

When God Says, “No”

Many people in the Bible faced disappointments.

- Joseph was sold into slavery and put in jail for a crime he did not commit (Genesis 37-41).
- Paul was not allowed to travel to Bithynia (Acts 16:7).
- Barsabbas was not chosen to replace Judas as an apostle (Acts 1:23-26).

David also faced a moment of disappointment. After receiving rest from his enemies and building a palace for himself, David desires to do something for God, and God tells him, “No.”

2 Samuel 7:1-7

- After experiencing rest from his enemies and building a house for himself, David desires to build a house for God (2 Samuel 7:1-7).
 - David wants to build a permanent structure for God to dwell and be worshipped.
 - Nathan endorses David’s plan, but later he learns that God doesn’t. God has not authorized David to build Him a house. The only place of worship God authorized was the Tabernacle.
- There are many important things to learn from David’s and Nathan’s mistakes.
 - Good intentions are not good enough. David had good intentions in his desire to build God a house, but God did not want him to do it.
 - God’s silence did not authorize David to build Him a house.
 - We need to consult God. We MUST consult His word because our “great idea” may be out of step with His will.

2 Samuel 7:8-17

- While David would not be allowed to build God a house, God promised to build him one.
- The term “house” refers to a ruling family or dynasty. David’s kingly lineage would never be cut off!
- This promise had a dual fulfillment.
 - Solomon (David’s son) would become the next king and build the temple (physical house).
 - Jesus would come through David’s lineage and build God’s spiritual house (1 Peter 2:4-5). He would establish a spiritual kingdom and reign on David’s throne for eternity.
 - God’s promises to David are similar to those made to Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3).

2 Samuel 7:18-29

- David responds to God’s will with humility.
 - He prays and acknowledges God’s greatness.
 - He accepts God’s will and expresses confidence in God’s ability to keep His promises.
 - He continues to praise, trust, and serve God.
- David does not become bitter and angry in his moment of disappointment.

What can we learn?

- Sometimes, God will also tell us “No.”
 - God said “No” to Paul (2 Corinthians 12:7-10).
 - God said “No” to His Son (Matthew 26:36-46).
 - His response to our request is always in our best interest.
- We need to be humble and continue trusting God. We need to embrace God’s wisdom and will.
- God is faithful. He kept His promises to David (Matthew 1:1; Acts 2:30-33). He is also faithful to keep all His promises to us.

Conclusion:

Is Jesus your King and Lord?

- Shawn Jeffries