

## After God's Own Heart

### Accepting God's "No"

2 Samuel 7:1-17

Most of us have learned to accept "NO" from the boss, the bank, the coach, the admissions office, the mortgage company, the girl we like, our spouse, or some other person. We don't like it, but usually we understand it. But, what about when God says no? And, what about when he says no to something that seems to be good, noble, spiritual, or even beneficial to his kingdom's work? It's tough, right?

*"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."* **Isaiah 55:8-9**

**Main Idea:** People After God's Own Heart Surrender Their Plans to His Purposes

*"Now when the king lived in his house and the Lord had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, 2 the king said to Nathan the prophet, 'See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent.' 3 And Nathan said to the king, 'Go, do all that is in your heart, for the Lord is with you.' 4 But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan, 5 'Go and tell my servant David, 'Thus says the Lord: Would you build me a house to dwell in? 6 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 for my dwelling. 7 In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?' 8 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, that you should be prince over my people Israel. 9 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. 10 And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, 11 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. 12 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. 13 He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. 14 I will be to him a father, and 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, 15 but my steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. 16 And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.' 17 In accordance with all these words, and in accordance with all this vision, Nathan spoke to David."* **2 Samuel 7:1-17**

#### I. Our Plans Are Often Misguided & Too Small - 2 Samuel 7:1-3

David was enjoying his first peaceful season in decades, grateful to God (*the LORD had given him rest*), & was living in a new palace home while the Ark of the Covenant was still living in a tent (tabernacle) that was a few hundred years old. Sitting on his porch with Nathan the prophet, he suggests a plan to build a massive and beautiful temple for the ark of God to dwell. Nathan responds predictably...

*"And Nathan said to the king, 'Go, do all that is in your heart, for the Lord is with you.'" 2 Samuel 7:3*

*"Having entered into a period of rest because of God's help, David desired to provide a rest for God...It seemed inappropriate to David for an underling to be living in greater luxury than his divine master." David Bergen*

*"There are times when circumstances are so clear and obvious and our motives so selfless and pure, that it hardly seems necessary to pray. And so, of course, neither David nor Nathan prays." Eugene Peterson*

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#### II. God's Purposes are For His Glory & Our Good - 2 Samuel 7:4-17

*"David had been thinking of building God a house. But what God offers to do instead would never have entered David's mind to ask." Heath A. Thomas*

*"Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen." Ephesians 3:20-21*

**Note:** This is one of the most significant passages of OT scripture in that it contains the Davidic Covenant (2 Sam 7:8-16) which is a powerful description of what has done, is doing, & will do for His glory and our good! Simply put, God is building a house for David that will make any house David attempts to build for God be in vain (Ps. 127). The Davidic Covenant promised 1) A Great Name for David (8-9), 2) Firm Security for Israel (10-11), 3) Lasting Legacy (12-15), & 4) An Eternal King (16).

*"The Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house." 2 Samuel 7:11b*

*"Instead of David building God a house (that is, constructing a temple for him), God would build David a house (that is, he would raise up a kingly dynasty for him)...The near-term fulfillment of these promises would be David's son Solomon. God would indeed establish his kingdom, paving the way for Israel's golden age. Ultimately, however, it would take more than a mere man to fulfill the promises of this Davidic Covenant. To have a kingdom and throne established forever, the God-man, Jesus Christ, was needed." Tony Evans*

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**Illus:** We want to be role models that people can look to and follow because of how amazing we are. We want to be congratulated/celebrated/emulated by others. But that is not what a Christian is. We're not primarily role models, but trophies. Nobody ever looked at a trophy to celebrate it or to recognize something great that trophy accomplished, no! A trophy ACCOMPLISHES NOTHING great, but instead REPRESENTS SOMEONE great! If God says "NO", this might be why!

*“The more we steep ourselves in the finished work of Christ, the more we will find His Spirit rising up within us. The fire to DO in the Christian life comes only from being soaked in the fuel of what He has DONE!” J.D. Greear*

*“He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.” 1 Peter 2:24*

#### **Sources and Further Reading Opportunities**

- **CSB Study Bible** – Trevin Wax, Ed. (2017)
- **Exalting Jesus in 1 & 2 Samuel** – J.D. Greear & Heath Thomas (2016)
- **Wiersbe Expository Outlines on the OT** – Warren Wiersbe (1993)
- **New American Commentary: 1 & 2 Samuel** – Robert D. Bergen (1996)
- **Spurgeon Study Bible** – C.H. Spurgeon (2017)
- **First and Second Samuel** – Eugene H. Peterson (1999)
- **Tony Evans Study Bible** – Tony Evans (2019)
- **The Eerdmans Companion to the Bible** – Gordon D. Fee (2011)