when thy days be expired that thou must go to be with thy fathers, that I will raise up thy seed after thee, which shall be of thy sons; and I will establish his kingdom.

**12** He shall build me an house, and I will stablish his throne for ever.

**13** I will be his father, and he shall be my son: and I will not take my mercy away from him, as I took it from him that was before thee:

**14** But I will settle him in mine house and in my kingdom for ever: and his throne shall be established for evermore.

**15** According to all these words, and according to all this vision, so did Nathan speak unto David.

**THE OBJECT IN VIEW:**

Teach students that we can trust God's plans and promises for our lives, even if they differ from the plans that we have.

### **TRUTHS TO STRESS:**

1. Our plans may be good ones, but God may have other plans.
2. We should trust God's plans for our lives and His promise of salvation.
3. When we live for God, He gives us far more than we give to Him.

### **PLANNING LESSON AIDS:**

For Helping to Remember, you will need two foam cups for each student, brass fasteners, black and pink construction paper, cotton balls and glue. Make a copy of the lesson review and word search for each student.

### **LESSON BACKGROUND:**

A covenant is a promise, and God has made many promises to His people. God has also given us signs of His covenant. As we learned last week, the Ark of the Covenant is one of these symbols of God's presence and His promises to His people. The Ark of the Covenant was a small rectangular box that contained reminders of what God has already done for His people; it held the Ten Commandments, a jar of manna, and Aaron's rod that had budded (Exodus 25:16; Deut. 10:5).

For many years, God's people had neglected the Ark of the Covenant. During King David's reign, he brought the ark to Jerusalem as a reminder to the people to trust and obey God. Once in Jerusalem, the ark was housed in a tent. David, himself, lived in a home (or palace) made out of cedar (which in those days would have symbolized his wealth). One day, King David thought about the luxury of his living conditions and the simple dwelling place of the Ark of the Covenant. David felt that the symbol of God's presence deserved a better dwelling place, and he planned to build a temple to house the ark. But God had other plans.

### **TEACHER'S NOTES / TELLING THE LESSON:**

Consider the following as you prepare your lesson for your students:

#### **1. Why did David want to build a temple for God?**

David wanted to build a temple as a dwelling place for the Ark of the Covenant. The ark was a symbol of God's presence and His covenant with His people. After God's people had neglected the ark for many years, David had gone to great lengths to honor God and to bring the ark to Jerusalem. Once in Jerusalem, the initial dwelling place for the ark was a mere tent.

David assessed the situation one day and realized that he lived in a fine, luxurious house of cedar, and the symbol of God's presence remained in a tent or "under curtains" (1 Chronicles 17:1). Why should he live in a fine palace of cedar while the ark sat in a tent? David told the Prophet Nathan that he planned to build a beautiful temple for God and the ark.

#### **2. Why was David not permitted to build the temple?**

David had a good goal to build something lovely for God. However, building the temple was not a job God had for David to do. Through the Prophet Nathan, God reminded David that He had not dwelt in anything but tents and tabernacles during the time Israel wandered in the wilderness and had never required that a temple be built for Him (1 Chronicles 17:5-6).

In addition, we later learn that God did not want a soldier (or a man of war) like David to build the temple (1 Chronicles 22:8, 28:3). David had shed much blood in the many battles that he had fought. He also still had more battles to fight and would not be able to concentrate on the huge task of building the temple.

King David, therefore, would not be allowed to build the temple. The temple would be built in a time of peace. David's son, Solomon, would be given the task to build the house of the Lord.

### **3. What is a covenant? What was God's covenant with David?**

A covenant is a promise. The covenant was the promise God made to His people. God also made personal promises to David. David had wanted to build a house for God, but God promised to build a kingdom for David that would last forever. The promise God made to David is called the Davidic covenant. God promised to make David's name widely known and remembered.

God sent word through Nathan that he would build a house for David. This means that God would establish a royal dynasty coming from David. God reminded David how he had taken him from the sheepcote (a structure for sheep) to be ruler over Israel. God promised that a descendant of David would always occupy the throne of Israel.

### **4. What promise did God make to David concerning Israel?**

God promised David that he would give Israel land and protect them from enemies so that they could live in peace. David was reminded of the time of the judges when the nation had to deal with the enemies around them again and again. God now promised David that the nation would be blessed with a permanent homeland. Israel would live in peace and be free of conflict with enemy nations.

### **5. What promise did God make concerning David's son?**

God promised that one of David's sons would be king. That son, Solomon, would build the temple, and God would protect his kingdom and establish it forever. God would set up Solomon's throne to last forever.

In the promise concerning David's son, God emphasize that He himself would maintain a personal relationship with David's son. He wanted to assure David that He would be with Solomon and never remove the kingdom from him, as He had from King Saul (1 Chronicles 10:13-14).

### **TELLING HOW TO LIVE:**

God did not let David build the temple, but He gave him something even better. He gave David a special promise. David trusted God's plans for his life. He did not try to build the temple anyway, or go against God's plans. David knew that he could trust God's covenant.

God makes us promises. He promises us eternal life if we will trust Jesus as Saviour (John 3:16). Have you trusted Jesus as Saviour? Will you trust His plans for your life?

### **HELPING TO REMEMBER (ACTIVITIES):**

Use the following activities, or create your own, to emphasize the key points of the lesson: Foam-Cup Sheep Craft: Each student will make a foam-cup sheep as a reminder of how God used David (took him from caring for sheep to being ruler of Israel). Use a brass fastener to attach the side of one cup to the bottom of another. Use construction paper to cut out ears, eyes, and a nose, and glue in place on the top cup. Glue cotton balls on the two cups for wool.

Repeat the memory verse and let each child practice saying the verse. A lesson review and word search are included at the end of this summary.

**EXPLAINING THE MEMORY VERSE:**

"...I took thee from the sheepcote, even from following the sheep, that thou shouldest be ruler over my people Israel" (1 Chronicles 17:7)

A "sheepcote" was a roughly made structure for the sheep. It often had high, mud walls but no roof. It gave some protection against wild animals, but sometimes animals would break in or jump over the walls. This was where David spent much of his earlier life while taking care of the sheep. God, however, had other plans for him. God took David from the humble job of shepherd to be king and ruler over the nation of Israel.

We do not know what job God may give us. We need to be humble, ready, and willing to be anything from shepherd to king!

**ANTICIPATING NEXT WEEK'S LESSON:**

Next week's lesson is "Chosen to Build the Temple" and focuses on the choice of Solomon to build God's temple. Read 1 Chronicles 28:5-10, 20-21.

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The KJV Parallel Bible Commentary, by Nelson Books.

LESSON REVIEW

God's Special Promise  
(1 Chronicles 17:1-15)

Fill in the blanks with the correct answer.

1. The Prophet \_\_\_\_\_ told King David about God's covenant with him.
2. David lived in a house of \_\_\_\_\_, but the Ark of the Covenant was in a \_\_\_\_\_.
3. David wanted to build a \_\_\_\_\_ for God to dwell in.
4. God took David from being a \_\_\_\_\_ to be the King of Israel.
5. "He shall build me an house, and I will stablish his \_\_\_\_\_ for ever" (1 Chron. 7:12).

True or False

6. God thought that it was a good idea for King David to build the temple. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_ God had been with David and had made a great name for him. \_\_\_\_\_
8. God promised that the nation would always be at war with their enemies. \_\_\_\_\_
9. After David died, one of his sons would become the new king. \_\_\_\_\_
10. David's son would be the one to build the temple for God. \_\_\_\_\_

Match the words on the right with the correct description on the left.

- |  |                       |
|--|-----------------------|
| _____ 11. a special house for God                              | D. Solomon            |
| _____ 12. ruler or king over God's people                      | E. Nathan             |
| _____ 13. a dwelling place for sheep.                          | F. Temple             |
| _____ 14. wood that David house was made of                    | G Ark of the Covenant |
| _____ 15. a special promise                                    | H. Davidic Covenant   |
| _____ 16. son of David who would build the temple              | I. Israel             |
| _____ 17. the nation that was God's special people             | J. David              |
| _____ 18. a rectangular box that was a sign of God's presence. |                       |
| _____ 19. a prophet and friend of David                        |                       |
| _____ 20. God's covenant with David                            |                       |

- A. Cedar
- B. Covenant
- C. Sheepcote

WORD SEARCH  
God's Special Promise  
(1 Chronicles 17:1-15)

Find each of the following words.

KINGDOM  
ISRAEL  
COVENANT

NATHAN  
CURTAINS  
CEDARS

PROMISE  
SPECIAL  
THRONE

DAVID  
SHEEPCOTE  
RULER

N N U E E C A C A E H D K E N I N I I R R N E V M  
N T M I H H C A M L I E T I A I H N T O L A T D D  
C E C A H E E O I A S C L E N U P V E E E N O A O  
A S E A E E A L V D S S R I A G O C C S V A C E A  
L P S I N M U G E E R A O N S S D K D N R N P D O  
A E M A C O A L A A N T A E E C D O R L E O E I O  
D C S A N E V A D A T A O A H S P I M A A A E C E  
H I H D P E O E A I N O N E N O R H T N V R H H D  
I A V L T R C L H I O A O T I R R D A E N N S H E  
P L A A C E H E P L O S S E T S O S E M H S S T E  
R I C R D L S N G T R I E T N E O I S R A E L N E  
A S A I L U L T U A R R O E R E P R O M I S E O U  
R A R N E R E D T R A C U I U O A I A A N N R L P  
A R A R R S L O N E O C U C U R T A I N S O E L V  
S V P A R S N N A H T A N O C C A T T O O D E O C  
E V D S O U L R C L S U N A V L M H I A A T I R O

Solution to Word Search (God's Special Promise, 1 Chron. 17:1-15)

K E  
 C I T  
 O N O  
 S V S G C  
 P E R D P  
 E A N O E  
 D C D A M E  
 I E N E N O R H T H  
 A V R C T S  
 L A E  
 D L I S R A E L  
 U P R O M I S E  
 R  
 C U R T A I N S  
 N A H T A N

Answers to "Lesson Review" (God's Special Promise, 1 Chron. 17:1-15)

- |                     |                              |
|---------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 - Nathan          | 11 - F (temple)              |
| 2 - cedar, tent     | 12 - J (David)               |
| 3 - temple or house | 13 - C (sheepcote)           |
| 4 - shepherd        | 14 - A (cedar)               |
| 5 - throne          | 15 - B (covenant)            |
| 6 - false           | 16 - D (Solomon)             |
| 7 - true            | 17 - I (Israel)              |
| 8 - false           | 18 - G (Ark of the Covenant) |
| 9 - true            | 19 - E (Nathan)              |
| 10 - true           | 20 - H (Davidic Covenant)    |