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# Davidic Covenant



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# What God Doesn't Want You To Do

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- Sometimes God will surprise you with what He doesn't want you to do
- 2 Samuel 7:1–7
- It was typical in the ancient world for a king who had conquered the land of his enemies to build a temple for his god.
- After a very long period (20 to 30 years) of waiting to be king, David had finally taken the throne of all of Israel and defeated the Philistines, giving him rest from all his surrounding enemies (7:1).



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# What God Doesn't Want You To Do

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- The first thing he did was bring the ark of the covenant to his capital city.
- The presence of the Lord would dwell among His people as God had promised in the Mosaic Covenant (Exodus 25:8; 29:45).
- To David, this was the moment that the promises God had made to Abraham (Genesis 12:1–3; 15:4–5; 17:8) and then to Moses and the exodus generation (Exodus 6:6–8) were finally coming fully true.



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# What God Doesn't Want You To Do

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- God promised Abraham: 1) people, 2) land, and 3) blessing.
- By the beginning of Exodus, God had delivered on the promise of the people or “great nation.” They were great in number (Exodus 1:7).
- But they didn't have their own land; they were slaves in Egypt. They started taking the land in the conquest but didn't take it all (Joshua 13:1–7).
- As recorded in the book of Judges and during Saul's reign, they continued to fight with the Canaanites and Philistines who were still in the land.



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- But David finally accomplished “rest” from his surrounding enemies (7:1). This doesn't mean the Philistines had been driven out or destroyed; they would attack David again at the end of his reign (2 Samuel 21–23).
- But for now, David had subdued them and taken control of the promised land (7:1; 8:1).
- This seemed like the time that God's promises had finally come true. They were one united people living in peace in the promised land as God's people, His kingdom. Now it was time to build a temple, a “house,” for Him.



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# What God Doesn't Want You To Do

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- David had brought the ark of the covenant to Jerusalem, so God was dwelling among His people, but it was still in a tent (the tabernacle) while David lived in a house of cedar (7:2).
- This seemed out of balance to David, which he told Nathan, who had taken over Samuel's role as prophet to the king.
- Nathan responded to go and do "all that is in your heart" because "the Lord is with you" (7:3).



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# What God Doesn't Want You To Do

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- Again, the emphasis is on David's heart, his inner man, a heart that wanted to worship and honor God and understood his place in comparison to God.
- Nathan also emphasized that the Lord was with David, something the text continues to say about David throughout his story.
- Building a temple for God is a good thing to do, and David was a righteous king who had the Holy Spirit upon him.
- If he wanted to build a temple, it was probably the right thing to do.



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# What God Doesn't Want You To Do

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- But God gave David a surprising answer.
- God said He had never dwelled in a house since He first brought the people out of Egypt and made the covenant to be their God.
- He didn't need to start now.
- For 450 years, God had never asked any leader of Israel to build a house for Him (7:5–7), and He wasn't asking David to do it now.
- This was all David's idea. Even if it was a good idea, it wasn't what God was asking David to do.



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# What God Doesn't Want You To Do

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- This can be a difficult thing to understand about God's will.
- He doesn't always do what we think makes the most sense. Even if we think a thing would be good.
- Even if we think a thing would bring Him glory.
- Building a temple was not a bad thing. God said David's son Solomon would build the temple in the very next generation.
- He wasn't against building a temple; it just wasn't what God was asking David to do.



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# What God Doesn't Want You To Do

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- No matter how good it was, it wasn't David's calling.
- In Chronicles, David told Solomon why God didn't want David to build the temple – he had shed too much blood.
- David had fought many great wars, but Solomon would reign in peace.
- Solomon means “peace” and Jerusalem means “city of peace.”
- God wanted Solomon to be the one to build the house “in His name” (1 Chronicles 22:6–10).



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# What God Doesn't Want You To Do

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- Sometimes we may have a great idea that would be amazing to do for God's Kingdom and would bring Him honor and glory, but we're just not the one who is supposed to do it.
- Or it's not the right timing.
- Or it's a great idea, but it's just not what God wants. Godly people submit to God's will, God's timing and God's calling.
- They don't try to push forward with their great ideas about what to do for God. They listen to what God is asking them to do.



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# God Doesn't Need us to do Things for Him

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- God doesn't need us to do things for Him, but He delights in using us
- 2 Samuel 7:8–16
- This passage is typically identified as the Davidic Covenant.
- It echoes previous covenants God made with other people in biblical history but adds its own promises.
- Throughout the Old Testament, we see God making a covenant with an individual (Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, David) to bless all people through them.



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# God Doesn't Need us to do Things for Him

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- Each covenant builds on the one before it and grows narrower in focus.
- The covenants with Adam and Noah blessed all humanity as they multiplied, filled the earth, and cared for it.
- Next, through Abraham, He chose one family / nation.
- Then He rescued Abraham's descendants from slavery and made a covenant with them through Moses.
- Here God chose an even smaller portion of that nation, David's family.



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# God Doesn't Need us to do Things for Him

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- David offered to build a “house” (temple) for God because he saw that he was living in a real, permanent house of cedar, while God’s Spirit (on the ark of the covenant) was dwelling in a temporary tent.
- But instead, God said He would build a “house” (a dynasty) for David (7:16).
- God reminded David that it was He who took him from being a lowly shepherd to being king of Israel.
- God didn’t need David to lift Him up. He was lifting David up. He is the One who gives.



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# God Doesn't Need us to do Things for Him

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- The first promises are like God's promise to Abraham – blessing and a great name (7:9), a land / place for His people (7:10), and peace and rest in the land (7:10–11).
- But then He gave David a specific promise – that his line would rule Israel forever (7:13). This promise had a more immediate short-term fulfillment in David's son Solomon but also a long-term fulfillment in the future Messiah.
- The short-term fulfillment was about God's physical kingdom here on earth, the nation of Israel.



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# God Doesn't Need us to do Things for Him

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- Solomon's kingdom would be an earthly "type" of the future eschatological kingdom of God – worship, abundance, and peace/rest.
- Solomon would be the son of David who would build a house for God's name (the temple), and he would sit on the throne of Israel in peace.
- Solomon's reign, before his heart was turned away from God by foreign wives and the kingdom was split by his son, was the golden age of Israel's history.



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# God Doesn't Need us to do Things for Him

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- When God told Solomon that his punishment would be the dividing of the kingdom, He said he wouldn't do it during Solomon's lifetime for the sake of his father, David.
- Just as He promised here, He disciplined Solomon but did not take His steadfast love away from him (7:14).
- He still honored the Davidic Covenant, and the Davidic Dynasty continued in Judah (the southern kingdom) throughout its history (1 Kings 11:1–13).



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# God Doesn't Need us to do Things for Him

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- At the same time, both modern and ancient theologians see this as a promise of the Messiah who would rule an eternal kingdom (7:16).
- The Jews in Jesus' day would have been looking for a "son of David" to come as Messiah.
- This is why Matthew's Gospel starts with a genealogy proving Jesus' lineage, following all the kings of Judah until the exile, then including Zerubbabel, who led the Jews back from the exile (Matthew 1:1–17; Romans 1:3).
- This is Jesus' royal lineage.



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# God Doesn't Need us to do Things for Him

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- A lineage that also includes four key Gentile women from biblical history who all had somewhat scandalous stories, showing us that the kingdom of God is also for the Gentiles and the marginalized.
- David did not need to build a building for God's Spirit to dwell in. Jesus was the temple of the Holy Spirit, and through His death and Resurrection, He made all of us temples of the Holy Spirit, too (1 Corinthians 6:19).
- The covenant that only grew narrower in the Old Testament burst wide open in the new covenant through Jesus.



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# Our Response to God is Worship

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- No matter what, a godly person's response to God is always worship
- 2 Samuel 7:16–29, Psalm 30
- David's response to God's promises was even more worship. He started his prayer with humility – “Who am I” that you have chosen me for these amazing promises (7:18–20)? Then he simply praised God Himself.
- “You are great, O Lord God! ... there is none like you” (7:22).
- He recognized that God's relationship to His people in Israel was unique and amazing.



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# Our Response to God is Worship

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- They did nothing to deserve His grace and love, yet He rescued them out of slavery, gave them their own land, and became their God (7:23–24).
- David called on God to keep His promises (7:25–26), which he knew God would keep because His “words are true, and you have promised this good thing to your servant” (7:27–29).
- David had seen God keep His covenants to Abraham and Moses throughout Israel’s history, and he had also seen how God was keeping His promises to David to be king.



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# Our Response to God is Worship

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- The psalm David wrote for the dedication of the future temple his son would build recounts all God had done for David.
- He lifted him out of the depths and listened when David called to Him for help (30:1–2).
- He spared David from the pit and turned his wailing into dancing (30:3,11).
- He made David's royal mountain stand firm (30:7).
- David had gone through all those years of struggle and come out with greater faith in God and His promises.



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# Our Response to God is Worship

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- David's struggles strengthened his faith in God.
- Nothing in David's life was an accident. Every step along the way developed in David a heart of worship and prepared him for his calling.
- As a shepherd boy playing his lyre in the fields and learning how to be a "shepherd leader" of God's people. On the run from Saul, learning to trust in God as His refuge and strength in times of trouble.
- All of it grew David's faith in God, helped him to grow as a humble servant leader, and developed a heart of worship.



# Promises and Covenants



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# God Promises To Be With His people

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- This is the continuous promise of God to His people in the Old Testament, and in the New Testament.
  - “I will be with you.”
  - “Do not be afraid, for I will be with you.”
- God says it: to Moses (Exodus 3:12), to Joshua (Joshua 1:9), to Jeremiah (Jeremiah 1:8), to Isaiah (Isaiah 41:10; 43:5).
- We do not need to fear because God is with us. Whatever comes our way.



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# God Promises To Be With His people

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- God promised Abram three things: people, land, blessing
  - Go to the land that I will show you (Genesis 12:1)
  - I will make you a great nation (Genesis 12:2)
  - I will bless those who bless you (Genesis 12:3)



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# God Promises To Be With His people

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- God also made the three promises to Jacob:
  - God promised Jacob the land (Genesis 28:13).
  - God promised Jacob innumerable descendants (Genesis 28:14).
  - God promised that all will be blessed through his family (Genesis 28:14).



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# God keeps His promises to His people

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- The text explicitly tells us 70 people were of the house of Jacob.
- It confirms that number again (Exodus 1:5 and Deuteronomy 10:22).
- The 70 descendants listed help to show us just how small this family is that will one day become a “great nation” (verse 3).
- The introduction to Exodus will tell us that this group started out small, only 70 people.
- But that they “were fruitful and increased greatly; they multiplied and grew exceedingly strong” (Exodus 1:5–7).



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# Old Testament Covenants

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- **Adamic Covenant**

- Genesis 1 - be fruitful and multiply, Genesis 3 judgment.

- **Noahic Covenant**

- Genesis 8 - God will not strike down every living creature, the rainbow would be a sign.

- **Abrahamic Covenant** - Unconditional

- Genesis 12 - God will make his name great and bless him.



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# Old Testament Covenants

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- **Mosaic Covenant** - Conditional
  - Conditional covenant, God promises to bless Israel, advances certain promises of the Abrahamic Covenant.
- **Davidic Covenant** - 2 Samuel 7 - Unconditional
  - Eternal lineage, the Messiah, His descendants will rule forever.
- **New Covenant** - Jeremiah 31:31-34, Ezekiel 36:24-28, Joel 2



Covenant	Scripture	Substance	Sign
Adamic	Genesis 2:9	Adam / Eve	Tree of Life
Noah	Genesis 8:20-9:17	Flood / Ark	Rainbow
Abrahamic	Genesis 12:1-3	Land / Blessing	Circumcision
Mosaic	Exodus 31:12-18	Laws for Israel	Sabbath
David	2 Samuel 7:4-17	Rule through David	Messiah
New	Jeremiah 31:27-34	Salvation	Resurrection