

## 1 Chronicles Chapter 22

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- Years earlier David had moved the Ark of the covenant from Kirjath-Jerim to Jerusalem, actually just outside the city.
- The Tabernacle along with the altar of sacrifice had been located variously at Nob, then at Gibeon; they continued offering sacrifices but without the Ark being there all this time. (Makes me think of “religion”)
- God directs David to offer sacrifices on Mount Moriah at the threshing floor of Araunah to abate the plague that had come upon Israel for numbering the army.
- As David and the nation are both repentant and obedient God responds by sending fire from Heaven to consume the sacrifices, even though the priests are sacrificing at Gibeon - again without the presence of God.
- It had already been in David’s heart to build God a house, God had said that he couldn’t do that but that his son would build a house / Temple. In the back of David’s mind he’s thinking where is this going to be built. Now God sends fire down from heaven expressing his approval of the sacrifices - and the altar upon which they were made. David then recognizes that this is the location he’s been looking for, it has God’s seal of approval.

V: 1 David said this is the spot, this is the place for the house of the Lord. David decided the temple would be built where the sacrifice had been made, where the fire had come down, where the sword had been sheathed, and where the full price had been paid.

- None of this is an accident: some 1,500 or so years earlier Abraham had led his son Isaac to the top of this mountain, Mt. Moriah and at God’s direction prepared to sacrifice him.

Responding to Isaac’s question:

**Genesis 22:8** “And Abraham said, my son, God will provide Himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together.”

- When Abraham was indeed in the midst of the process God stopped him.

**Genesis 22:13** “And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind him a ram caught in a thicket by his horns: and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the stead of his son.”

- Fast forward about 1200 years after David and we see Jesus going forth to a place called Calvary, atop Mt. Moriah - the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.
- No coincidences, God chooses where we are to worship.

**Deuteronomy 12:5-7** “<sup>5</sup>But unto the place which the Lord your God shall choose out of all your tribes to put His name there, even unto His habitation shall ye seek, and thither thou shalt come: <sup>6</sup>And thither ye shall bring your burnt offerings, and your sacrifices, and your tithes, and heave offerings of your hand, and your vows, and your free will offerings, and the firstlings of your herds and of your flocks: <sup>7</sup>And there ye shall eat before the Lord your God, and ye shall rejoice in all that ye put your hand unto, ye and your households, wherein the Lord thy God hath blessed thee.”

- God determines how we are to worship Him:

**John 4:24** “God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth.”

- He also determines where we're to worship Him; God hasn't called anyone to stay home in lieu of going to church and call that going to church, the lone wolf Christian mentality.

The Holy Spirit exhorts us:

**Hebrews 10:25** “Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.”

V: 2-4 David knew that he wasn't allowed to build a house for God, but God didn't say anything about not gathering the materials to do so.

- Gathering up the strangers meant that they gathered the non-Jews, the captives and slaves of the various people who were going to be part of the labor force involved in building.
- Then David starts going through the tradesmen, the masons and carpenters, skilled laborers.
- David starts collecting the materials: in most construction jobs just getting the right materials together seems like it's the biggest part of the job, so David is preparing. Iron, brass, timber, stones.

V: 5 And David said to Solomon: The description of these events are not all in exact chronological order - a couple of verses down the road here we'll see that David refers to past events - these events in general do take place towards the

end of David's life, it's just that, as we'll see, God initiated them before Solomon was born.

- David insisted that the Temple building be magnificent so as to in some small way reflect the magnificence of God which would be a witness to all the nations.

V: 6-10 David charged or commissioned Solomon to build the Temple of God. David explains how he wanted to build it but that God had stopped him because of the blood that he had shed, being a man of war.

- These verses give us a hint as to the timing of things. David's initial thoughts about building the Temple were before Solomon was born - and presumably after his adultery with Bathsheba.
- He's given a prophetic word that he will have a son and his name shall be called Solomon, that he will be a man of peace, having rest all about, and that he will be the one to build the Temple of God.

**2 Samuel 12:24-25** “<sup>24</sup>And David comforted Bath-Sheba his wife, and went in unto her, and lay with her: and she bare a son, and he called his name Solomon: and the Lord loved him. <sup>25</sup>And he sent by the hand of Nathan the prophet; and he called his name Jedediah, because of the Lord.”

- **Solomon:** “His Peace” or “God is Peace” – they are at peace with God.
- **Jedediah:** “Yah's Darling” “Beloved of God” – underscoring God's love for both David and Solomon.
- Solomon is also referred to as **Lemuel:** “Devoted to God” (**Proverbs 31**)
- God's promise to David would continue or extend through Solomon.

**Numbers 23:19** “God is not a man that He should lie; neither the son of man, that He should repent: hath He not said, and shall He not do it? Or hath He spoken, and shall He not make it good?”

V: 11 David prays for or pronounced a blessing upon his son.

- The first part of that prayer is for prosperity; of spirit and soul, family, finances, and health always begin with prayer. ([Shalom: prosperity, health, strength - Peace with God](#))
- The second part of that prayer reveals the purpose for that prosperity - to build the house of the Lord.
- The Lord doesn't just bless us so we can be comfortable but so that blessing can be passed on, so that God can be glorified, and that His purposes can be served and fulfilled.

V: 12-13 David continues to pray; wisdom for Solomon and understanding - which is then directly linked to the Word of God. David counsels and encourages Solomon to obey the Word of God, to keep the Law, to fulfill His statutes and judgments - to be strong and to just do it!

**Psalm 19:7-11** “<sup>7</sup>The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. <sup>8</sup>The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes. <sup>9</sup>The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. <sup>10</sup>More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. <sup>11</sup>Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward.”

- Solomon’s story is somewhat tragic, initially Solomon starts off well, he asks God for wisdom instead of riches or long life - and God blesses him exceedingly. But sadly he doesn’t listen to his father, he ends up turning away from the statutes of the Lord.
- As we get to 2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles it starts off primarily about Solomon. He starts off wonderfully, praying and seeking God’s face, seeking to honor God and God blessing him. Then as he prospers, he turned away from the statutes of the Lord, being disobedient to the Word of God, setting aside his father’s advice.

“<sup>13b</sup>*Be strong, and of good courage...*” Good advice!

V: 14-16 100,000 talents of gold. 75 lb. / talent = 7,500,000 pounds of gold. 120 million ounces at \$1,500 / oz = 180 billion dollars in 2014.

- Israel is not known for its extensive gold mines, this means that the vast majority of this wealth was taken by David from his conquered enemies in war. Later Solomon will add to that greatly.
- 75 Million pounds of silver (37.5 tons) + brass, iron, timber + the workman to assemble it all.
- Then the exhortation: Get to work!
- David had provided everything that was needed for the work; Solomon simply had to move forward in obedience.

We too have been given what we need:

**2 Peter 1:2-3** “<sup>2</sup>Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord. <sup>3</sup>According as His Divine Power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him that hath called us to glory and virtue.”

V: 17-19 David directs all his ministers, the other princes / leaders to help Solomon in building the Temple.

- David had fought many wars, he had shed much blood - while that is what kept him from being able to build the Temple for God is it also what enabled Solomon to be able to build it - because there was peace all around him.

*“Set your heart and your soul to seek the Lord your God!”* (first) - Arise now and build! (**Matthew 6:33, 22:37** H-S-M)

- **Notice the order: seek first, then build.** Seeking Him first always comes before serving, otherwise it's empty religion - seeking Him first means there's a relationship, we're His first, then we're His servants and our work has purpose.
- *Set it in your mind that you're going to seek the Lord.* (Good counsel)
- You will find no better path to life, there is no wiser move that you could make

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## 1 Chronicles Chapter 23

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V: 1 David has had a long and illustrious reign. He started out in the fields as a shepherd boy, he slew Goliath, he was anointed to be king, fought through many wars and brought Israel to the peak of its power. Now he's old.

- Chronicles skips all the drama described in **2 Samuel** with regard to succession to the throne.
- With the help of Nathan the prophet and Bathsheba, David even in his old age and poor health moved Solomon onto the throne so there would be an orderly transition, especially in light on Adonijah's attempt to usurp the throne.
- We read in **2 Samuel** that David had Solomon ride his kingly Mule, he had him sit upon his throne, and even bowed to him as the new king - all of which helped to establish Solomon as the new king.
- We see some good transitions from powerful men, mightily used of God to those who would succeed them: From Moses to Joshua, from Elijah to Elisha, and here we see David to Solomon.

V: 2-6 So Solomon sets up the administration of the Temple, the Levites being the primary Temple servants.

- The Levites are numbered, including those that were eligible for priestly service at 30 years of age. They like Jesus started at 30 and retired at 50.
- The Levites were divided up by the families, the three sons of Levi: Gershon, Kohath, and Merari.
- God knew how everyone had a hankering for some genealogies...

V: 7-11 The Gershonites:

V: 12-20 The Kohathites:

- Aaron and Moses are singled out for service to the most holy things, the sons of Aaron continuing in that ministry.

V: 21-23 The Merarites:

- I've got a little bit of Hebrew heritage, as a descendant of Merari - I'm a little Mushi!

V: 24-32 All the priests were Levites, but not all the Levites were priests, but they all had a purpose and a place in the ministry.

- The Levites had previously been divided up into different groups of porters, transporting the various parts of the Tabernacle.
- Now they are to serve / facilitate the ministry of the sons of Aaron, support staff.
- They were also to stand and praise the Lord morning and evening.
- Part of the time they would sing praises, part of the time they would engage in practical activities furthering the priestly ministry unto the Lord.

**1 Peter 2:9** “But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvelous light:”

**Ephesians 2:10** “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”

- Children's ministry, cleaning the church, radio ministry, maintenance around the building. Writing letters to prisoners, responding to them.