

TITLE OF MESSAGE: “My House Is Your House” / “Mi Casa Su Casa”
TEXT: Joshua 24:15 and 2 Samuel 7
DATE PREACHED: Wed. Sep. 27, 2006 Evening Chapel NBC

Main Idea: When we covenant with God to influence our household to serve Him and to build His House, God responds by not only being present with us, but by building up our house as well. For we are making a covenant that says: “My House Is Your House” and God covenants with us to bless and protect our house and to use us to His glory.

INTRODUCTION:

When Chaplain Lyke asked me to speak, he reminded me of the worship theme for the year found in Joshua 24:15. We say it aloud each time we meet together.

BIBLICAL PASSAGE

COMMENTS / COMMENTARY

but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD. Josh 24:15 (KJV)

¹⁵ But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.
 Josh 24:15 (NIV)

Joshua’s statement is a bold covenant ... a statement of faith ... a testimony of determination... a commitment to faithfulness in his service to God. But it is a statement that has meaning not only for Joshua but for his entire “house”

I thought I would do a thorough exegesis of the Joshua passage and so I began my study. But, there are times when God comes in and moves you out of your comfort zone and leads us into different waters. After you have preached for a while you discover that you tend to adopt a form and develop a style with which you are most comfortable and confident. For me it is to be very exegetical and to avoid the topical. But, from time to time, God rattles your cage and says but I want you to discover this and to share this. Such is the case with that which I present to you this evening. As I read the theme the word HOUSE just kept leaping out at me like a neon sign. Ok, I thought, I’ll just look it up. I did and here is what I found:

Hebrew Word Transliteration: bayith **Phonetic Pronunciation:** bah'-yith

—Strong's Greek & Hebrew Dictionary

Like many Hebrew words the same word is used to mean different things, depending upon the context.

House: “bahyith” means...

House – building

Home – more than a building... but the dwelling where family life takes place

Temple – thus the house of God

Prison – a place where captives are housed

Household - A family line – one who is the head of a clan – The House of Israel, the House of David

From there I began to look at all the ways in which house was used in significant passages in the Old Testament. I wanted to know, just what did Joshua have in mind when he made that statement.

As a matter of fact, the following questions surfaced in my thinking.

What did Joshua mean?

What do we mean when we recite that as our theme?

And the important question to ask in any sermon: So what difference does it make?

In my searching I came across a rather unique instance where the word house “bayith” was used in almost all of its meanings. It is found in 2 Samuel Chapter 7.

In this passage we have another great covenant statement. As we begin the passage we are overtaken with David’s joy and determination to do something great for God who has been so good to him. David has this fine palace made of cedar: a beautiful, strong, aromatic wood and it is beautifully adorned. I will build God a house worthy of His name! David decides.

But interestingly enough, while Nathan the prophet thinks that is a great idea, God bursts in on the scene and says... no thanks not now... I am more interested in building you a house. David has in mind a building for God. God has in mind a legacy of faith built into a family called the House of David.

You and I are much like David. We have been called and anointed of God. We have made sacrifices in time, schedule, money, priorities... to answer that call. God has been so faithful to us, we just want to go out there and build His Kingdom! God whatever you want, here I am. As for me and my house... we are going to serve God!

And God responds to us... Great... but in the meantime, I want you to know that I want to build YOUR house!

When I covenant with God ...’As for me and my house we will serve the Lord.... I can get all caught up in all the things I want to do for God, and if I am not careful I treat this thing like it is all up to me.

But our God is a covenant, partnering God. He says to us... “Great, and while you are doing that, I am going to do some building of my own. I am going to build you into a great household where I live too!

So while you and I are here at NBC learning, ministering, giving, and building the house of God, let us at the same time be sure we are keeping our hearts open to what God really wants.. which is to build us up... to build up our household into a mighty legacy of faith and righteousness.

Let me share with you what I learned from 2 Samuel Chapter 7.

This passage is referred to as the Davidic Covenant. God promises to honor David by making

his household the physical lineage of the coming Messiah. Wow... what a promise!

GOD'S RESPONSE AND INSTRUCTION TO DAVID

⁹ I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men of the earth. ¹⁰ And I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed. Wicked people will not oppress them anymore, as they did at the beginning ¹¹ and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders over my people Israel. I will also give you rest from all your enemies. "The LORD declares to you that the LORD himself will establish a house for you: 2 Sam 7:9-11 (NIV)

DAVID'S RESPONSE TO GOD

David's Prayer

¹⁸ Then King David went in and sat before the LORD, and he said:

"Who am I, O Sovereign LORD, and what is my family, that you have brought me this far? ¹⁹ And as if this were not enough in your sight, O Sovereign LORD, you have also spoken about the future of the house of your servant. Is this your usual way of dealing with man, O Sovereign LORD?

²⁰ "What more can David say to you? For you know your servant, O Sovereign LORD. ²¹ For the sake of your word and according to your will, you have done this great thing and made it known to your servant.

²² "How great you are, O Sovereign LORD! There is no one like you, and there is no God but you, as we have heard with our own ears. ²³ And who is like your people Israel--the one nation on earth that God went out to redeem as a people for himself, and to make a name for himself, and to perform great and awesome wonders by driving out nations and their gods from before your people, whom you redeemed from Egypt? ²⁴ You have established your people Israel as your very own forever, and you, O LORD, have become their God.

²⁵ "And now, LORD God, keep forever the promise you have made concerning your servant and his house. Do as you promised, ²⁶ so that your name will be great forever. Then men will say, 'The LORD Almighty is God over Israel!' And the house of your servant David will be established before you.

²⁷ "O LORD Almighty, God of Israel, you have revealed this to your servant, saying, 'I will build a house for you.' So your servant has found courage to offer you this prayer. ²⁸ O Sovereign LORD, you are God! Your words are trustworthy, and you have promised these good things to your servant. ²⁹ Now be pleased to bless the house of your servant, that it may continue forever in your sight; for you, O Sovereign LORD, have spoken, and with your blessing the house of your servant will be blessed forever."

2 Sam 7:18-29 (NIV)

LIKE DAVID MY HEART IS FILLED WITH PRAISE WHEN I SEE GOD'S MARVELOUS BLESSINGS AND I AM REMINDED OF HIS COMMITMENT TO ME AS WELL AS MY

COMMITMENT TO HIM AND I WANT TO CRY OUT TO HIM... OH GOD MY HOUSE IS
YOUR HOUSE... MI CASA SU CASA

MY HOUSE YOUR HOUSE – MI CASA SU CASA
A Wonderful Covenant Relationship With God

I. A Powerful Covenant – made by sincere loving servants

“As for me and my house... we will serve the Lord.”

“Lord I want to build your house”

II A Precious Promise and Response - made by a loving covenant making God

“I will be with you wherever you go”

“I will establish a house for you.”

III A Practical and Meaningful Response – made by grateful and loving servants

Praise (18 – 22) “God how good You are , there is none like You!”

(23 – 24) “How marvelous your redemption and grace!”

Glory (25 -29) “I want you to receive all the glory... it is about YOU not me!”

Service (19 – 29) “O Lord, I am your humble servant” (10 times!)

Application: So what does that look like? What am I supposed to do with this?

I believe with all my heart that God wants us to remember that while we are dedicated to building His House... His Kingdom... His Church... that we must never forget that God is dedicated to building a house for us where he can live in our hearts and in our homes so that our lives and our ministries will truly be a blessing, and bring glory and honor to His name! It is a covenant... as partnership... a loving relationship where God is building in us so that we will have what we need to build for Him.

I think I can explain what I mean with the example of Mi Casa Su Casa.

Illustration: Two Hispanic Families – Juan & Alicia Urrea and Sam & Maria Escalante

Not guests... but family Standing invitation Loving Acceptance

Constant encouragement Growing love and fellowship

Truly, they made me feel like their house was my house too.. I was at home

Are you at home with God tonight? Is God at home in your house?

Are you just guests and acquaintances that drop by from time to time or is there a genuine growing love, fellowship, familiarity, and openness between you, your family and God.

HOW DOE WE MAKE OUR HOUSE – HIS HOUSE? IT BEGINS WITH SOME DECISIONS
THAT WE MAKE IN FOLLOWING UP ON OUR COVENANT STATEMENT... ME AND
MY HOUSE... WE WILL SERVE THE LORD

BEGIN BY SERVING THE LORD AT HOME AND MAKING YOUR HOME A PLACE

WHERE GOD IS WELCOME. WE WANT OUR HOME TO HAVE THE SAME KIND OF CHARACTERISTICS AS THE HOUSE OF GOD. AND IF I LOOK AT PASSAGES WHERE GOD'S HOUSE IS DESCRIBED I BEGIN TO DISCOVER SOME DESIRED ATTRIBUTES.

Praise the LORD, all you servants of the LORD who minister by night in the house of the LORD. ² Lift up your hands in the sanctuary and praise the LORD. Psalms 134:1-2 (NIV)

MY HOUSE WILL BE A HOUSE WHERE PEOPLE PRAISE GOD AND THANK HIM FOR OUR MANY BLESSINGS IT WILL BE A HOUSE OF PRAISE

¹ Guard your steps when you go to the house of God. Go near to listen ... Eccl 5:1 (NIV)

MY HOUSE WILL BE A HOUSE WHERE WE LISTEN TO THE VOICE OF GOD AND TO EACH OTHER

"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths." Isaiah 2:3 (NIV)

MY HOUSE WILL BE A PLACE WHERE GOD'S WORD IS MORE THAN AN ORNAMENT ON THE COFFEE TABLE, IT WILL BE OUR INSTRUCTION BOOK

for my house will be called a house of prayer ... Isaiah 56:7 (NIV)

MY HOUSE WILL BE A HOUSE OF PRAYER... IT WILL BE MORE THAN JUST AT MEAL TIME

⁶ Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever. Psalms 23:6 (NIV)

MY HOUSE WILL BE A PLACE WHERE GOD DWELLS AND WE WILL WANT TO BE WITH HIM HIS PRESENCE SHALL BE PRECIOUS TO US

² My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God. Psalms 84:2 (NIV)

MY HOUSE SHALL BE HIS HOUSE DURING THE WEEK SO THAT WHEN MY FAMILY GATHER AT HIS HOUSE FOR WORSHIP, WE BRING WITH US LOVE, JOY, PRAISE AND A DESIRE TO BE IN HIS PRESENCE

¹ I rejoiced with those who said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD."

Psalms 122:1 (NIV)

MY HOUSE SHALL BE A HOUSE OF JOY AND GLADNESS. FOR IT WILL BE A REFUGE, A SHELTER IN THE TIME OF STORM, A PLACE WHERE SORROW AND MOURNING ARE REPLACED WITH JOY AND GLADNESS.

¹³ Then maidens will dance and be glad, young men and old as well.

I will turn their mourning into gladness;
I will give them comfort and joy instead of
sorrow. Jer 31:13 (NIV)

CONCLUSION: So I ask myself. Does my house look like His house? Is my house his house? Does he live there and in me and not just in the church? Do my children see our house this way?

Does it really matter?

I made that covenant with God and He knows that I mean it, but I have children and other family members who are not right with God? Does my covenant matter?

ILLUSTRATION: Mark – the prodigal for 10 long years... finally comes home.
“Mom and Dad... you did nothing wrong. You lived what you preached, you set the example, and you gave me plenty of love... but most of all you never changed... so that when I got sick of sin... I knew where to come home.”

Even now... he hears us lift up his name as we prayed with him every day. And when we were going to be gone... his mother would write a little prayer book for him to read while we were away.

YES, IT REALLY MATTERS WHETHER OR NOT YOUR HOUSE IS HIS HOUSE!

HAVE YOU SAID TO GOD.... MI CASA SU CASA?

WHAT WOULD HAVE TO CHANGE IN YOU AND IN THE WAY YOU LIVE TO MAKE THESE THINGS TRUE OF YOUR HOUSE AND YOUR HOUSEHOLD?

WHY NOT TAKE SOME TIME RIGHT NOW TO MAKE A NEW COVENANT WITH GOD AND SAY TO HIM... LORD MI CASA ... SU CASA.

LET'S PRAY