

Living as a Blank Check

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at Oak Grove Baptist Church, Paducah, Ky.
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2 Samuel 15:25-26

Then the king said to Zadok, "Carry the ark of God back into the city. If I find favor in the eyes of the LORD, He will bring me back and show me both it and His dwelling place. 26 But if He says thus: 'I have no delight in you,' here I am, let Him do to me as seems good to Him."

At the end of last month, the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention announced that David Platt, pastor and author of the best selling book *Radical* will be the new IMB President. This is a wise choice and I believe an act of God's grace. When Platt announced his decision to accept the position he said these words,

We talk all the time about laying down a blank check with our lives before God, with no strings attached, willing to go wherever He leads, give whatever He asks, and do whatever He commands in order to make His glory known among the nations of the earth, particularly among people who have never heard the Gospel.

I do not apologize for borrowing Platt's term, "laying down a blank check" because a preacher must not just preach what he originates otherwise he will be a very shallow preacher and his congregation will only be given a diet of only one man's brains. Spurgeon said, "Give yourself unto reading. The man who never reads will never be read; he who never quotes will never be quoted. He who will not use the thoughts of other men's brains, proves that he has no brains of his own."

I'm not concerned that you may think I am stealing another man's sermon because I am not. In fact, the sermon is not original with Platt. I remember many years ago reading the famous 19th century evangelist, D. L. Moody who said,

So are you willing, not to present YOUR program to God for HIS signature?—Not even to be presented with GOD'S program for YOUR signature, but are you willing to sign a BLANK SHEET OF PAPER and let GOD fill it in without your even knowing in advance what His program is going to be? Think about it. Are you willing to honestly and sincerely turn your life over to Him and then do WHATEVER He wants you to do? If so, God has a WONDERFUL and GLORIOUS future in store for you!

The question is not the source of the quote but is it true? Is my life to be a signed blank check given to God? The answer is yes. The ultimate source for such an idea is of course the Bible and it is what's led me to interrupt our series on *The Apprentice* and speak to you from this text. This

text is a perfect example of a man signing a blank check and giving it to God saying, “Do whatever You want.”

The story begins many years before the event unfolds in the fifteenth chapter of second Samuel. Twenty-two years before this day, David had committed his own acts of treason against his King, the Lord God, when he sinned against Uriah by committing adultery against his wife Bathsheba and then murdering him to cover up the iniquity. Years later, David’s eldest son Amnon would also follow in his father’s perversions and lust for his half sister Tamar. Amnon did shameful things with her and when her full brother Absalom, the fourth son of David, waited for his father to do something about it but didn’t, his rage increased not only against Amnon but against his own father.

Two years after Amnon had his way with his Tamar, Absalom plotted and carried out his brother’s murder. Then he fled as a fugitive from David’s jurisdiction and for a couple of years he remained outside of Israeli law, until Joab convinced David to bring him back. David said, “I will as long as I don’t see his face.” For another four years he would not look upon his son Absalom.

Those ensuing years did nothing but create a greater rift in the heart of Absalom toward his father and rage built up until he decided he would not sit idly by while his father reigned. He would have his father’s throne so he plotted a coup. Like a politician currying the favor of the people he began to persuade them that he would be a better judge than David his father, “David is too busy trying to build a temple and build a kingdom and he’s not giving you a fair hearing. But if you make me king, I’ll give you a fair hearing.” With time he won the favor of the people and if there would have been a vote David might not have won. Having gained some of the advisors and key leaders of David’s administration, Absalom began his revolt.

The news of the coup came, on the day of our text. David decides that he will not have Jerusalem be ground zero for a civil war so he picks up his household, gathers his closest and most loyal followers. The very men who had been with him during his exile as Saul had chased him remained loyal to David. Together they leave Jerusalem. One of David’s supporters, a good one to have, was the High Priest Zadok. Zadok and his sons had gone into the tabernacle, taken the Ark of the Covenant, the sign of God’s presence, and went with David. As they company proceeded out of Jerusalem, they crossed the Brook of Kidron, and climbed the Mount of Olives out of sight. There was Zadok and his sons carrying the Ark of the Covenant when David turns to him and says the words of our text.

Then the king said to Zadok, “Carry the ark of God back into the city. If I find favor in the eyes of the LORD, He will bring me back and show me both it and His dwelling place.”²⁶ But if He says thus: ‘I have no delight in you,’ here I am, let Him do to me as seems good to Him.”

Here is a man who has signed the blank check and turned it over to God and said, “God, whatever You want. I’m submissive. I’m yielded. Let Your will be done.”

Is your life a blank check, signed and turned over to God? Can He do with you whatever He pleases? This is the question and it's the most serious question you could be presented. It's important how you answer. Don't answer flippantly and don't just say the right thing because you know what the right answer is. Listen to your heart. What are your heart's desires? That will show you the answer. Does God have you lock, stock, and barrel? Are you all His and are you all in to whatever He wants for your life?

I. Offering Your Life as a Blank Check Acknowledges God Has Absolute Freedom

Only God can do what He wants to do all the time. Only God do as He pleases all of the time. Why? Because He's absolutely sovereign, meaning He has all power and authority. He's in control at all times. You and I, on the other hand, do not have absolute freedom. We do have limited freedom; we can choose and choose contrary to what God has spoken. Often we actually ignore God altogether and do not consult or inquire of what the Lord might have us do. We have freedom to make choices, however we do not have absolute freedom.

If I could do anything I pleased I would relieve the poverty of this world. But I can't do what I please. I don't have that freedom because I don't have the abilities. I can't even relieve the poverty of one soul here today. I don't have absolute freedom to do everything I want to do. If it were my will and my way, I would grab the heart and soul of this nation and turn it back to God. I would have a moral and political change in this country. But I do not have the freedom to do that. God has given us certain perimeters in which we can choose as we please, but no one in this room has absolute freedom. It is guaranteed when your will bucks up against God's will and God is determined that His will be done His way—you're going to lose every time. That is a certainty you need not argue or quibble with.

A. Life is For God and God's Purposes.

He has made each and every one of you to do what He wanted you to do. In other words, you were made for a distinct reason. Every one of you has a distinct and purpose for life. Your purpose is not my purpose. Your purpose is not identical with anyone else. Your purpose is perfectly suited to you and your personality and what God has made you to be. That is what David knew. David knew that he was made by God and for God's purposes and so he said to Zadok the high priest, "Whatever God wants to do with me, so be it. If he wants to restore my kingdom to me, I shall return to Jerusalem and I will see the Ark of the Covenant again and I will be able to worship in the tabernacle. But if He doesn't, if He's done with me, then here I am, Lord, do whatever is right in Your own eyes. Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?" David had a firm conviction that God had a purpose for him and that he was to live according to that purpose and so are you.

When we say these kinds of things we must clarify what we mean because there is a lot of misunderstanding. Some people want to take the idea of God's sovereignty and confuse it with fatalism.

B. Sovereignty vs. Fatalism.

This is not fatalism. Worldly fatalism says events are fixed in advance so that human beings are powerless to change them. “Whatever will be will be. It is determined and thus there is nothing you can do other than what has been determined.” People believe there is some cosmic force; some call it karma that determines all that happens.

There is also a Christian fatalism that is similar that says, “It doesn’t matter what I do, God will do what He wants in spite of it.” Unfortunately many people who claim the sovereignty of God are the ones who subscribe to this Christian fatalism. But that is not the doctrine of God’s sovereignty.

Suppose you received a grade on an important exam that was less than you thought you deserved. You are convinced the teacher made a serious mistake. If you mistake Christian fatalism for God’s sovereignty you could reason with yourself, “Don’t go to the teacher and protest this. It must be God’s will that I received a bad grade. Perhaps the Lord is trying to teach me a lesson about humility.”

The great Roman orator Cicero explained fatalism like this, “If it is fated for you to recover from this illness, then you will recover, whether you call a doctor or not. Likewise, if you are fated not to recover, you will not do so, whether you call a doctor or not. Therefore, it is futile to consult a doctor.”

That’s fatalism. If David was a fatalist or determinist he would have never left Jerusalem and would have left his fate entirely in the hands of what had been predetermined. He would have said, “If God wants me to remain king, I will; if not, then it doesn’t matter what I do. I will not be king.”

Rather, David mobilized his supporters and fled Jerusalem. He made Zadok and his two sons return to Jerusalem with the Ark to be spies and send him word of Absalom’s activities. He prays expectantly that God will intervene. In Psalm 3 you have a prayer David prays while he’s actually fleeing from Absalom and Jerusalem. Read and see if you see fatalism in this Psalm.

Lord, how they have increased who trouble me!

Many are they who rise up against me.

² Many are they who say of me,

“There is no help for him in God.” Selah

³ But You, O Lord, are a shield for me,

My glory and the One who lifts up my head.

⁴ I cried to the Lord with my voice,

And He heard me from His holy hill.

⁵ I lay down and slept;

I awoke, for the Lord sustained me.

⁶ I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people

*Who have set themselves against me all around.
 ⁷ Arise, O Lord;
 Save me, O my God!
For You have struck all my enemies on the cheekbone;
 You have broken the teeth of the ungodly.
 ⁸ Salvation belongs to the Lord.
 Your blessing is upon Your people.*

Does that sound like somebody who believed, “Que Sera Sera, whatever will be will be”? Not hardly. David knows he has a responsibility in all of this. He knows that God’s sovereignty does not eliminate his responsibility to choose and make decisions and be led by the Spirit.

What David confesses in this statement is that his sins may have disqualified him as king. That is why he says, “But if He says thus: ‘I have no delight in you,’ here I am, let Him do to me as seems good to Him.” This is not a statement that should be read as, “If God still loves me then He will bring me back, but if He doesn’t love me anymore than here I am; let Him do to me as seems God to Him.” That’s not what David is saying. He understands what’s happening to him because Nathan told him it would happen. “Nathan told me 22 years ago that the sword would not depart from my house and that one of my own would do what is happening this very day. Absalom is fulfilling that prophecy today.” David knew why this was happening. It was because of his own sins 22 years earlier, so he said, “Lord, if this is the day You choose to remove me from the kingdom because of what I have done, so be it, but I know You still love me. I know You’re still with me. I know You will be with me until my very end. I’m a blank check, God, do with me whatever You want.”

Therefore, because you are not a Christian fatalist you go to your teacher/professor and explain why you believe you should not have received an underserved grade on the test, praying that God will help you and the teacher to do the right thing. As a result, the teacher realizes his or her mistake and corrects it. Why would you do this? Because you believe in the sovereignty of God.

Many of us who believe in God’s sovereignty can easily become fatalists. We blame “God’s will” for circumstances that are the results of our own failures or laziness rather than taking the advice of Augustine, “Pray like everything depends on God, and work as if everything depends on you.” That is the confession of a man who believed strongly in the sovereignty of God.

Because we’re lazy we therefore want to shove everything off onto God and say, “Whatever will be will be.” There are some Christians in this room very content just to crawl into heaven by the skin of their teeth so that they will not have to roll up their sleeves and go to work exerting themselves and sacrificing where it’s painful. Therefore they lie upon a couch called Christian fatalism and call it resting in the sovereignty of God. That is displeasing to the Lord and not the biblical doctrine of the sovereignty of God.

Ravi Zacharias’ tells an illustration of this in his book, *The Grand Weaver*. It’s an illustration about a sari. A sari is a long garment, a long piece of cloth that’s beautifully decorated in rich colors, that

Hindu women will wrap around her. They go from the shoulder down to the knees and wraps around. Zacharias says:

Some years ago, I was visiting a place known for making the best wedding saris in the world—saris rich in gold and silver threads, resplendent with an array of colors. I expected to see some elaborate system of machines that would boggle the mind. Not so! Each sari was made individually by a father and son team. The father sat above the son on a platform, surrounded by several spools of thread that he would gather into his fingers. The son did just one thing. At a nod from his father, he would move the shuttle from one side to the other and back again. This would be repeated for hundreds of hours, till a magnificent pattern began to emerge. The son had the easy task—just to move at the father’s nod. All along, the father had the design in his mind and brought the right threads together.

Could you do what the son did, pulling the shuttle right to left and then left to right? Of course you could. Even a monkey could do that. You just move the shuttle from right to left at the father’s nod.

But my next question is could you and I do what the Father did, weave the threads in such a way to create a masterful artistic design that someone would pay hundreds of dollars for?

God is designing your life like a woven tapestry of beauty and He looks at you and nods through His word, prayer, the brothers and sisters in the church, circumstances. You are to respond to His nod. At the end of your life as you stand before God you will say, “But for your grace, oh Lord, I would have never made here!” God, your Father, will look at you and say, “Well done thou good and faithful servant.”

That’s how God and His sovereignty works. He doesn’t bypass us. He doesn’t eliminate us. He’s very much involved in your life but you have to work in submission to Him. So therefore, the question is, are you willing to be a blank check before God? Are you willing to sign your name not knowing what God will do with you and from this moment obey every nod of His head? Are you willing?

Offering Your Life as a Blank Check Requires You to Know God is God and Not You.

II. Offering Your Life as a Blank Check to God is to Live For His Glory

A. Life’s Ultimate Purpose.

Life’s ultimate purpose is to glorify the One who made you. Go back to my illustration last week with Abigail’s drawings. The drawings are to glorify and magnify her and her love for the person to whom she gives her artistic work. We’re merely the artwork of God.

You didn't make yourself and who are you to think you know all contingencies in life and that you'll know them before you need to make a decision so you can make the right decision every single time and maneuver through this world of landmines of sorrows and pains and suffering and get there completely like Jesus by your own effort? We're here by the design of the Artist. We're His artwork and therefore our purpose is to shine and point back to the Artist who is so amazing in His creative abilities.

David knew that his life had an ultimate purpose, not to be king but to glorify God. Your ultimate purpose is not to work at a certain business. Your ultimate purpose is not to have security for the number of years you're on this earth. Your purpose is not to produce children and rear them to be God-fearing people. Your ultimate purpose is to glorify God in all that you do.

Most of the time we live for lesser purposes than God's glory. Confess it. Most of the time we are wasting our lives trying to build security, trying to have kids that are the best kids, trying to do this or that. We're wasting time trying to get ahead on the job. Most of the time we give our lives for things that are so frivolous and have no eternal consequence.

God gives us the ability to point people to Him. He made us, designed us, and gifted us with talents and spiritual gifts in such a way that you will be a mirror image to others of Him and His glory. He's the King of the universe and He gives us the opportunity to represent Him wherever we go. One day His kingdom will not just be in heaven but on earth and all will see everything good we did was by the nod of His head. Will He find us obedient and faithful? If we are obedient, He will reward us before all men and they will see the person they scoffed, undermined, and ridiculed was really a prince with God and man.

It is like going through the education process for the distinct purpose of hanging out with friends. The only reason you go to school is to see your friends. Or the only reason you go to school is to play sports or because you want to be the Homecoming Queen or King. The reason you get up every day and go to school is because you want to be the Homecoming Queen. That's silly because you're not going to school for the ultimate purpose of receiving an education and positioning your self the best you can for life. That's the ultimate reason for going to school. Friends, are we not squandering our lives living for things far less than the ultimate reason God made you and saved you?

God's Glory Must Be Your Ultimate Aim if Your Life is To Be Wholly God's.

III. Offering Your Life as a Blank Check Means You Do Not Get Bitter With God

David could have said that day, "God, I repented of my sin of adultery and murder 22 years ago. Why are You bringing this back up? I dealt with all of that and asked for Your forgiveness, I did the 'Christian thing' and humbled myself, I acknowledged myself. I didn't do what Saul did, I didn't blame anybody else, I told You specifically, 'Against Thee and Thee only have I sinned and done this

evil in Thy sight.' Why are You doing this to me now?" And he could have reasoned God could not be trusted and that God had not really forgiven him.

Why do I say not getting bitter with God is part of offering up your life as a blank check? Because God will bring things into your life that are not pleasant, fun, or enjoyable in the least. There are bitter times that come. There are difficult times that come. But here again, it's the Grand Weaver's design working in you something far greater than you could have ever accomplished by yourself as a little boy pushing a shuttle back and forth on a weave. God has something for you, and you cannot allow your heart to grow bitter when the difficulties come. Instead trust God and that He is working and doing something that you cannot see today. Trust that one day the purpose will be manifested. Do you believe this? Someday God is going to show why He took you through the things He took you through. As I quoted Abraham earlier, "Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?"

A man who signs his life over to God says, "Whatever You want, it doesn't matter and you surely don't have to tell me what it is, all I'm going to do is watch for Your nod and when it's my time to act I'm going to do it."

But a word of caution must be noted. The only way you can do live this way without getting bitter is being firmly persuaded that God is doing something far better than you can see at the present time. You don't take the check back when God writes in a sum you don't like. You don't say, "Lord, I'll give You my life as a check so long as it doesn't exceed this particular amount." A man or woman who is absolutely surrendered to the Lord has no exceptions, clauses, or conditions upon God. He or she has learned the most valuable lesson that any person can learn—I belong to God, He has the right to me, He's died for me, I am His. End of story.

Offering Your Life to God as a Blank Check Means You Trust God in Spite of the Circumstances.

IV. Offering Your Life as a Blank Check Means You Know You Are Helpless to Make a Difference

This was the situation with David. David could have fought in Jerusalem but he knew at that moment he was not prepared. He knew Absalom's revolt would have the upper momentum and so he left. The only thing he knew to do as a warrior was to flee for the moment and regroup and re-strategize, but ultimately he knew whatever he did was in the hands of God.

Offering Your Life to God as a Blank Check Means Only God Can Make a Your Life a Difference in the Kingdom.

What God is holding out to this church, to you and I, today is the ability to make a difference in people's lives here at home as well as in the world. Differences that will never be able to be achieved unless you're absolutely yielded to God, whatever He wants to do with you. That's one

of the reasons God uses such pain and suffering, because when God introduces those kinds of things and we respond by the power and grace of God as Jesus did then people know there is something to the Gospel rather than just another religious message. They see there is something true to Christianity. They reason within, *People don't act like this. People don't respond like this naturally. Something supernatural must be about them.*

God is extending to you and me an opportunity to do something we've never done before. God is offering this church an opportunity to live a life you have only dreamed about, written in the pages of Scripture but you've concluded He doesn't do that anymore. I'm here to tell you, oh, yes He does! The problem is we've given God a check with certain limits upon it and we've not given ourselves wholly to Him and whatever He desires, therefore the power of God is shut down in our lives and we're not experiencing the presence and glory of God as He intended us to live. You will not allow Him to do whatever He wants.

I'm not saying we are to do exactly the same things they did in the Bible. I'm not saying the Book of Acts have to come alive again and we have to do the exact same things, that's not what I'm saying. What I am telling you is that God is holding out to you a life you can't even dream about right now because your faith is so small you won't even allow your imagination to dream for fear of being disappointed with yourself and with God.

Offering your life as a blank check to God means I'm helpless to make a difference in people's lives. Have you not tried to be a difference in somebody else's life and it failed? Nothing happened and so you tried again in another person's life and again you failed. And now you don't try anymore. Let me tell you why you don't try: You can't face failure; you can't handle it. But failure is a part of success. It's how God weeds out the boys from the men, the girls from the women. It's how God finds out if you really meant, "Here's my life, Lord, whatever You want."

If you're willing, God holds out a life that is so exciting, so glorious, so special, so amazing, that when you look back as you stand before the Father's throne you will say, "Oh God, only by Your grace." And God will say, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

V. Offering Your Life as a Blank Check to God is to Trust God in Bad Times as Well as Good Times.

David trusted God no matter what. Why even when his own son was trying to take his kingdom, David had faith in God's mercy.

A. Faith in God's Mercy.

A person who lives life as a blank check to God trusts God's mercy. David had experience with this mercy. All of his life he had known the mercy of God; it didn't start when God forgave him of his sin with Bathsheba and his murder of her husband. It goes all the way back to when he was a boy and was the ridicule of the family. David was the one who was always receiving the

downturned noses of his elder brothers. He was the one who was always told by his father he would never amount to anything. If you ask me where that is in the Bible I'll tell you it's not, but you get that feeling when Samuel the prophet comes and tells Jesse he wants to see all of his sons and the father doesn't even care to ask David to come. He leaves him in the fields. I know what it's like to have a father say, "You're never going to amount to anything." I know what that does to a little boy. I know what that does to a man 53 years old. I know what those words can do. But listen to me, I've also learned that my greater Father, my holy heavenly Father has hope in me because He is merciful toward me. I've learned that in these 53 years.

David had an experience that happened before the rebellion of Absalom, although it was recorded later in the book of Samuel. He had numbered the people and that was against the law. The Law forbid the taking of a census, but David did, and God gives David three choices for his discipline. He had three options and God allowed David to make the choice of what it would be. I can see a dad doing that to his son or daughter, "You know you messed up. I don't really want to do any of this, but I'll tell you what, I love you so much I'm going to let you choose which one it will be." This is what God does.

So Gad came to David and told him; and he said to him, "Shall seven years of famine come to you in your land? Or shall you flee three months before your enemies, while they pursue you? Or shall there be three days' plague in your land? Now consider and see what answer I should take back to Him who sent me." ¹⁴ And David said to Gad, "I am in great distress. Please let us fall into the hand of the LORD, for His mercies are great; but do not let me fall into the hand of man." (2 Samuel 24:13-14)

David's answer is amazing! *Father, Your discipline will not be easy, but it will be bathed and enveloped in mercy. Therefore I trust you.* There is no greater example of this than the anti-type of David, his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Jesus is an example that God may take you through dark, dark times. Jesus, the Son of God nailed as a criminal, a murderer, and a thief. The Bible says that at noon it became so very dark because the sun refused to shine, it was as if night had come. Can you tell me a darker day in human history than the day that Jesus Christ died? For the 12 men who followed Him faithfully and gave up their businesses, left their families, and forsook everything to follow Him because they believed He was the Messiah, it was extremely dark. It was as dark in their hearts as it was at noon when the sun refused to shine. For three days they lived in darkness, hidden behind locked doors and bolted windows, fearing at any moment the same authorities who had arrested and killed Jesus would come for them. Even news of the resurrection did not cheer them up. *Now it seems someone has stole His body and that's why they're saying He is risen. And if He is raised, then how will we ever be able to face Him because we didn't believe it?* It was dark. But God the Father took His Son through the dark times, through the darkness that was so thick it was like going through water—you could drink it, you could feel it, you could sense it. He took Jesus and baptized Him into suffering and pain and in addition to the physical suffering, the Father baptized the Son in the wrath aimed at our sins. There was never any moment darker and it was all done because God chose to do it.

When He brought Him through and on the third day He rose from the dead. The Bible says the earth quaked and a light filled that tomb brighter than the noon day sun. It was the Shekinah glory of God infusing the shell of a man who had been beaten and crucified but was now alive. It's not just an Easter story it's the story of every one of our lives. This is not just the story of our Savior and redemption, it's the story of what God does when He takes us through the bitter waters and dark days, He will bring you through to light everlasting. He's got something better for you. He's got ambitions and plans and purposes for your life that right now seem impossible to you. If you will sign your life over and say, "Your glory is what all my life is about. I just want to glorify You. I want to live for You so that my life has eternal consequences," then you have a very bright future.

Some of you are living for temporal consequences. Your life is sold not to the highest bidder but the lowest. All the while God has bid His own dear Son, His own life, for you. The infinite value of the Son has already been paid. It has bought your seat in heavenly places with Christ Jesus. His life sacrificed is to give you the right to rule the world and to be able to place your feet on the neck of Satan and trample Him underfoot. God purchase price includes for you blessings upon blessings.

I'm talking to people who have been infused with the power of God but are not willing to use that power as God wills. You want the power of God to do as you please. Such a mindset is to unplug the power of God quicker than anything else. But God is merciful. He says, "Come, I'll plug you back in. I'll restore the dream. I'll restore what sin has eaten and the wasted years your own selfish rebellion has taken from you." What a merciful God!

Do you know that while we are helpless we have the power of God to literally make a difference in this city? I know you look around and ask how I can say that, but I say it because I don't look around, I look up. I'm willing to say, "God, here's my life."

The Lord knows what I'm asking of you, I'm wrestling with these things myself, "Lord, if You want us to go to some foreign place in this world and die and be buried in an unmarked grave, if that's Your will, so be it." I'm not even going to try to speculate, I'm just saying to God, "Here I am." I know whatever it is it may not always be easy or glamorous but it will be worth it all when I see Jesus. Every tear I shed, every expenditure of energy, every dollar spent, it will be worth it all.

"If I find favor in the eyes of the LORD, He will bring me back; But if He says thus: 'I have no delight in you,' here I am, let Him do to me as seems good to Him."

What did God eventually do to David? He brought him back to Jerusalem and restored Him to his kingdom. He's wanting to bring you back. Sign the check, turn it over to Him, and say, "Here am I." Amen.