

## Focus on 2 Samuel 7:1–14a

### WHAT is important to know?

—From “Exegetical Perspective,” Patricia K. Tull

It will not be David who establishes God, but God who will establish David—and this is not for David’s sake. Rather, God has given him peaceful sovereignty for the sake of the nation, to “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” (v. 10). In other words, God has been with David, not because of the virtues he brings to leadership, but so that God’s hopes for the people, great and small, might come to fruition.

### WHERE is God in these words?

—From “Theological Perspective,” Rebecca Button Prichard

“See, the home of God is among mortals” (Rev. 21:3). Ultimately, God promises to make a home in our midst, with us, within us. Transcendence cannot be tamed, nor can it be exiled from faithful sojourners. Divinity chooses to dwell (*shakan*) with God’s people; we are the tabernacle (*mishkan*) of God. David wanted to build God a house, but God dwells in a tent or a tabernacle, a mobile home that moves with wanderers, exiles, and sojourners. God does not settle down, but neither does God desert the wayward pilgrims.

### SO WHAT does this mean for our lives?

—From “Pastoral Perspective,” Steven A. Peay

What David learns is what many of us need to learn as we walk our spiritual journey: our plan for home and God’s plan are often quite different. To put it rather bluntly, it is not about us. David wants to do something for God, to demonstrate to God just how much gratitude he has for what has been done. All well and good, but that is not what is important. God seeks bigger, better things, so that David’s house will become a home encompassing all of humanity. God does not desire a house, but a heart. God does not want a dwelling, but David’s obedience. When the heart and actions are aligned, then they find their fit, and one is, finally, at home.

### NOW WHAT is God’s word calling us to do?

—From “Homiletical Perspective,”

Patrick J. Willson

We celebrate the deep truth of the Lord’s promise to David not only on Christmas Eve but every time we gather for worship. We trust the promise to David because we trust in the faithfulness of the One who promises; and because we trust in the faithfulness of the One who promises, we know how the story comes out. Hear the last thing Jesus says in the Bible—“It is I, Jesus, who sent my angel to you with this testimony for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star” (Rev. 22:16). That signals a new dawn and a reign of wisdom, justice, and righteousness.