

<<< These Are the Divisions of the Sons

1 Chronicles 24:1 – 28:11 >>>

~ Our Spiritual Safari is going to accelerate dramatically in this report as we traverse five chapters. I trust you have prayed for wisdom, judgment and discernment, and I hope you have read each of these chapters in your own Bible before you read my report because, if you have, this will be *much* more meaningful to your heart. The Bible text is not printed in this report as we typically do because, quite frankly, it's rather long and boring to me. However, we're in the section of Chronicles where God placed the greatest emphasis: on the temple. This entire portion of Scripture is about David and his reign.

You will recall we had just one brief chapter in Chronicles on the reign of King Saul; and, even in that quick chapter, Saul was dead by verse four. We also examined David's mighty men and the myriad battles and wars David fought. We considered David's sin in numbering the people – and more – previously in this historical book. Well, chapters eleven through twenty-nine concern David on the throne. Of course, the most important thing about his reign over the nation Israel was the conception of, preparation for, and the organization and instructions to Solomon regarding executing construction of building the temple; and, chapters twenty-two through the end of first Chronicles are all about the temple design. So, I think we can easily and clearly determine what was important to the Lord regarding King David during his reign and in his personal life. See, friends, the lesson here is that it's all about putting God first in *every* area of our life.

It's one thing to say we're Christians and we trust the Lord – and God bless those who do – but do we *REALLY* and *HONESTLY* put God first in our everyday, ordinary, minute-to-minute life? Do we have a devotion in the morning, but leave Jesus behind when we leave the house? Is learning about God and His truths a genuine thrill to you? Do you rejoice in that relationship? Do you desire to actually *DO SOMETHING* for God? Does the

wisdom of the Lord Jesus provide direction and purpose for your life? The answers you give to those questions just happen to be very important if you consider yourself a child of God.

Perhaps the most repulsive aspect of the modern church is how they have become extraneous social pass-time activity for otherwise busy-bodied, self-righteous do-gooders. These super-duper pious saints have activity without action. They ceaselessly go in circles through meaningless rituals that hurt the cause of Christ and turn a lost and dying world away from Jesus. They're not credible; and the atheist recognizes the pious self-congratulation — and says, "*hell, no!*" It's like a merry-go-round. They get on and ride as fast as they can — until they vomit. Then, they don't like it so much anymore and want off. I've seen it happen time and time again. Don't be that person, friends. Why not commit to an educated, sincere, systematic, Spirit-filled and Spirit-led Bible study so you can show yourself approved?

Further, when they do jump off, they do so in the exact same place they got on — and *NEVER* get anywhere. Well, David was going somewhere, and we see him urging Solomon to also go to the place that was worthy of going. David actually gave his son something to do that was worthwhile; and, as we now know, the greatest thing Solomon did was build the temple. As far as I can tell, building the temple is the only thing Solomon ever did that brought any glory to God, too, by the way. I cannot stress how important it is to understand all of this and factor it into our Scriptural perspectives.

We also saw a real motivational speech David gave Solomon in our last report. If you haven't read that report, I suggest you go back and do so now. David organized all of the Levites to serve in the temple. We learned more about the family of Aaron, and the three families of the Levites who served in the tabernacle as priest's in the Pentateuch. Now, we have been reintroduced to the Gershonites, the sons of Kohath and the sons of Merari; and they all had a very specific function in the handling of the tabernacle articles of furniture during the wilderness march. They

dismantled it, they carried the pieces and parts, and then set it back up during the decades of wandering. The Gershonites carried the curtains and coverings; the Kohathites carried the articles of furniture; the sons of Merari carried all the heavy stuff such as the boards, pillars and structural bars. Moving the tabernacle was an extraordinary effort. If they hadn't followed explicit instructions, the service could not have been restored after moving from place to place.

Now, we have arrived at the place where the staves will be *permanently* removed from the Ark of the Lord, and it will never be moved again. The Ark of the Lord will remain permanently in Jerusalem on the threshingfloor of Ornan from here forward for the nation Israel. Remember, we saw David purchase the real estate that is going to be used for the temple and place of sacrifice. As we know that specific place is where the Mosque of Omar stands today. So, the Levites now have a new order of service and David has organized them by lots and into shifts, as it were. That means they served for a period of time and then retired. Later, they would return again – something like a modern-day fireman or doctor – but on an annual basis....

## XXIV

~ This chapter brings us the organizational chart of the sons of Levite. The sons of Aaron were priests, of course. The genealogy goes all the way back to the very beginning of the wilderness march. These families have now grown from about eight thousand who came out of Egypt in the Exodus to around thirty-eight thousand at the time in which we are studying. What we see is a very organized and highly detailed description of the office David is placing into service. Not only did David gather the materials for the tabernacle, he has the pattern, the property, he drafted the blueprint plans and the labor to construct it; and he also wrote the job descriptions for those who are going to serve in it. It makes me wonder exactly what Solomon did and it makes me wonder why we call it Solomon's temple – because it was David's temple, to be sure – at least, according to God it was

David's temple. The only temple Solomon ever had was on the side of his head. Anyways, I think the show and pageantry involved with the changing of these twenty-four orders would have been quite incredible....

## XXV

~ So, that brings us to the singers in this chapter; and, we have literally the same thing: twenty-four orders of revolving service. We need to understand that this organization into groups was mandated *LONG BEFORE* the temple was built. If you have prayed for wisdom, judgment and discernment, then the Holy Spirit is speaking to you, and this should be more than remarkable. These singers were gathered to worship the Lord before they ever even cleared the ground for construction. Having twenty-four orders means that every two weeks there would be a change; twelve months in a year gives us that calculus. So, each company served two weeks out of the year. Personally, I like that work schedule. In the meantime, however, they went back to the city they came from, and had a service there, too. The priests served continually in many ways throughout the land....

## XXVI

~ That brings us to the porters who swept up, cleaned the toilets and maintained the temple. If that seems irreverent, then all I can say is: someone has to do the dirty jobs. They're all organized the same way as the others, too. We're also told about the watchmen in verse thirteen who were posted as guards at the gates. I see many people say they are the "watchman" today – and one religious organization in particular calls themselves that – but that was a third-rate job the way I see it from reading the Bible. Naturally, those who claim to be "watchmen" rarely read the Bible; and they *DEFINITELY* do not read the parts of the Bible that we are in today. These priests would have been in service twenty-four hours a day; but those who claim to be "watchmen" don't serve the Lord continually –

that's a matter of fact. Typically, I don't see them do anything except getting in the way of the Holy Spirit and creating false alarms.

Alright, beginning at verse twenty, we learn about the treasurers. When executing God's work, money is required to carry it out properly, correctly and completely. Most of you know in your hearts you are robbing God by not supporting the man who believes God and brings you sound doctrine – but I digress. Verse twenty-nine introduces us to the officers and judges and those who acted in official capacities. They will be the ones who will judge temple robbers; those who “*cook the books*” and outright steal from His treasury – and, friends, that's *EXACTLY* what it amounts to when we do not give according to His commands. Of course, these are *ALL* Levites. God's original purpose was that His people be a theocracy; with Him ruling in the tabernacle at the center of worship. The priesthood was to receive their directions and decisions directly from God Almighty Himself. Because of the failure of the Levites, that had to change. That's when the judges were raised up and they, likewise, failed. That's when the people cried out for a king as the nations around them; which is why David is on the throne at this time in which we are studying. I think we can see this was closely supervised by David....

## **XXVII**

~ The captains and princes of the twelve tribes are listed in this chapter. Verse twenty-three reveals David was to trust, obey and believe God. God had given David adequate numbers; but, David had taken the census anyways; because he didn't believe God. Remember, God told David not count the people and that He would supply the army Israel needed; but, David counted them in direct defiance to his instructions from the Lord. Well, David doesn't *DARE* count them now....

## **XXVIII**

~ David is going to conduct a meeting with Solomon the whole nation can witness. This was a *VERY* wise thing for David to do. We'll go into detail in our next report – which will also be our final report from first Chronicles – regarding this meeting. We'll also be saying good-bye to David in the next report and final chapter of his life. In this section of Scripture, David makes a frank confession to the people as to why God will not allow him to build the temple; and that reason is because he was a very, very bloody man! God has done all of this, and God has chosen Solomon, too. I think it is very interesting that David turns all of the responsibility over to God for choosing Solomon. That's a round-about way of making it clear that Solomon was in *NO WAY* David's choice.

Further, just as Moses had been given the pattern for the tabernacle, so was David – *NOT* Solomon. God spoke the design-build plans for the temple directly to the man after His Own heart. When we studied Kings, we saw how the temple was going to be much inferior to the tabernacle. Men have attempted to make very impressive models of the temple; but, none of them – and there are several – are nearly as impressive as the temple appeared. The models of the ancient city of Jerusalem that are in the modern-day city of Jerusalem are not cheap touristy things that have been glued together, either. Years of research by orthodox Jews went into the models that are there. They call that model "*as in the days of Herod*" – because they cannot bring themselves to name it "*as in the days of Christ!*" That's extremely interesting to me – as it should be to you, too. I think it looks very much like the days of Herod but *NOTHING* like the days of Solomon. Well, we're going to break off here in this report; but, in our next report from our Spiritual Safari, we will highly detail David's project – David's Temple! I'm going to insist on that designation ~

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