

"How I should like to build a beautiful house for God to dwell in" (for the ark to rest in). David tells Nathan the prophet (explain) what his wishes are and Nathan tells him to go on and build, for God is with him; but that night a message came to Nathan from God for David. God said He had not dwelt in a house since the ark had been with Israel, but had gone from tent to tent (as one wore out, a new one was made), and had never yet asked the people to build a house for Him.

God's Message to David—God asked David to remember that He took him from the pasture field where he had been tending his sheep and had made him king of Israel and had been with him through all the years, helping him to fight against enemies and had made him a great soldier and a great king, and still God would bless him and make him able to conquer all enemies, and "I will build thee an house", said God. He meant He would raise up a long line of children and grandchildren and great-grandchildren to be kings after David. "But", the message said, "You shall not build a house for me, David, but after you are gone to heaven your son shall build me a house." All David could do was to gather material and seek the friendship of those who would help Solomon, and seek for a peaceful reign for

his son and successor, Solomon.

God's Promises to David—God also made some beautiful promises to David about his family—God said He would take care of them and be a father to them and keep them in His kingdom forever. God meant that Jesus would come into the family of David years later and would be King of the whole earth forever. What wonderful promises God made to David! And every promise was fulfilled—God did for David and his family all he said He would do and made them great and sent Jesus to them in due time.

David's Thanks to God—Then David having received the promises went into the tent before the ark and praised and thanked God for all His goodness to him and his family and prayed that His blessings would rest on them forever.

Golden Text—Repeat the Golden Text.

Repeat—

Father-like He tends and spares us;
Well our feeble frame He knows;
In His hands He gently bears us
Rescues us from all our foes:
Praise Him! praise Him!
Widely as His mercy flows.

—Hymn 25, Book of Praise.

Something to Think About—God's promises are sure.

FROM THE PLATFORM

GOD'S OUR GIFTS TO US GOD

Talk with the scholars about what God had given to David,—guidance and protection all his life, victory over his enemies, his throne, a beautiful palace, etc. Now ask what David wished to give to God in return,—a house in which the ark might rest, instead of in a tent. Print on the blackboard, God's Gifts To Us, and turn the conversation to these. Health, strength, home, education,—how many of these gifts there are. And, most wonderful of all, there is the Gift of Jesus, God's Son. Print, Our gifts to GOD. Ask what these should be. The scholars will reply that we should give money, time, etc., to God's service. Bring out clearly the great reason why we should offer our gifts to God,—because of all that He has given us; and also what should be the measure of our gifts,—the more God gives to us, the more should we give back to Him. Sing Hymn 238, Book of Praise.