

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for bringing us together today. As we gather to learn from Your Word, open our hearts and minds to what You want us to understand. I pray that our time together be filled with insight and encouragement. Help us to grow in our faith and apply what we learn in our lives. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

1 Chronicles 17:1-12

17 Now it came to pass, as David sat in his house, that David said to Nathan the prophet, Lo, I dwell in an house of cedars, but the ark of the covenant of the LORD remaineth under curtains.

² Then Nathan said unto David, Do all that is in thine heart; for God is with thee.

³ And it came to pass the same night, that the word of God came to Nathan, saying,

⁴ Go and tell David my servant, Thus saith the LORD, Thou shalt not build me an house to dwell in:

⁵ For I have not dwelt in an house since the day that I brought up Israel unto this day; but have gone from tent to tent, and from one tabernacle to another.

⁶ Wheresoever I have walked with all Israel, spake I a word to any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to feed my people, saying, Why have ye not built me an house of cedars?

⁷ Now therefore thus shalt thou say unto my servant David, Thus saith the LORD of hosts, I took thee from the sheepcote, even from following the sheep, that thou shouldest be ruler over my people Israel:

⁸ And I have been with thee whithersoever thou hast walked, and have cut off all thine enemies from before thee, and have made thee a name like the name of the great men that are in the earth.

⁹ Also I will ordain a place for my people Israel, and will plant them, and they shall dwell in their place, and shall be moved no more; neither shall the children of wickedness waste them any more, as at the beginning,

¹⁰ And since the time that I commanded judges to be over my people Israel. Moreover I will subdue all thine enemies. Furthermore I tell thee that the LORD will build thee an house.

¹¹ And it shall come to pass, when thy days be expired that thou must go to be with thy fathers, that I will raise up thy seed after thee, which shall be of thy sons; and I will establish his kingdom.

¹² He shall build me an house, and I will stablish his throne for ever.

Verse 16:

¹⁶ And David the king came and sat before the LORD, and said, Who am I, O LORD God, and what is mine house, that thou hast brought me hitherto?

Verse 23-24

²³ Therefore now, LORD, let the thing that thou hast spoken concerning thy servant and concerning his house be established for ever, and do as thou hast said.

²⁴ Let it even be established, that thy name may be magnified for ever, saying, The LORD of hosts is the God of Israel, even a God to Israel: and let the house of David thy servant be established before thee.

Isaiah 9:6

⁶ For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

Luke 1:32

³² He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David:

A HOUSE FOR GOD, A HOUSE FOR DAVID

Sometimes, God may turn down our plans because He has something better in mind. The true house He promised to build is the Church of God, which represents spiritual Israel. The seed He promised is Jesus, who reigns as King and Savior on David's throne. Both David and Nathan were good men with good intentions, so why was their plan displeasing to God? We can't judge the rightness of a plan based solely on who made it.

So how can we make plans that receive God's blessing in our church today? First, we must recognize that our wisdom is limited while God's wisdom is limitless. **Proverbs 3:5-6 says, "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."** It's crucial to seek God's guidance through prayer, scripture, and advice from spiritually mature believers.

Next, we need to align our plans with Jesus' teachings. In **John 15:5, Jesus tells us, "I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing."** Staying connected to Christ and letting His teachings guide our decisions helps ensure our plans are in line with His will.

We should also practice humility and be open to correction. **James 4:10 advises, "Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up."** When we humble ourselves, we acknowledge that God's ways are higher than ours and become more open to His direction.

Finally, we need to stay committed to the Church's mission—making disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:19-20). When our plans align with this mission, we put ourselves in a position to receive God's blessings and favor.

1 Chronicles 17:1-5 The Ark of the Covenant was now in Jerusalem under the tent prepared for it. This pleased David. He wanted to honor God more by providing a better house for it. Nathan, the prophet, agreed this would be good. Having confidence that God was with David, he assumed that God approved of David's plan. How mistaken he was! To assume that a move is right without God's sanction can lead to bad planning. That night God spoke to Nathan. Why

not to David? Nathan was the prophet, God's spokesman. Also, Nathan had given approval and the sanction of God without authorization. Now he must retract his steps. **Tell David my servant, Thus saith the Lord, Thou shalt not build me an house to dwell in.** The plan came not from Him (**1 Chronicles 17:6**) but from David (**1 Chronicles 22:7-10**).

God did not desire a permanent, material house. **God . . . seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands (Acts 17:24).** The law was to serve for but a time, then to be followed by something greater. The tabernacle was temporary. It and its furniture were material symbols of spiritual experiences to come later. God looked ahead from the temporary symbols to the eternal spiritual realities. He desired a permanent dwelling place. It would be His church (**Ephesians 2:21-22; Revelation 21:3**).

What House Can We Provide for God? When we think about what house we can offer God, it's important to remember that the expensive church buildings we see in our cities aren't truly His houses. Referring to these buildings as sanctuaries can be misleading. If God spoke to us today like He did to Nathan, what might He say about all the money spent on fancy structures? The real sanctuary exists in the hearts of men and women—this is where God dwells today.

David wanted to build a house for God, and his intention was good, but it came from human ambition rather than God's direction. In our own lives, we need to regularly check our motives and seek God's guidance to make sure our plans align with His will. **Proverbs 16:9 tells us, "A man's heart deviseth his way: but the Lord directeth his steps."** Just like Nathan had to change his course when God directed him, we too must be willing to adjust our plans when God leads us.

God's refusal of David's plan wasn't a rejection of David as a person; it was a redirection toward something greater. This shows us how important it is to understand God's perspective and trust His wisdom. Isaiah 55:8-9 (KJV) reminds us, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith 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."

While David focused on building a physical structure, God was concerned with establishing a spiritual foundation. This teaches us that our spiritual growth and

relationship with God matter far more than any material accomplishments. In **Matthew 7:24-25**, Jesus emphasizes the importance of building our lives on His teachings: **"Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock."**

As we think about how to provide a house for God, we need to shift our focus from physical buildings to true worship. **John 4:23-24** says, **"But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth."** Our true sanctuary lies in our hearts and our commitment to living according to God's will.

1 Chronicles 17:6-9 Nathan goes on to tell David the rest of the message that God had spoken to him. God had never commanded any of His leaders to build Him a house of wood. The important thing is not what man can do for God, but what God can do for man. God said **I will ordain a place for my people Israel . . . plant them . . . they shall dwell . . . moved no more. . . .** Yet we know Israel and Judah was carried away captive, and the nation was scattered over all the earth. God's promise to David was a promise for spiritual blessings. God desired a people and He has them. They are those who obey Him and have His Spirit within. **He is not a Jew, which is one outwardly . . . But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly . . . in the spirit . . . (Romans 2:28-29).** God counts His people not by nationality, but by hearts which partake of His salvation **(Romans 9:6-8).** The church is spiritual Israel.

The promise to permanently establish His people was made for His church, the Church of God. Jesus later said that He would build His church upon the rock, and that the gates of hell would not prevail against it **(Matthew 16:18)**. Jesus said in **Luke 12:32**, **Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.**

This passage highlights God's sovereignty and His ultimate plan for His people. Despite the earthly struggles and the scattering of Israel and Judah, God's promise was never about temporal, physical security, but about a deeper, spiritual covenant. This underscores the difference between human plans and God's eternal purposes.

The concept of spiritual Israel is pivotal here. God's covenant is not confined to a specific nation or ethnic group but extends to all who believe and obey Him.

Galatians 3:28-29 (KJV) says, “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.” This universality of God's promise reaffirms the inclusive nature of His kingdom.

When Jesus speaks about building His church and the gates of hell not prevailing against it (Matthew 16:18), He affirms the indestructible nature of His church. Unlike physical buildings that can decay or be destroyed, the church, built on the foundation of Christ, stands eternal. This promise is not just a future hope but a present reality for believers who are part of His spiritual house.

1 Peter 2:5 (KJV) says, “Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.” Each believer is a living stone in this spiritual house, contributing to the strength and integrity of the church. Our focus should be on nurturing this spiritual house through faith, obedience, and community.

While God does not dwell in temples made with hands (Acts 17:24), His presence is manifest in the hearts of His people. As believers, we are called to reflect His kingdom on earth, living out His principles of love, justice, and mercy. This transforms our understanding of church from a physical location to a vibrant, dynamic community of faith that impacts the world around us.

1 Chronicles 17:10-12 I will build thee an house. God does not build as men do with wood or stone. The house He built for David was of men, of sons, descendants ending in Jesus Christ and His people. The Lord would both build this house and dwell in it. **For the Lord hath chosen Zion; he hath desired it for his habitation (Psalm 132:13; Ephesians 2:19-22).**

Jesus is both the Son of David and the Son of God. **I will raise up thy seed . . . I will establish his kingdom. He shall build me an house, and I will stablish his throne forever.** Solomon, David's son born later, did build a material house, a temple for the worship of God. And Solomon's reign was a peaceful one. But the continuing of his kingdom was conditional upon his obedience (**1 Chronicles 22:13**). The throne which was to be established forever was that of Christ. God's promise was fulfilled in Jesus and His house, the Church of God.

The promise to establish David's house forever was a foreshadowing of the eternal covenant God made through Christ. In **2 Samuel 7:16 (KJV)**, God says, **“And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever.”** This covenant is fulfilled in Jesus Christ, who reigns eternally as King.

Jesus, being both the Son of David and the Son of God, bridges the temporal and the eternal. As the descendant of David, He fulfills the promise of a royal lineage. As the Son of God, He establishes an everlasting kingdom that transcends earthly realms. **Hebrews 1:8 (KJV)** says, **“But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom.”**

The Spiritual House of God The house that God promised to build was not a physical structure but a spiritual one, comprised of believers. **Ephesians 2:19-22 (KJV)** states, **“Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.”**

While Solomon's reign and the physical temple he built were significant, they were temporary and conditional upon obedience to God's commands (1 Chronicles 22:13). In contrast, the throne that God promised to establish forever was realized in Jesus Christ. This eternal kingship transcends earthly limitations, offering a kingdom that cannot be shaken (Hebrews 12:28).

Jesus' eternal reign as King is not limited to a specific time or place. **Revelation 11:15 (KJV)** proclaims, **“The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.”** This underscores the permanence and universality of Christ's kingdom, which encompasses all who believe in Him.

The church, as the body of Christ, fulfills God's promise to David. **Ephesians 1:22-23 (KJV)** states, **“And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.”** As members of this spiritual house, believers are part of the fulfillment of God's covenant, experiencing the blessings of His eternal kingdom.

Believers are called to live as the dwelling place of God, embodying His presence on earth. **1 Corinthians 3:16 (KJV)** says, “**Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?**” This profound truth calls us to live holy and dedicated lives, reflecting God's glory in all that we do.

In today's context, we are reminded that God's plans often transcend our human understanding. Our role is to remain obedient, trust in His promises, and participate in the building of His spiritual house. As we navigate our lives and make plans, let us seek God's guidance and align our actions with His eternal purposes.

1 Chronicles 17:16, 1 Chronicles 17:23-24 David did not doubt God's promise, nor did he try to reason it out. He saw it real and true; a great blessing of the great God. God's greatness showed David his smallness. He prayed, **Who am I, O Lord God . . . ?** He asked that through this **thy name may be magnified**. David accepted God's refusal of His plan. His reaction to the unfolding of God's plan was that he had received a tremendous favor from God to him and his family. He felt no pride, but felt humble before God that he had been chosen above his fellows.

Isaiah 9:6-7 God gave promises from time to time, very specific in detail. Through Isaiah He promised a Son who would be God and would carry the government **upon his shoulder**. The authority, leadership, and command were to be His. That this promise is a continuation of the one made to David is seen in the fact that this Son was to rule **upon the throne of David**. Also, His government and peace were to continually increase, and to be established **even forever**.

This prophecy is profoundly significant because it points to Jesus Christ, who fulfills the promises made to David. In **Luke 1:32-33 (KJV)**, the angel Gabriel tells Mary about Jesus, saying, “**He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.**” This confirms that Jesus is the promised Son, who would establish an everlasting kingdom.

The prophecy in Isaiah emphasizes that His government and peace will continually increase. This means that Christ's reign brings not just authority, but

also a deep, abiding peace that transcends human understanding. **John 14:27 (KJV) states, “Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”** This peace is a hallmark of Christ’s kingdom, contrasting sharply with the temporary and often turbulent reigns of earthly rulers.

The eternal nature of Christ’s kingdom is a central theme in this prophecy. Unlike earthly kingdoms that rise and fall, Christ’s kingdom is unshakeable and everlasting. **Hebrews 12:28 (KJV) says, “Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.”** This eternal kingdom is the ultimate fulfillment of God’s promise, providing a stable foundation for believers’ faith and hope.

As members of Christ’s body, the church participates in this eternal kingdom. **Ephesians 1:22-23 (KJV) highlights this connection: “And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his body, the fullness of him that filleth all in all.”** The church, therefore, plays a crucial role in manifesting the principles of Christ’s kingdom on earth, living out the peace, justice, and love that characterize His reign.

Luke 1:32 When the angel, Gabriel, came to Mary with the news of the coming birth of Jesus, he said, **God shall give unto him the throne of his father David.** This reveals that the Son Isaiah wrote of, and David’s seed who was to have an eternal throne, is Jesus Christ. Is it any wonder that David felt, **Who am I?**

David’s response to God’s promise, in **2 Samuel 7:18 “Who am I, O Lord God? and what is my house, that thou hast brought me hitherto?”**, reflects his deep humility and awe at God’s gracious plan. Despite his royal status and achievements, David recognized his own unworthiness and marveled at God’s favor towards him and his lineage.

Gabriel’s announcement to Mary underscores the magnitude of God’s promise to David. This was no ordinary kingship; it was the establishment of an everlasting kingdom through Jesus Christ. This revelation highlights the continuity and fulfillment of God’s covenant promises, bridging the Old and New Testaments.

The throne of David, established forever through Christ, signifies a kingdom not bound by time or earthly limitations. **Revelation 22:16 (KJV) says, “I am the**

root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.” Jesus, as the root and offspring of David, fulfills the prophetic promises and assures believers of His eternal reign.

David's humble response is a model for us. In the face of God's immense grace and promises, we are called to respond with gratitude, humility, and a heart full of praise. As **Ephesians 2:8-9 (KJV)** reminds us, **“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.”** Acknowledging God's grace should lead us to a life of worship and service.

CLOSING

As we wrap up our lesson on "A House for God, A House for David," let us reflect on the profound journey we've undertaken through Scripture, exploring the depth of God's promises to David and their ultimate fulfillment in Jesus Christ.

Throughout this session, we've witnessed David's heartfelt desire to build a physical dwelling for God, a temple that would stand as a testament to his devotion. However, God's plans extended far beyond mere architecture, reaching into the very fabric of eternity.

In our exploration of 1 Chronicles 17, we learned that God's true longing was not for a temporary structure but for an everlasting house crafted through David's lineage. This vision finds its culmination in Christ, the Messiah. David's humility in acknowledging God's expansive promises serves as a poignant reminder for us to approach the divine with a spirit of reverence and gratitude.

The prophetic words of Isaiah 9:6 foretell a Son who would bear the weight of governance and usher in a kingdom characterized by peace. This prophetic thread is echoed in the angel Gabriel's announcement to Mary in Luke 1:32, affirming Jesus as the fulfillment of God's covenant with David, embodying the very essence of hope and redemption.

As we ponder these Scriptures, we come to understand that the true house of God is not confined to brick and mortar but is, in fact, the spiritual body of Christ—His Church. Ephesians 2:19-22 beautifully articulates this concept, reminding us that as believers, we are vital components of this spiritual house, with Jesus Christ as our cornerstone.

Living out our faith in this understanding invites us to recognize that God's presence dwells within each of us. Our lives should mirror the characteristics of His kingdom—love, peace, and righteousness should be the hallmarks of our daily existence. By building our lives on the solid foundation of Christ, we affirm that His kingdom is established forever, and we participate in its unfolding.

As we carry this understanding into our lives, let us strive to honor God not only with our words but through our actions. We are called to be living stones in His eternal house, reflecting His light in a world that deeply needs it.

May we embrace this calling wholeheartedly, allowing the truths we've explored today to transform us, guiding our steps as we shine brightly in the lives of those around us.

JUST A THOUGHT

The man who invented the eraser had the human race pretty well sized up.

Let's close with a prayer: Heavenly Father, we thank You for Your eternal promises and the fulfillment of Your covenant through Jesus Christ. Help us to live as Your true sanctuary, reflecting Your love and grace. Guide us as we build our lives on the foundation of Christ, and may Your kingdom be manifest in us and through us. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.