

III. Finding the Yes Behind God's No

When God Says No...

1. It isn't rejection. It's _____.

Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it."

Isaiah 30:21 (NIV)

2. It isn't punishment. It's _____.

For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Ephesians 2:10 (NIV)

3. We may be blessed to _____ someone else's _____.

David made abundant preparations before his death. Then he called for his son Solomon and charged him to build a house for the LORD God of Israel.

1 Chronicles 22:5-6 (NIV)

4. It's an invitation to _____ in God's story.

All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance, admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth.

Hebrews 11:13 (NIV)

God's Unchanging Yes: "I will build a house for you!"

But Christ is faithful as the Son over God's house. And we are his house, if indeed we hold firmly to our confidence and the hope in which we glory.

Hebrews 3:6 (NIV)



sermon notes

"When God Says No"

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CHRISTCHURCHVA.ORG/SERMONS

I. From Israel's Most Wanted to Israel's Highest Authority

A. David Refuses to Kill Saul

"Now's your opportunity!" David's men whispered to him. "Today the LORD is telling you, 'I will certainly put your enemy into your power, to do with as you wish.'" ...But then David's conscience began bothering him...he said to his men, "The LORD forbid that I should do this to my lord the king. I shouldn't attack the LORD's anointed one, for the LORD himself has chosen him." So David restrained his men and did not let them kill Saul.

1 Samuel 24:4-7 (NLT)

B. David "Plays" the Enemy

But David thought to himself, "One of these days I will be destroyed by the hand of Saul. The best thing I can do is to escape to the land of the Philistines. Then Saul will give up searching for me anywhere in Israel, and I will slip out of his hand." So David and the six hundred men with him left and went over to Achish son of Maach king of Gath.

1 Samuel 27:1-2 (NIV)

As the Philistine rulers marched with their units of hundreds and thousands, David and his men were marching at the rear with Achish. The commanders of the Philistines asked, "What about these Hebrews?" Achish replied, "Is this not David, who was an officer of Saul king of Israel? He has already been with me for over a year, and from the day he left Saul until now, I have found no fault in him." But the Philistine commanders were angry with Achish and said, "Send the man back, that he may return to the place you assigned him. He must not go with us into battle, or he will turn against us during the fighting."

1 Samuel 29:2-4 (NIV)

C. Saul Dies and King David Rises

Now the Philistines fought against Israel; the Israelites fled before them, and many fell dead on Mount Gilboa. The Philistines were in hot pursuit of Saul and his sons, and they killed his sons Jonathan, Abinadab and Malki-Shua. The fighting grew fierce around Saul, and when the archers overtook him, they wounded him critically...so Saul took his own sword and fell on it.

1 Samuel 31:1-4 (NIV)

Following This:

- David is anointed king over the house of Judah (2 Samuel 2:4).
- There is war between the houses of David and Saul. Over time David grew stronger as Saul's house grew weaker (2 Samuel 3:1).
- After Saul's son, Ish-Bosheth dies, all of Israel's leaders make David their king:

All the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron and said, "We are your own flesh and blood. In the past, while Saul was king over us, you were the one who led Israel on their military campaigns. And the LORD said to you, 'You will shepherd my people Israel, and you will become their ruler.'" When all the elders of Israel had come to King David at Hebron, the king made a covenant with them at Hebron before the LORD, and they anointed David king over Israel.

2 Samuel 5:1-3 (NIV)

Then David:

- Takes Jerusalem and makes it Israel's capital (2 Samuel 5:6-12).
- Brings the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem on the site of the future temple (2 Samuel 6:17).

David remained a man after God's heart. He wasn't willing to kill Saul but trusted in the Lord's timing to bring about every promise. He trusted God to get him out of enemy territory even though he was on a collision course with his own people. And he trusted God to establish his throne in the middle of a civil war. That is why God entrusted him with Israel.

The question now: will David continue trusting God in a season of rest?

II. David's Season of Rest – A Tale of Three Houses

A. David's Dream: Build a House for God

After the king was settled in his palace and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, he said to Nathan the prophet, "Here I am, living in a house of cedar, while the ark of God remains in a tent." Nathan replied to the king, "Whatever you have in mind, go ahead and do it, for the LORD is with you."

2 Samuel 7:1-3 (NIV)

House #1: _____

B. God Says No To David's Dream

But that night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, saying: "Go and tell my servant David, 'This is what the LORD says: Are you the one to build me a house to dwell in? I have not dwelt in a house from the day I brought the Israelites up out of Egypt to this day. I have been moving from place to place with a tent as my dwelling. Wherever I have moved with all the Israelites, did I ever say to any of their rulers whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, 'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?'"

2 Samuel 7:4-7 (NIV)

House #2: _____

C. God's Dream: Build a House for David

"The LORD declares to you that the LORD himself will establish a house for you: When your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom. He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with a rod wielded by men, with floggings inflicted by human hands. But my love will never be taken away from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever."

2 Samuel 7:11-16 (NIV)

House #3: _____

God revealed to Nathan that David's building plans for God would interfere with God's building plans for David.

Answer key

House #1: DAVID'S PALACE

House #2: THE TEMPLE

House #3: A DYNASTY

1. It isn't rejection. It's REDIRECTION.
2. It isn't punishment. It's PREPARATION.
3. We may be blessed to SUPPORT someone else's YES.
4. It's an invitation to ACCEPT OUR ROLE in God's story.