

Introduction: All Scripture is given by God to us for our benefit – IF we will receive it. Paul told his ‘son in the faith’, Timothy, that every verse is useful for teaching. First, Scripture tells us what is displeasing to God, wrong in His eyes – it calls us out when we are wrong. Second, it corrects us by showing us what is pleasing in God’s eyes – what He considers right attitudes and behaviors. Finally, over time, it trains us to be righteous in our character as God is righteous in His character. (2 Timothy 3:16-17) *** That said, some passages in Scripture are a cut above the rest. *** Today’s interaction among king David, his prophet Nathan, and The Covenant God was the first time God made it clear He would send an eternal human king to earth to rule forever. The Gospel portion, given one thousand years later, says this king will also be The Savior of humanity. These passages are in the ‘Top Ten’ of Scripture, clearly showing and teaching the strong LOVE of God for frail, sinful humans. *** Now, let’s dig in to these ‘prime cuts’ so we can know God better and appreciate Him more.

I. David, at rest in a cedar house, wants to build a house for God, but He says ‘no’; however, a descendant of David will build a house for God and be the eternal king. (2 Samuel 7:1-17)

- A. When David was at rest in his house of cedar, he told Nathan the prophet that God’s ark should not dwell in a tent; but, Yahweh said David would not build Him a house of cedar. (Verses 1-7)
1. Then, because king David dwelt in his house and Yahweh had caused him to rest from all his enemies, he said to the prophet Nathan, ‘I am dwelling in a house of cedar and God’s Ark is dwelling in a tent. (Verses 1-2)
Rest: David was experiencing settled and secure rest as a gift from God.
Cedar house: I hope we have all had the experience of going in a cedar closet and closing the door. In Scripture a cedar interior always symbolizes blessing and luxury.
God’s Ark in a tent: It is clear David is concerned that his God is worse off than him.
 2. The prophet Nathan immediately responds, ‘All that is in your heart – Go! Do! Because, Yahweh is with you’. (Verse 3)
Nathan hasty: There is no evidence that Nathan prayed or sought God for His will. Yahweh immediately corrects Nathan for his hasty answer.
 3. Then that same night, The Word of Yahweh came to Nathan, ‘Go and tell My servant David: Thus says Yahweh – would you build Me a house for Me to dwell? (Verses 4-5)
Word to prophet: Nathan is now corrected by God Himself for not speaking for God to David.
Question David’s plan: With a rhetorical question, God clearly says David will not build a house of worship for Him.
 4. Because I have not dwelt in a house since the day I brought up Israel from Egypt; to this day I have dwelt in a tent and tabernacle, in all places I went, did I speak with a shepherd I commanded over the tribes to say why have you not built Me a house of cedar?’ (Verses 6-7)
Tabernacle: It is now almost five hundred years since the Tabernacle was built as the place for Yahweh to dwell according to the exact instructions He gave to Moses.
Questions: He asks the tribal leaders He commanded to shepherd his people Israel: Did I ever speak a word to you? Did I ever ask for a cedar house?
- B. Then He tells Nathan He will build a house for David, and after he dies, his seed will be raised up as eternal king (Messiah) until eternity. (Verses 8-17)
1. Thus you will say to My servant David, Yahweh of hosts says ‘I took you from following the sheep of the pasture to be prince over My people, I have been with you, cut off your enemies, and made your name great’. (Verses 8-9)
Specific to David: When Saul rebelled, Yahweh chose a young shepherd, David, and made him king instead of Saul.
Three acts to David: He has been with David everywhere he has gone, He has cut off all David’s enemies, and He has made his name great like the great ones of the earth.
 2. I will make a place for Israel and plant him to dwell in it for him, and he will not be troubled and evil men shall not afflict him as at first. (Verse 10)
Two-sided blessing for Israel: Yahweh planted Israel to live in his own place and he would no longer be troubled or afflicted by evil people.
 3. From the day I commanded judges over My people, I have given you rest from enemies, and Yahweh declares Yahweh will make to you a house; and, after you die, I will raise up your descendant and establish his kingdom, and he will build a house for My Name, and I will establish his kingdom forever. (Verses 11-13)
After David dies: ‘When your days are full and you rest with your fathers’ is a euphemism for death.
Establish his kingdom: This applies first to Solomon, who would be king after his father, but the descendant with the eternal kingdom is David’s descendant Jesus.
Build My House for My Name: Solomon built the great Temple according to the plan Yahweh gave his father David (1 Chronicles 28:19-21). But Jesus is now building a holy Temple made up of both God’s people and people of all nations (Ephesians 2:14-32).

Bottom line: Yahweh said ‘no’ to David’s desire to build a house for Him, but instead, He will build a ‘house’ to David from His descendant. And, while David will die, the eternal king who will come from Him will never die. In the end, God’s plan for David far exceeded his own plan for himself!

When God says ‘no’, He has a better way

4. When David's descendants commit iniquity they will be chastened, but Yahweh's strong LOVE will not depart from David's line (as with Saul): his kingdom will be established forever. (*Verses 14-16*)

Sons corrected: When he commits iniquity, as his Father, I will chasten him with the rod of men and with the plagues of the sons of men.

Strong LOVE always: My strong LOVE will not depart from him as when I took My strong LOVE from Saul whom I put away from before you. (*Psalms 89*)

Forever kingdom: Your kingdom will be established forever (through Messiah Jesus).

5. According to all these words and this vision, Nathan spoke to David. (*Verse 17*)

Vision: We can only wonder what the vision was, given the power of these words!

II. The angel Gabriel tells Mary she must not fear for she will give birth to a son called Savior, and he will be great and The Lord God will give him his father David's throne. (*Luke 1:30-33*)

- A. Gabriel commands Mary not to fear because she has found grace with God, and the son born to her will be called Yeshua. (*Verses 30-31*)

1. And the angel said to her, 'You must not be fearing, Mary, because you have found grace with God. (*Verse 30*)

Not fear: Gabriel ('mighty one of God', *verse 26*) senses fear in Mary and tells her she must not be afraid while he is with her.

Found grace: Then he gives the reason, she has found grace with God. Even people who put God totally at the center of their lives may not realize how much grace they have found from God.

2. Behold, you will conceive and you will bear a son. (*Verse 31a*)

Joint effort: Both verbs are of the sense that, while God will do the heavy work, Mary will cooperate with Him. (*Philippians 2:12-13* – while Mary does her part, God is working in her.)

Conceive and bear: So The Holy Spirit will come over her (*verse 35*) and she will conceive. And, although God is the Father, she will actually bear the son.

3. And you will call his name: Jesus. (*Verse 31b*)

Savior: Jesus is the English-Greek transliteration of Yeshua – Savior! He will save His people from their sins (*Matthew 1:21*).

- B. This one will be called great and will be called son of the highest, and The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and his kingdom will not end. (*Verses 32-33*)

1. This one will be great and he will be called son of the highest. (*Verse 32a*)

Great: None is greater than the highest God, and by being God's son, Jesus is as great as His Father.

2. The Lord God will give to him the throne of David his father. (*Verse 32b*)

Given throne of David: This is a direct reference back to the prophecy Yahweh gave Nathan to give to David. The very name of God is the full Covenant name of Adonai Yahweh. This word through Gabriel declares that The Lord God is fulfilling His Word to David through Jesus.

Jesus, The Savior, fulfills Nathan's Messianic Word to David.

3. And he shall be king over the house of Jacob to the ages. (*Verse 33a*)

Jacob-Israel: Jacob's name was changed to Israel ('he will be prince of God' or 'he has prevailed with God') after he wrestled with God (*Genesis 32:24-32*). So, the Savior will be king over the twelve tribes to the ages – eternity.

4. And, of His kingdom, it will not end. (*Verse 33b*)

NO limit: There will be no limit to His kingdom: in duration, in extent of the earth it will cover, or in the people who will enter. It will go to all nations and all people will learn to obey all He commanded (*Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8*). Let us be so excited about Jesus' fulfillment of God's word to David through Nathan that we work so that no one is excluded from God's Kingdom; and, we will be motivated to seek God as to how we can work IN Him to hasten its consummation. (*2 Peter 3:8-15a*)

Jesus, The Savior, fulfills Nathan's Messianic Word to David

Conclusion: David, at rest in a cedar house, wants to build a house for God, but God says 'no'. However, God will make a descendant of David to be the eternal king. Some one thousand years later, Mary is told that her 'God-conceived' son will be called Savior and The Lord God will give him his father David's throne.

Jesus, The Savior, fulfills Nathan's Messianic Word to David