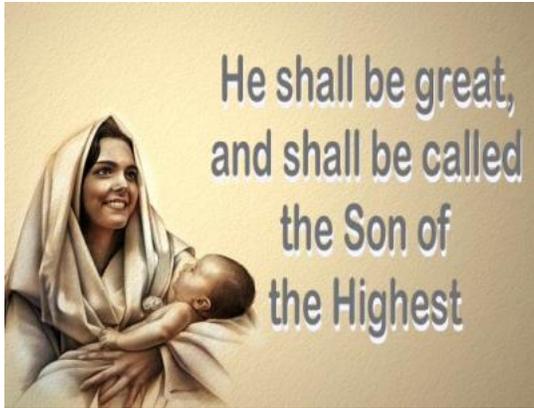


SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIALS FOR ADULTS

LESSON 6



A HOUSE FOR GOD, A HOUSE FOR DAVID

*Scripture Texts: 1 Chronicles 17:1-12, 16, 23-24; Isaiah 9:6;
Luke 1:32*

God may refuse our plans to give us His better ones. The house God promised to build is the Church of God, spiritual Israel. The seed He promised is Jesus, sitting on David's throne as King and Savior.

David was a good man. So was Nathan. Their motives were good. How then could their plan be so displeasing to God? We cannot judge the rightness of a proposal by the character of its maker. In the church today, what method of forming plans will receive God's blessing? How can we enter into that method?

MEMORY VERSE: *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.*
— **Luke 1:32**

Plans of Good People

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 now for God? The many costly church buildings that we see around our cities are not the houses of God. It is incorrect to call such a building a sanctuary. If God should speak to us as He did to Nathan, what might He say about the splendid buildings and the money they cost? The true sanctuary can only be found in the hearts of men and women. This is the only place God dwells today.

God's Plan for His People

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**

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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.**

God's Promise to David's Seed

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.

David's Attitude

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.

A Son to Be Given

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 established **even forever.**

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?**

JUST A THOUGHT

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

This lesson is adapted from a lesson by Mary Lehmann.
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