

“Now then, tell my servant David, ‘This is what the LORD Almighty says: I took you from the pasture and from following the flock to be ruler over my people Israel. ⁹ 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 of the earth. ¹⁰ 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 ¹¹ and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders over my people Israel. I will also give you rest from all your enemies.

“ ‘The LORD declares to you that the LORD himself will establish a house for you: ¹² When your days are over and you rest with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, who will come from your own body, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³ He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. ¹⁴ I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with the rod of men, with floggings inflicted by men. ¹⁵ But my love will never be taken away from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. ¹⁶ Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.’ ” (NIV 84)

Theme: God’s Greater Gift

1. God will build a house for David
2. The Messiah would come from his House

I’m sure that there were many years when you were growing up that you didn’t get the present what you asked for. There could have been a number of different reasons for that—it was too expensive, too dangerous, it would have meant that we spent too many hours in front of the T.V.—if you asked for video games like we seemed to for many years. There are could have been many years when your parent’s said, ‘no’ to what you asked.

But what if you were given a better gift instead—something so great and spectacular that you didn’t even think about asking for? Then you

wouldn’t even worry about not getting the gift that you wanted in the first place.

That is what happened to David in our text for today. God told him no and in turn God gave him a greater gift

David was at a point in his life where God had given him rest from war. So as David sat in his palace, made of the finest material available, he realized that the house of God was nothing more than a tent—the tabernacle that went from place to place with the Israelites in the wilderness over 500 years before. David wanted to rectify the situation so he went to Nathan the prophet and asked if he could build a temple for God so that the ark of the covenant would have a permanent home. Nathan gave him his blessing. But that night God came to Nathan with a different message that he was to pass on to David.

The answer from God, simply put, was, “No.” God never asked for a temple to be built for him. He had been dwelling in the tabernacle for hundreds of years, why should he want a temple built now? In 1 Chronicles 28 David tells the people another reason why God said, ‘no.’ **God said to me, ‘You are not to build a house for my Name, because you are a warrior and have shed blood.’**

God might have said, ‘no’ but he didn’t leave it at that. Instead of David building a house for God, God wanted to build a house for David. He had chosen David to be the king of his people. He had led his people in battle and had given David victory after victory over his enemies. And now he wanted to establish David and his descendants on his throne. He wanted David’s family to establish themselves, to set down roots and have a permanent home. **Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men of the earth. 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.** God’s answer to David’s request was to make his house great.

At times it may seem as if God says, ‘no’ to us. We pray to God for certain things—but we don’t always get them. And we don’t know why. Why didn’t he make that person like you? Why didn’t he take away your Mom’s disease? Why doesn’t he allow you to get out from under your financial woes? You’re not asking for much, you say; but

you still don't get them. Why does God always tell you 'no?' Perhaps he doesn't like you; perhaps he is punishing you for some reason—or at least that is what you think. So you begin to complain about God. And you doubt whether or not God really loves you or if he guards and protects you as he claims to.

The thing is, God's 'no' is often God's 'yes.' The Lord will always do what is best for us—whether we ask for it or not. At times our prayers and requests may be the exact opposite of what is best for us. So no matter what, God will bless us—no matter what we ask for.

And in a certain sense, we could say that God “builds” a house for us as he did for David. He has taken us from the depths of sin and condemnation and made us his own dear children. He has been with us everywhere to protect and preserve us in all our ways. He has granted us true spiritual peace and rest from all our spiritual enemies. In and through Jesus Christ, God has made us part of the everlasting kingdom that he has established!

God may have said, 'no' to David's request of building him a house. Instead God, in his love, decided to establish David's house for him and his descendants. But God wasn't done. He had an even greater gift in mind for David.

After David's house would be set; God decided he would then bless his house with the Messiah—the promised Savior would come from his line! This is essentially the same promise that God gave Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The Savior of all the world, would come from David's house. God would reiterate this promise to the Israelites through his prophets. For instance a week and a half ago during our midweek service we talked about Isaiah 11 where God promises, **a shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse, David's Father.** Or in Jeremiah 23 God promises, **I will raise up to David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land.**

In our gospel for today, the angel Gabriel made the fulfillment of this prophecy clear to Mary when he declared, **You will be with child.... He will be great.... The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end.** In Jesus the promise of the Messiah is finally fulfilled!

You know when someone wraps a present for you and disguises it so you can't quite figure it out before hand? Perhaps they put something heavy in the package to throw you off, or they put a small item in a large box. The gift inside wasn't what it seemed at first. That is sort of like this promise God gave to David—it isn't exactly what it seems at first. On the surface it seems as if God is simply talking about Solomon—the son of David and Bathsheba. He was the one God chose to receive the birthright. He would become the third King of Israel. He would be the one continue the Davidic line of Israel's monarchy. He would also be the one who would build the temple. That's right—God allowed David to make all the plans and preparations for the temple. But Solomon, a king of peace, built the temple.

But there is more to this than meets the initial eye. When you look closely at this promise by God, you can tell that God can't just be talking about Solomon. Take verses 13 and 14 for example. **He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with the rod of men, with floggings inflicted by men.** Solomon certainly built a house for God. Through his death and resurrection, Jesus built his permanent dwelling, the church, the spiritual house of God composed of living stones. Solomon was made a king, but he eventually died, and David's line sat on the throne for less than 500 years. But Jesus is the king of kings who rules over his entire creation and in our hearts through faith—and he will continue to do so forever. Plus he will rule in heaven; so he truly has an eternal kingdom. Solomon was God's son through faith. But Jesus is the Son of God. And the writer to the Hebrews quotes this verse in reference to Jesus—indicating that this prophecy was fulfilled by Christ. Jesus never sinned. But he was flogged and beaten by Pilate's men. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us. Christ became a sinner in our place and so God punished him. Jesus was forsaken by his heavenly father and so was punished for our sin.

What God, in effect, promised to do for David was to establish a double kingdom. One would be an earthly kingdom, ruled by David's house, starting with Solomon. The second kingdom would be an everlasting kingdom, ruled also by a member of David's family, Jesus Christ—the Promised Messiah. So Solomon is a type of Christ, he

foreshadows Christ. This prophecy was first fulfilled by Solomon, but it was ultimately fulfilled by Christ. The glorious earthly kingdom of David and his house would not only produce the Messiah, but would also be a type of the everlasting kingdom of Christ.

The prophet Isaiah added to this prophecy in chapter nine. **Of the increase of his government and peace here will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever.** David's house through Solomon lasted for hundreds of years. But with the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple came the end of that monarchy. But from that same line Christ was born—Great David's greater Son who made us into God's house through faith. Not only has Christ made us into his house, but he will also give to us a permanent home. One in which we will dwell with him forever. Because of what he has done we have the greatest gift of all—salvation

David asked for a gift—but God gave him a gift far greater than he could have ever imagined. Not only would Solomon and his children after him rule over God's throne, but more importantly from his line would come the Messiah. He has given us the same gift. Jesus would suffer for our sins in order to save the entire world and make a permanent home for all his household. Amen