

## When God say's 'no'

The biblical account of David is an incredibly interesting story but just to look at his life is not our goal. Our goal is to see how the life of David points us to Jesus. Today the "throne of David", will be central in our study and we will see this is more than an earthly kingdom but will endure throughout the centuries and for eternity. As we will read the Davidic Covenant will be part of the story and a key portion of the story that God is writing.

This covenant points to the fact that God will never break his promise, his covenant. When he speaks we can anchor our lives on it. People will break promises, but we will never experience this with God...but we also learn today that he will say "no".

### Text (2 Samuel 7:1-22)

*"After the king was settled in his palace and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, <sup>2</sup> he said to Nathan the prophet, "Here I am, living in a house of cedar, while the ark of God remains in a tent."  
<sup>3</sup> Nathan replied to the king, "Whatever you have in mind, go ahead and do it, for the LORD is with you."  
<sup>4</sup> But that night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, saying: <sup>5</sup> "Go and tell my servant David, "This is what the LORD says: Are you the one to build me a house to dwell in? <sup>6</sup> I have not dwelt in a house from the day I brought the Israelites up out of Egypt to this day. I have been moving from place to place with a tent as my dwelling. <sup>7</sup> Wherever I have moved with all the Israelites, did I ever say to any of their rulers whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?"  
<sup>8</sup> "Now then, tell my servant David, "This is what the Lord Almighty says: I took you from the pasture, from tending the flock, and appointed you ruler over my people Israel. <sup>9</sup> I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men on earth. <sup>10</sup> And I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed. Wicked people will not oppress them anymore, as they did at the beginning <sup>11</sup> and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders over my people Israel. I will also give you rest from all your enemies. <sup>12</sup> "The LORD declares to you that the LORD himself will establish a house for you: <sup>13</sup> When your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom. <sup>14</sup> He is the one who will build a*

ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom. <sup>13</sup> He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. <sup>14</sup> I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with a rod wielded by men, with floggings inflicted by human hands. <sup>15</sup> But my love will never be taken away from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. <sup>16</sup> Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.”

<sup>18</sup> Then King David went in and sat before the LORD, and he said: “Who am I, Sovereign LORD, and what is my family, that you have brought me this far?”

<sup>19</sup> And as if this were not enough in your sight, Sovereign LORD, you have also spoken about the future of the house of your servant—and this decree, Sovereign LORD, is for a mere human! <sup>20</sup> “What more can David say to you? For you know your servant, Sovereign LORD. <sup>21</sup> For the sake of your word and according to your will, you have done this great thing and made it known to your servant. <sup>22</sup> “How great you are, Sovereign LORD! There is no one like you, and there is no God but you, as we have heard with our own ears.”

The King of Lebanon had built David a palace built of cedar. David looks outside and see’s the Ark of the Covenant in a tent. The idea to build a beautiful place for the Ark to be housed seemed to be a “no brainer” both to the Prophet and the King.

(Verse 4) “But”...even with things that seem to be absolutely clear we still need to inquire of the Lord.

This part of our passage gives us a clear picture of a God who comes to us. This truth would find it ultimate fulfillment in Jesus coming to us.

(Verse 7) God tells David “you want to build a house for me, but I want to make you a house that will endure forever”. He goes on saying to David that he has always been *with* him and *for* him.

(Verse 11), God promises that he will build a house for David. In reality, everything we do for God is because of what he has done for us. Everything we give to God is giving back what he has already given to us.

A very important thing happens in (verse 12), we see for the first time the “Davidic Covenant”. (One of 4 covenants that God will make) We are part of this covenant that was fulfilled in the “Son of David”...Jesus and his eternal kingdom.

(Verse 14), we see the contrast between the *immediate* and the *ultimate fulfillment*.

The *immediate* would be Solomon building a beautiful, fantastic Temple. But Solomon and Israel would receive “discipline” for their disobedience.

*“I have made a covenant with My chosen, I have sworn to My servant David: <sup>4</sup> ‘Your seed I will establish forever, And build up your throne to all*

*"I have made a covenant with My chosen, I have sworn to My servant David: <sup>4</sup> 'Your seed I will establish forever, And build up your throne to all generations...I will establish his line forever, his throne as long as the heavens endure. <sup>30</sup> 'If his sons forsake my law and do not follow my statutes, <sup>31</sup> if they violate my decrees and fail to keep my commands, <sup>32</sup> I will punish their sin with the rod, their iniquity with flogging; <sup>33</sup> but I will not take my love from him, nor will I ever betray my faithfulness. <sup>34</sup> I will not violate my covenant or alter what my lips have uttered." (Psalm 89:3-4, 29-37)*

The *ultimate fulfillment* would be found in Jesus the forever king who also took a "flogging". Some translations say "stripes" and we know that Jesus took the strips and punishment so we wouldn't have to and that we could live with him eternally.

(Verse 15), is a beautiful verse and promise: "my love "will never be taken away from him. This is a precious promise that will be repeated many times in the scriptures for us. Also we see that our buildings are not the "house of God", we (you and me) are the house of God and he dwells in us.

## **What do we do when God says "No"?**

David had a good idea, but it wasn't God's idea. When God answers us, it is usually: "yes", "not now" or "no". We have a tendency to react emotionally to "no" if he won't say yes to everything we ask. God can handle you being made at him, but we can't. Unfortunately this begins to seep into our hearts and spirits with long-term consequences.

Behind God's "no" there is always a bigger better plan...always! He will always keep his promise; nothing will ever hinder or stop it from being fulfilled. God is big enough and smart enough to fulfill it. We see the promise of the eternal throne of David being fulfilled:

*"But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup> and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end." (Luke 1:30-33)*

## **God wants you to trust a forever promise**

When God says "Yes" it's bigger than our immediate story, it is something to do with eternity.

Do our prayers reflect the will and purpose of God? Many times our prayers, dreams and desires are too small.

He calls us to trust him even when we've been told "no". This trust will be anchored in his love and promises to us.

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## Discussion Questions

- 1) Before we get into the specifics of our study, how important is it for us to trust God and his covenants and promises? Would you share with the group your journey of trust, whether it has been a struggle or you're becoming anchored in his promises?
- 2) David is looking around at the beautiful palace that has been built for him. He then realizes that the Ark of the Covenant is outside in a tent. What seemed like a "no brainer" to David and the Prophet turned out to be a good idea but was not what God wanted. Have you ever experienced anything similar in your life? Also what does it say to us about seeking the counsel of the Lord as we make decisions in our lives?
- 3) So God speaks to the Prophet and clarifies that David is not to build the Temple. In the midst of a "no" answer, David is given what is called the "Davidic Covenant". Looking back at our text and our notes on page 3, what is this covenant and how was it fulfilled?
- 4) In verse 14, we see the contrast between the *immediate* and the *ultimate fulfillment*. This is an important concept to learn about scripture, but what is the immediate fulfillment and what is the ultimate fulfillment of this passage along with Psalm 89?
- 5) So after reading David's story we need to ask ourselves: what do we do when God says "No"? Do you have a tendency to react emotionally? If so have you experienced the negative consequences of not trusting God's answer?
- 6) Please discuss this statement: "Behind God's "no" there is always a bigger better plan...always!" Examine your heart and life and ask if you believe that He will always keep his promise. Are you at the point where you can confidently say: "nothing will ever hinder or stop it from being fulfilled"?
- 7) Lastly God really wants you to trust a "forever promise". Please discuss this last statement: "When God says "Yes" it's bigger than our immediate story, it is something to do with eternity. "