

# 1 Chronicles 17:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Go and tell David my servant, Thus saith the LORD, Thou shalt not build me an house to dwell in:

## Analysis

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**Theological Analysis:** This passage falls within the section on Davidic Covenant - God's promise of eternal dynasty. The Hebrew term **עולם** (olam) - everlasting/eternal is theologically significant here, pointing to God's unconditional covenant promises. The Chronicler's narrative, while paralleling Samuel-Kings in places, offers a distinct theological perspective emphasizing temple worship, Levitical service, and covenant faithfulness.

Chronicles presents David not primarily as warrior-king but as worship organizer and temple planner. This verse contributes to that portrait by highlighting the spiritual dimensions of Israel's national life. The text demonstrates that true prosperity comes through proper worship and covenant obedience rather than merely military or political success.

Doctrinally, this passage teaches about God's unconditional covenant promises. Cross-references throughout Chronicles connect David's reign to the broader redemptive narrative, showing how God's covenant promises advance through faithful human leadership while ultimately depending on divine grace and power. The messianic implications are profound: Jesus as eternal Son of David.

## Historical Context

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**Historical Background:** This section describes events from David's reign (c. 1010-970 BCE) but was written centuries later during the Persian period (c.

450-400 BCE). The Chronicler's selectivity in retelling David's story serves his theological purposes—he omits David's sins (Bathsheba, Absalom's rebellion) while emphasizing David's worship reforms and temple preparations.

The historical setting of Davidic Covenant - God's promise of eternal dynasty occurred during Israel's united monarchy, when the nation reached its territorial and political zenith. Archaeological evidence from this period shows significant building projects and administrative development. However, the Chronicler writes for a much smaller, struggling post-exilic community, using David's golden age to inspire hope for restoration.

Ancient Near Eastern parallels show that temple construction and royal sponsorship of worship were common across cultures. However, Israel's understanding of worship centered on covenant relationship with the one true God rather than manipulation of capricious deities. This theological distinctiveness shapes the Chronicler's presentation.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

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1. How does this verse's emphasis on God's unconditional covenant promises challenge or affirm your current spiritual priorities and practices?
2. What does Jesus as eternal Son of David teach you about Jesus Christ and His redemptive work?
3. In what practical ways can you apply the principles of covenant faithfulness and proper worship demonstrated in this passage?

## Interlinear Text

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לֹא	יְהוָה	אָמַר	כֹּה	עַבְדִּי	דָּוִד	אֵל	אָמַר	לֵךְ
H3808	the LORD	Thus saith	H3541	my servant	H1732	David	Thus saith	H1980
	H3068	H559		H5650			H559	
לְשֹׁכֶתִי	הִבֵּיתִי	לִי	תִבְנֶה	אֶתְּ	הָ			
H3427	me an house	H0	H1129	Thou shalt not build	H859			
	H1004							

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