

The King's Plan

“Look at this place! It’s wonderful!” King David told his friend, the prophet Nathan. Together they walked through David’s new palace.

“Its beautiful!” Nathan agreed as he ran his hand over the beautiful woodcarving. Suddenly, David stopped.

“You know, I have this new palace to enjoy, but the ark of the covenant of the Lord is still in a tent.” Nathan wondered if David had an plan in mind.

“Do whatever you’re thinking. God will bless you,” Nathan said.

King David had a very good idea. He was going to build a temple, a big house to honor God. God had blessed him and made him king of Israel. God had given him the task of leading the Israelites and helping them keep the covenant that God had made with them. It was a very good idea to build a beautiful temple for God. David couldn’t wait to start!

However, David’s plans were not those of God. That night, the Lord spoke to Nathan.

“Tell David that I don’t want him to build a temple for me. I have incredible plans for him. I’m going to make his name great. I will also defeat the enemies of my people and give my people a safe place to live.”

Those promises were wonderful, but God had not finished talking yet.

“After David dies, his son will be king; he will build a house for me, and I will establish his throne forever. I will be his father, and he will be my son; I will never take my love away from him, as I took it away from your predecessor. I will set him over my house and my kingdom forever; his throne will be established forever.”

King David was amazed when Nathan gave him the message from God. He could not believe what Nathan had told him! The only thing he could do was praise God.

Then David said, “Who am I, Lord God, and what is my family, that you have brought me this far? And as if this were not enough in your sight, my God, you have spoken about the future of the house of your servant. You, Lord God, have looked on me as though I were the most exalted of men.”

“What more can I say to you for honoring your servant? For you know your servant, Lord. For the sake of your servant and according to your will, you have done this great thing and made known all these great promises.”

“There is no one like you, Lord, and there is no God but you, as we have heard with our own ears. And who is like your people Israel—the one nation on earth whose God went out to redeem a people for himself, and to make a name for yourself, and to perform great and awesome wonders by driving out nations from before your people, whom you redeemed from Egypt? You made your people Israel your very own forever, and you, Lord, have become their God.”

“And now, Lord, let the promise you have made concerning your servant and his house be established forever. Do as you promised, so that it will be established and your name will be great forever. Then people will say, ‘The Lord Almighty, the God over Israel, is Israel’s God!’ And the house of your servant David will be established before you.”

“You, my God, have revealed to your servant that you will build a house for him. So your servant