

## Podcast 296 Steve's Latest Adventures and God's Faithfulness to David

"I have sworn to David, My servant. I will establish your offspring forever, and build your throne for all generations."

**Scott Moore:** Welcome to the "Building Faith Families" podcast with Steve Demme. I'm your host, Scott Moore. Thanks for joining us today. Good morning, Steve. How are you today?

**Steve:** I am very well, Scott, surprisingly. I had a whirlwind week since we last spoke.

**Scott:** I thought I saw that you might have been in my neck of the woods over the weekend in Cincinnati or around there.

**Steve:** I was. If I tell you all the different things I've done, you're going to get tired and have to take a nap, and you won't be able to do the podcast.

**Steve:** Wednesday morning I got up and realized I'd forgotten to take my car to the garage, because it was making noises. I took it in early that morning and they graciously put me in the queue and found out that all of my brakes needed to be replaced, which they did.

They didn't finish till almost noon, and I left a little before 1:00 to drive to Cincinnati. It was an arduous trip, but I made it and spent that evening greeting folks in the lobby. I was tired.

Thursday was awesome. I met person after person. I reconnected with old friends made new ones. It was a wonderful day and packed from breakfast all the way to the end of the day.

Friday morning, I had the opportunity to see the replica of Noah's Ark. I'm still processing how it affected me. In one sense, it was a physical manifestation of God being true to His promises that He was going to wipe the earth out, which He did.

At the same time, He made promises that He would keep Noah and his family safe, which he also accomplished. It was sobering, in one sense, to think of a worldwide punishment. It was also comforting to know that God keeps His people even in the midst of a judgment of that magnitude.

Did you do the virtual reality presentation when you were there?

**Scott:** I actually haven't been there yet. We've driven by a number of times and I think my wife might have been there with my kids had been there at one point but I haven't gone.

**Steve:** OK. There's a virtual reality where you put on this headset, and at the very end, I just wanted to pause it because I was sitting there, crying. It was a picture of Noah's ark sitting on a mountains. There was water dripping down and waterfalls all around a beautiful valley with a rainbow over it.

When the girl came to take off the headset. I said, "Do you sell a picture of the ark and the rainbow?" It was sublime. God made a promise, "I will never do this again with water." That beautiful rainbow is a sign of God's promise.

That was very moving but that was Friday morning, and then I had to jump in the car and start driving because I had to be in Pittsburgh that night for my high school reunion banquet.

**Scott:** Oh, yeah. You did tell me that. How was that?

**Steve:** I made it to the hotel about quarter to five. I checked in and I worked on my prayer. I have been asked to do the invocation at my high school reunion, which was very meaningful to me because many of these people I've been praying for for years. Most of my classmates had not seen me since high school. It was in college when I recommitted my life to Christ and went to seminary.

We all have baggage from high school, we have good memories and tough memories, and I was blessed that they asked me to pray.

That might be the first time that I'd written a prayer, maybe in decades. Generally, I just pray, but this time, I wanted to make it succinct. I wanted to make it meaningful. I wanted to give glory to God. I knew people were tracking with me, you know why?

**Scott:** Why?

**Steve:** Well, because I extemporaneized -- there's my new word -- right in the middle of the prayer. I was praying that God would make it a very meaningful day-and-a-half that we were together and every minute would count.

I said, "And help us..." I forget exactly what I said, but "Help us to remember who we're talking to or recognize who we're talking to because it's been a long time since we've seen each other." The room just chuckled, so I knew they were following me and not just waiting to eat. That was nice.

Afterwards, a lot of people gave me very positive comments. Throughout that evening and all the next day at the picnic, I had wonderful opportunities, time and again, to give my testimony and to give glory to God.

**Scott:** Nobody stuffed you in a locker for it?

**Steve:** No. Several people asked for books which I had in my trunk because I had just come from Cincinnati, so I was able to give them books. One fellow that I was especially wanting to see took a book. I've kept in touch ever since. I've got a whole bunch of new friends on Facebook. There's lots of messaging going back and forth. I even spent early Saturday morning going to my parents, my brother, and my grandparents' gravestones. No one from my immediate family lives in Pittsburgh any more so I cleaned up the grass all around them.

That was Friday and Saturday. Then Sunday, I had to get home to watch John because Sandy had some plans. On the way home, I talked to a classmate that I hadn't talked

to in 40 years, and we exchanged testimonials for an hour-and-a-half. That was awesome.

Monday morning I woke up and all I want to do is my laundry and take a nap and make some granola. Instead, after I got Johnny off and made breakfast, I realized, "Oh, I'm supposed to be at the March for Life." The very first Pennsylvania March for Life was that day.

I prayed and I felt like God said, "Well, you said you were going to go." I said, "OK," so I showered and shaved, got in the car and drove to Harrisburg and marched around the Capitol, praying and singing and had a wonderful time connecting and meeting some new people.

**Scott:** Wow.

**Steve:** Yeah, a full couple days in different venues with different memories and different people.

At the march for life, I had the opportunity to sit across the table with the emcee of the event, the keynote speaker of event, and another person from the event, while shaking hands with some politicians.

**Scott:** I don't know how you're able to talk at this point. I'd be so wiped out.

**Steve:** That's what I keep thinking. It must be just God thing. Maybe I'll crash some point, but so far I'm good. I've been up and been out in the rain, walking the dogs this morning and giving them breakfast, and here I am. OK. There's my report. Thank the Lord. Let's pray.

Father, thank You for being with me. Thank You for over a thousand miles and many, many people connected with. Thank You for the opportunity to give praise to You, and honor to You, and glory to You for what You have done. Thank You for that ark, just being in that vessel, so real, that You are real. You do what You say You're going to do. When You proclaimed judgment, You followed through. Thank You for keeping Noah and his family. Thank You for opportunities to witness for You at my reunion. Thank You for opportunities to stand for You at the March for Life. Regardless of whether we're doing big stuff or small stuff, or we're just standing for Jesus in our kitchen and in our workplace, I pray that You'll encourage us today, and bless us, and make us strong in being near to You. Thank You for being near to us. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**Scott:** Amen. Wow.

**Steve:** Yeah. My heart's overflowing, but I'm processing too. There's lots of emotions swirling around in there.

A couple of podcasts ago, we read this verse in Psalm 138 that said, "You have exalted above all things, Your name and Your word." We're following along in that

same vein. In Jeremiah 1:12, we read, it says, "I am watching over My word to perform it." Really, we could just talk about Noah because that was a fulfillment of His word.

By the way, when I was at the ark, probably the best part of it to me was seeing this huge door. I may have to put my picture on this with the podcast, put it in the transcript. There's a huge door, which is where they all went through. Then God sealed the door.

I thought, "Jesus is the door. He is the way to the Father." I thought of how God made a way for that family to come into the ark. Then I thought of how God sealed the ark and kept them. God is the one who says, "None shall snatch them out of My hand."

We're going to talk about David a little bit today and promises made to David. I'm going to read from 2 Samuel 7. The context is David was established on his throne. He was in his home, and he said, "Boy, here I have my place, but God needs his own place."

At first, Nathan says, "Go do all of this on your heart." That night, God appeared to him. He says, "Go talk to my servant, David." 2 Samuel 7. "Thus says the Lord of hosts, Yahweh of hosts, 'I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel.

I have been with you wherever you went, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great winds of the earth. I will appoint a place for my people Israel will plant them.'"

I'm going to jump down here. "When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come 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 to him a father. He shall be to me a son. When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men, but my steadfast love will not depart from him as I took it from Saul, whom I put away before you. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure **forever** before me. Your throne shall be established **forever**."

Three times God said forever. As we know, the 10 tribes, Israel, split off from Israel and had many different kings beginning with Jeroboam. The southern kingdom, Judah, always had a son of David, always had a descendant of David sitting on his throne.

"Then King David went in and sat before the Lord. Who am I, oh Lord God? What is my house that you have brought me thus far? And yet this was a small thing in your eyes, oh Lord God. You have spoken also of your servants house for a great while to come."

David got the implications of these promises and that word Forever. What God told him was astounding, and he knew it. David was only the second king in Israel. Saul was the first. David was the second. There wasn't a precedent.

"Because of your promise and according to your own heart, you have brought about all this greatness." Then he goes on to say, "Now, oh Lord God, confirm forever the word that you have spoken concerning your servant and concerning his house, and do as you have spoken."

I'm tucking in that in there because at some point, we have to make the podcast just on that topic. He didn't just say "Wonderful," and roll over, but he mixed it with faith. It's like he received the promise, and then he said, "Establish, confirm that promise, and do as you have spoken."

This is something that I think...We need to learn this in application. I need to learn this. Don't just read the word of God, where it says, "I will be with you forever," but mix it with faith and say, "Father, thank You that Your word says You'll be with me forever," and now confirm your word and be with me forever.

That honors God. It prays in faith. It mixes with faith, the things that He has said. I'm going to read down here a little bit, talking about Solomon's doing the building of the house because...I don't know if I made that point very clear, but he said, "This whole thing started with David wanting to build a house," and God said no.

Then God spoke of Solomon and said "He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever."

In 1 Kings 8, we see Solomon after he built God's house, "Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who with His hand has fulfilled what He promised with His mouth to David my father." Then he went on and he explained the same thing again, and he quoted from the same passage.

This is Solomon now, fulfilling the promise that God made to David. Exactly what God said would happen happened. As I mentioned, all these kings descended from David. Solomon built the house for His name, exactly what God said to David.

I want to move now to Psalm 89. Psalm 89, it's almost beyond description, the things that God says in this psalm. I have read it many, many times, but it continues to deeply affect me because of the scope, and the import, and the depth of what He says.

Psalm 89 says, first four verses, "I will sing of the steadfast love of the Lord forever, with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations. For I said, steadfast love will be built forever. In the heavens, you will establish your faithfulness."

"You have said," and these are in quotes, "I have made a covenant with My chosen one. I have sworn to David, My servant. I will establish your offspring forever, and build your throne for all generations."

I don't know if you caught that. God says, "I have sworn to David." Think about the fact that God who just says things and they come into being. God who every word is

powerful, God who every word that comes forth from His lips, He continues to watch it until it's fulfilled.

We saw it in the life of Jesus, over and over, He says, "It was fulfilled." Jesus says, "I didn't come to destroy the law but to fulfill it." Yet God goes further with David instead of simply stating things to David.

He says, "I have sworn to David." Here I'm going to read this now. I'm sorry, buckle your seat belts. This is about 18 verses, starting with the 19th verse.

"I have granted help to one who is mighty. I have exalted one chosen from the people. I have found David, My servant, with My holy oil I have anointed him, so that My hand shall be established with him, My arm also shall strengthen him. The enemy should not outwit him, the wicked shall not humble him."

"I will crush his foes before him and strike down those who hate him. My faithfulness and My steadfast love shall be with him, and in My name shall his horn be exalted. I will set his hand on the sea, and his right hand in the rivers. He shall cry to Me, 'You are My Father, My God, and the Rock of My salvation.'"

"I will make him the firstborn, the highest of the kings of the earth. My steadfast love, I will keep for him forever, My covenant will stand firm for him. I will establish his offspring forever and his throne as the days of the heavens." And it goes on about if his kids forsake Me all discipline, etc.

Then He says, this, "But I will not remove from him, My steadfast love or be false to My faithfulness. I will not violate My covenant or alter the word that went forth from My lips. Once for all, I have sworn by My holiness, I will not lie to David. His offspring shall endure forever his throne as long as the sun before Me."

"Like the moon, it shall be established forever, a faithful witness in the skies." He doesn't just say, "I'm going to do this," or "I swear that I'm going to do this." He swears by His Holiness. I don't know. It's just beyond description. There's no way I can take this in on this earth. Hopefully when I get to heaven.

You know what the first verse of the New Testament is? Matthew 1:1, the book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David. John 7:42, "Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the offspring of David, and comes from Bethlehem, the village where David was."

Luke 2. "Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because He was of the house and lineage of David." You think of all twist and turns between David and Joseph and yet, God was watching over His word. He was magnifying His word and His name above all things. Joseph went to the exact city because that's where David was from and they had to fulfill the scripture. Jesus was the son of David.

Revelation 22:16. "I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, a bright morning star." I don't know what else to say, just say Amen, talk to you next week.

This is just incredible stuff that God made a promise to David, and He fulfilled it on this earth with those descendants. He fulfilled it and established Solomon's kingdom, building the temple. Jesus identifies as the Son of David in almost the first and the last verses of the New Testament.

"Son of David, I am the root and the descendant of David." Now there are people, I think I've mentioned this before, who scoff at David. When I was in Israel, they made jokes about David. Our tour guide did anyway. By the way our tour leader didn't put up with it and he put the tour guide back in his place.

David, yes, he had his faults and yes, David sinned against Bathsheba and murdered her husband and did a cover up. It goes on and on. It was heinous, it was awful and he paid the price for that, the impact on his own family, but there are still things that God said to David and that didn't change what He said.

I think is important to note this. This is another presentation of the gospel right here. How many of us have been blessed by Psalm 51? I don't know about you, but I have prayed portions of Psalm 51 for decades. "Have mercy on me, oh God, according to your steadfast love. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, cleanse me from my sin, blot out my transgressions."

He didn't hide the awful facts of his sin, but put this record in the bible. David could've expunged all that stuff for he was the king. David left it right in there, word for word, and then David prayed these prayers, "Hide your face from my sins, blot out all my iniquity's, create in me a clean heart, oh God. Renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence and take not Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and uphold me with a willing spirit."

Psalm 51 is David appealing to God to cleanse him and to wash him, to restore him and God did. We have all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God, but we can't walk around limping as a result of it because God has cleansed us and restored us and blotted out our iniquity. He did it for David, He does it for us.

David's own children tried to kill him. That was the fruit of his sin and yet, God's promise to David never lost momentum and was fulfilled in Jesus Christ who did not, distance Himself from being of the line of David but He affirmed, "I'm a son of David, I'm the root and the offspring of David. He was proud to be named David. He didn't say, "Oh, that's one of the skeletons from my closet."

I don't know how to describe it to me but there is two things I see here. I see God honoring His word and keeping His word and fulfilling His promise. I see the gospel in the life of David that he was able to do what God helped him to do. There's so much

reason for hope and confidence when you follow the life of David. When we read God's word we discover that He is faithful to His promises.

The gospel works, and it worked for David. How much more for those of us who know the historical in Jesus?

**Steve:** Father, thank You for these incredible promises that You made to David. You swore that You would not lie to that man. You've made promises to us as well. Thank You for those promises. Thank You for this word that's so encouraging to me, and thank You for Jesus who stood by David.

He stood by him. He emphasized that he was the son of David, and he didn't hide him in the closet so to speak. He stood right up, "No, David, I am a son of King David." Thank You for standing by us. Thank You for forgiving us for our sins. Thank you for the gospel that reached David and the gospel that reaches us.

Help us restore to us the joy of our salvation. Blot out our inequities. Deliver us from condemnation. Help us to press on and fulfill your calling for each one of us. In Jesus' name, amen.