

**A READING FROM THE SECOND BOOK OF SAMUEL [7:1-14a]**

When the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you."

But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" 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 prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come forth from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me.

*The Word of the Lord.*

**PSALM 89:20-37 (said by half-verse)**

- <sup>20</sup> I have found David my servant; \*  
with my holy oil have I anointed him.
- <sup>21</sup> My hand will hold him fast \*  
and my arm will make him strong.
- <sup>22</sup> No enemy shall deceive him, \*  
nor any wicked man bring him down.
- <sup>23</sup> I will crush his foes before him \*  
and strike down those who hate him.
- <sup>24</sup> My faithfulness and love shall be with him, \*  
and he shall be victorious through my Name.
- <sup>25</sup> I shall make his dominion extend \*  
from the Great Sea to the River.
- <sup>26</sup> He will say to me, 'You are my Father, \*  
my God, and the rock of my salvation.'
- <sup>27</sup> I will make him my firstborn \*  
and higher than the kings of the earth.
- <sup>28</sup> I will keep my love for him for ever, \*  
and my covenant will stand firm for him.
- <sup>29</sup> I will establish his line for ever \*  
and his throne as the days of heaven."
- <sup>30</sup> "If his children forsake my law \*  
and do not walk according to my judgments;
- <sup>31</sup> If they break my statutes \*  
and do not keep my commandments;
- <sup>32</sup> I will punish their transgressions with a rod \*  
and their iniquities with the lash;

- <sup>33</sup> But I will not take my love from him, \*  
nor let my faithfulness prove false.
- <sup>34</sup> I will not break my covenant, \*  
nor change what has gone out of my lips.
- <sup>35</sup> Once for all I have sworn by my holiness: \*  
'I will not lie to David.
- <sup>36</sup> His line shall endure for ever \*  
and his throne as the sun before me;
- <sup>37</sup> It shall stand fast for evermore like the moon, \*  
the abiding witness in the sky.' "

**A READING FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE EPHESIANS [2:11-22]**

Remember that at one time you Gentiles by birth, called “the uncircumcision” by those who are called “the circumcision” —a physical circumcision made in the flesh by human hands— remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.

*The Word of the Lord.*