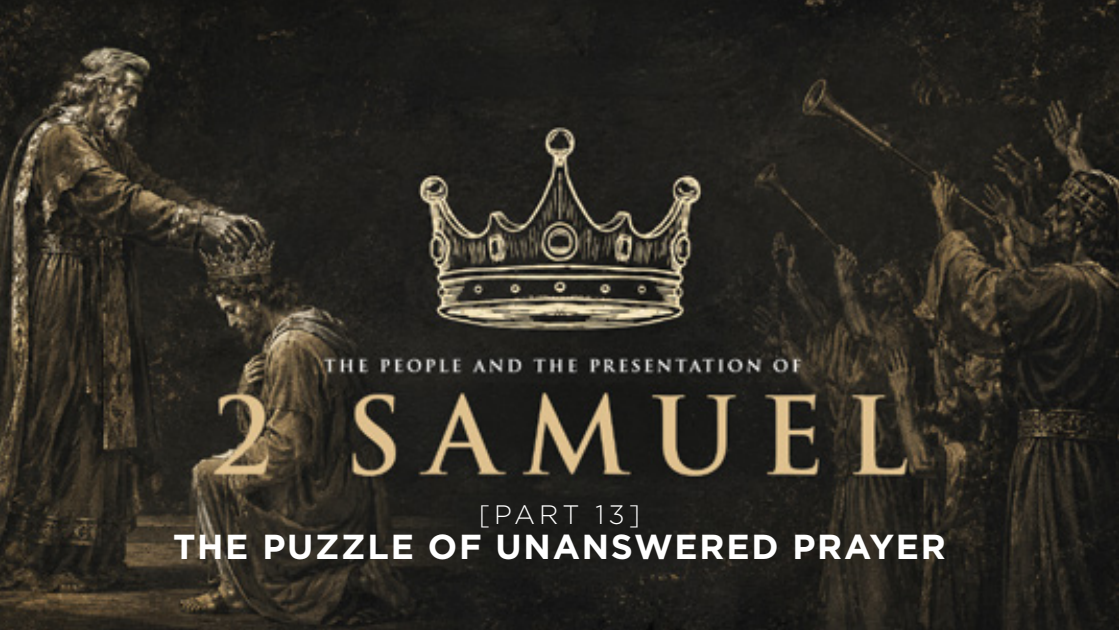




Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1 - 5 & 12 - 14

Introduction

- Israel's 12 tribes are now united.
- Jerusalem is the centre of David's rule and administration.
- He's subdued Israel's enemies.
- He's brought the ark of the covenant to Jerusalem. What next?

1 David's Heart Prayer

- Gracious for his own magnificent home David desired a great house now for Jehovah.
- He expressed this desire to the prophet Nathan the prophet and Nathan agreed.
- A house for the Lord was in David's heart. What is in your heart?

2. God's 'No Thank You'

- Later God told Nathan to tell David '**no**' to his heart's prayer.
- We are now faced with the problem of '**unanswered prayer**'.

- There are other examples of this:
[Mark 5] - The liberated '**Legion**' wanted to go with Jesus but Jesus said 'no.'
[2 Corinthians 13] - Paul asked God to deliver him from '**a thorn in the flesh**.' God said '**no**.'
- Why at times does God not answer our prayers?

3. God Answers All Prayers

- Sometimes God says '**yes**' and sometimes He says '**no**' but both are answers.
- Consider [1 John 5:15].
- Both David and Legion and Paul got answers.
- Prayer is not about what we want - its about what God wants.
 [1 John 5:14].
- Our heavenly Father is a good Father and He knows what is good/bad for us.
- Many times God has said '**yes**' to us when its His will.
- Other times He has said '**no**' when its not His will.
- Thank you Lord for the times you have said '**no**' to me.

4. A 'No' Can Often Mean A Better 'Yes' Is On The Way

- There was a better yes for both Legion [Mark 5:19] and for David.
 [7:12/13].

5. There Can Be Another Answer To Prayer

- Sometimes God says '**not yet**.' [7:12/13].
- It wasn't time for the temple to be built.
- Consider [Ecclesiastes 3:11].
- A premature answer to prayer isn't a good thing.
- Keep praying.

Teaching Biblically • Thinking Biblically • Living Biblically

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