

<<< Even I it is That Have Sinned

1 Chronicles 21:14 – 22:9 >>>

~ I'm glad you have joined our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God. We have traversed first Chronicles much more rapidly than we have any other book of the Bible thus far; and we have only three more reports after this one before we consider second Chronicles. After that, we'll slow down considerably as we return to the New Testament and examine Paul's first letter to the Corinthians. The most satisfactory way to teach the Bible is to teach it *all*; not just the parts we like or the parts that make us feel good. All Scripture is given by inspiration; so we need to examine every aspect of the Word of God that we might have a correct and full-orbed understanding. Of course, as you long time readers know, I do not approach the Bible from theological or doctrinal subjugation; we consider the spiritual perspective only. So, I trust you have prayed for wisdom, judgment and discernment so the Holy Spirit can speak to your heart from mine.

I hear from pastors around the world, and many of them are finally moving back towards teaching the Word of God as it is for men as they are; and that is a blessing to my heart. This world and the churches therein have gotten very far away from truth; and, sadly, I also see many so-called Christians as far from sound doctrine as they can possibly be. They are usually newly saved or cannot grow any further spiritually – because they refuse to study the *entire* Bible. Some have been saved a few years or so, and they think they know everything. Children always think they know it all, of course. Naturally, they are the ones who claim they don't need to be taught anything or they have no use for church and all that nonsense; all they ever do is insult me when I try to help them. Well, no good deed goes unpunished. Even many self-proclaimed Bible schools, seminaries and "*Bible*" churches are totally in the dark when it comes to a correct, proper

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and complete understanding of Scripture. It is unfortunate, but also Biblical that it would happen this way; so, I'm really not surprised.

Only the Word of God can speak to our hearts, friends. Books about the Bible are useless; and they are mushrooming as mushrooms do: in the dark and in the dung. There is increasingly becoming an extremely deadly danger in modern ministry as preachers are being trained — or just making it up in their own minds — that they and the people they bless are something special. We who are in the ministry need to understand we are not celebrities; but, rather, servants of God. When a preacher begins to think he is something special — “*favored*” — his ministry is already over. I cannot count the number of “*theologians*” that proclaim “*Jesus, Jesus, Jesus*” one day, but are totally defeated the next. That's because they have never been truly born again. Remember, Paul said, “*all Israel is NOT Israel!*”

See, a minister, preacher or Bible teacher, in and of himself, has *NO* power to make anyone else realize, recognize, believe or accept the things of Christ. *ONLY* the Holy Spirit can do that. Even Paul the great apostle said, “*... I am what I am by the grace of God.*” I want to make all of that more than clear to those of you who do not like my teaching, those who disagree; but especially those who think they are some special something. When you develop that mindset, it is nothing but foolish pride; and your fall is immanent from the moment you begin thinking that way.

Making a claim to or taking credit for something we have no right to claim will *ALWAYS* end in disaster and a shipwrecked faith. Personally, I am seeing the Word of God being brought back to the place where its power is taking root again; but I make *NO* personal claim to that, I assure you. God said He won't share His glory with another — and you just happen to be reading the writings of a man who believes God. All I know is that the words I print are a ministration of life to those who believe; but these reports are a ministration of death to those who shall perish. Well, I want

to stay out of the way of whatever the Holy Spirit does; and that's exactly what I intend to do.

In our previous report, we considered the record of the greatest sin David committed; and it didn't involve Uriah, Bathsheba, adultery or murder. If you haven't read our last report, I suggest you go back and do so now. Numbering the people involved pride; but, more specifically, it was unbelief. There had been a time when David could meet the enemy with nothing but a slingshot and five smooth stones. Of course at that time, David knew he only need one. The other four stones were for the four sons of Goliath; in case they got any ideas of helping dad. In this passage, David was looking to his million-and-a-half-man army for security rather than looking to God. We fully developed how that was David's most egregious sin.

We also considered how Gad was instructed by God to tell David that David had his choice between one of three judgments. Well, when David thought that over, he finally recognized how his sin involved the people. See, people follow the example of their national leader; it's an axiom that cannot be denied. David understood that he had set a terrible precedent; and he didn't want to be the one who chose their judgment. One choice involved falling into the hands of his enemies and he was, obviously, terrified at that proposition. So, David allowed himself to fall into the hands of God. That was the wisest thing we have seen David do thus far in all of the accounts of his life; because it meant David cast himself on the mercy of God....

## **XXI**

***<sup>14</sup> So the LORD sent pestilence upon Israel: and there fell of Israel seventy thousand men.***

***<sup>15</sup> And God sent an angel unto Jerusalem to destroy it: and as he was destroying, the LORD beheld, and he repented him of the evil, and said to***

***the angel that destroyed, It is enough, stay now thine hand. And the angel of the LORD stood by the threshingfloor of Ornan the Jebusite.***

***16 And David lifted up his eyes, and saw the angel of the LORD stand between the earth and the heaven, having a drawn sword in his hand stretched out over Jerusalem. Then David and the elders of Israel, who were clothed in sackcloth, fell upon their faces.***

***17 And David said unto God, Is it not I that commanded the people to be numbered? even I it is that have sinned and done evil indeed; but as for these sheep, what have they done? let thine hand, I pray thee, O LORD my God, be on me, and on my father's house; but not on thy people, that they should be plagued.***

~ David prays a marvelous prayer here in which he takes full responsibility for his sins. We see a changed man in King David at this point in his life. When he committed the sin with Bathsheba, he had no intention of saying a word about it to anyone. Uriah was murdered because of David's attempt to cover up that sin of adultery! My friends, our sin ALWAYS progresses from bad to very bad to tragic. It must be dealt with. Well, David isn't covering up anymore as he realizes he stands totally naked before God....

***18 Then the angel of the LORD commanded Gad to say to David, that David should go up, and set up an altar unto the LORD in the threshingfloor of Ornan the Jebusite.***

~ The "threshing floor" of Ornan is modern day Mount Moriah. That's where Abraham offered Isaac, and where the Mosque of Omar stands today. The same ridge connects to Golgotha, the place of the skull; where Jesus was crucified. Today, a road divides the two – but it is the same ridge. It is the area where Solomon would later build the temple. So, we find that it was not David who chose the place – it was God Himself Who designated

where the temple would be located. Of course, David concurred; mainly because David has learned to listen to the Lord at this time....

***19 And David went up at the saying of Gad, which he spake in the name of the LORD.***

***20 And Ornan turned back, and saw the angel; and his four sons with him hid themselves. Now Ornan was threshing wheat.***

***21 And as David came to Ornan, Ornan looked and saw David, and went out of the threshingfloor, and bowed himself to David with his face to the ground.***

***22 Then David said to Ornan, Grant me the place of this threshingfloor, that I may build an altar therein unto the LORD: thou shalt grant it me for the full price: that the plague may be stayed from the people.***

***23 And Ornan said unto David, Take it to thee, and let my lord the king do that which is good in his eyes: lo, I give thee the oxen also for burnt offerings, and the threshing instruments for wood, and the wheat for the meat offering; I give it all.***

~ Here we have an important lesson in giving. Those who believe in giving ten percent as a tithe should realize God doesn't want ten percent – God wants *IT ALL*. If you're only giving ten percent, God isn't using your "tithe" – and you'll get *NO* credit for it in Heaven or on earth, either. See, when we come to the Lord, it's all or nothing. Ornan gave it *ALL*; land, wheat, animals, tools – he just turned the keys of the place over to David. Of course, David wasn't going to offer something to God that hadn't cost him anything. Those of you who claim to "tithe" are freeloaders, my beloved – you can just write that down. Your "tithe" is just a way to hold back ninety percent; who do you think you're kidding? ~

***24 And King David said to Ornan, Nay; but I will verily buy it for the full price: for I will not take that which is thine for the LORD, nor offer burnt offerings without cost.***

***25 So David gave to Ornan for the place six hundred shekels of gold by weight.***

***26 And David built there an altar unto the LORD, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings, and called upon the LORD; and he answered him from heaven by fire upon the altar of burnt offering.***

~ So, this is the place where the temple was to be built. The offerings speak of the Person of Christ, and the peace He made for us with the Father – as we learned in Leviticus. This is the place where God was going to meet with His people once again. David called upon God for mercy as we saw in our last report. What we have is the mercy of God in salvation. God has been very gracious to us sinners, friends. Mercy is translated elsewhere in the Word of God as *lovingkindness*. That’s another wonderful word. God is a *MERCIFUL* God.

However, God doesn’t save us by mercy – and He doesn’t save us by love, either; He never has, and He never will. God loves you and He will extend mercy to you – but He will only save us by grace. You’re a guilty sinner before God. God isn’t some sentimental sap slipping people into Heaven through the back door under cover of darkness at night. He isn’t going to lower the bar to the entrance of Heaven, either. No, friends, God doesn’t operate that way; and He doesn’t shut His eyes to sin when He saves us. God doesn’t have favorites — He is no respecter of persons. We can thank Him for all of that, too, by the way.

God made a way of salvation through the death, burial and resurrection of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ; and we will come to Him on that basis, or we won’t be coming to the Lord at all. The penalty for sin *MUST* be paid and sin

*MUST* be dealt with. If you cannot accept the sacrifice Christ made on the cross, then you can forget about understanding God. That's His way and David knew that; but there are a whole lot of church members who *DON'T* know it. Have *YOU* honestly come to Christ? He has moved Heaven and hell to come to the door of your heart – but He isn't going to break the door down – no, friends, He's just standing there knocking....

***27 And the LORD commanded the angel; and he put up his sword again into the sheath thereof.***

***28 At that time when David saw that the LORD had answered him in the threshingfloor of Ornan the Jebusite, then he sacrificed there.***

***29 For the tabernacle of the LORD, which Moses made in the wilderness, and the altar of the burnt offering, were at that season in the high place at Gibeon.***

***30 But David could not go before it to enquire of God: for he was afraid because of the sword of the angel of the LORD.***

## **XXII**

***1 Then David said, This is the house of the LORD God, and this is the altar of the burnt offering for Israel.***

***2 And David commanded to gather together the strangers that were in the land of Israel; and he set masons to hew wrought stones to build the house of God.***

***3 And David prepared iron in abundance for the nails for the doors of the gates, and for the joinings; and brass in abundance without weight;***

***4 Also cedar trees in abundance: for the Zidonians and they of Tyre brought much cedar wood to David.***

***5 And David said, Solomon my son is young and tender, and the house that is to be builded for the LORD must be exceeding magnificent, of fame and of glory throughout all countries: I will therefore now make preparation for it. So David prepared abundantly before his death.***

***6 Then he called for Solomon his son, and charged him to build an house for the LORD God of Israel.***

***7 And David said to Solomon, My son, as for me, it was in my mind to build an house unto the name of the LORD my God:***

***8 But the word of the LORD came to me, saying, Thou hast shed blood abundantly, and hast made great wars: thou shalt not build an house unto my name, because thou hast shed much blood upon the earth in my sight.***

***9 Behold, a son shall be born to thee, who shall be a man of rest; and I will give him rest from all his enemies round about: for his name shall be Solomon, and I will give peace and quietness unto Israel in his days.***

~ So, our safari concludes this report with David's preparation and organization for building the temple. This last section of first Chronicles runs through chapter twenty-nine. We do not divide chapters on this expedition as a normal Bible study would; because we are not after the theological or the doctrinal aspect – we're interested in the *WHOLE THING!*

David is determined to obey God and build the temple on this particular threshing floor. As we know, Hiram, king of Tyre sent almost all of all the materials. When the Bible says Solomon was "*young and tender*" – believe me – Solomon was tender. In fact, Solomon was so tender that he was a



complete sissy. The peace Solomon brought was temporary, friends. Only Jesus can do what Solomon was unable to do. Notice the language in verse five: *“magnifical!”* That’s Old Elizabethan. It is reverent. It is majestic.

Well, David made all of the arrangements for the temple — and Solomon just followed through on the construction. I think *“Solomon’s Temple”* should be referred to as *“David’s Temple!”* Of course, we just read in verse eight why David could never have built that temple. Many people fault David for being such a bloody man; but as long as you and I live in this world full of sin, and we try to stand for what’s right, we’re going to get dirty. We’ve already said our enemy isn’t flesh and blood but spiritual. If we don’t stand for something, we’ll fall for anything. God is not a God of war, but a God of peace. The sinful heart of man is the reason we have war — we’ve already established that through James. People go off on tangents when they refuse to stand for the things of God. Most of the time that is done because they are totally and completely ignorant of the Word of God. Let’s try learning the Bible properly, correctly and completely for a change, shall we? ~

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