

~ In our last report from our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God, we began to examine David's preparation and organization for building the temple. That is the subject of the remainder of first Chronicles. David was enthusiastic — but was not permitted by God to build the temple. So, God built David a house instead! David's son, Solomon, however, was permitted to build the temple; and, in this chapter, David is explaining to Solomon why God wouldn't allow him to build it — because of his sin — but that he has accumulated all the materials and real estate necessary for construction. Remember, Hiram, king of Tyre, furnished almost all of the required materials. David seemed to give all of his time and attention in his later life to the preparation for Solomon to build the temple.

Chronicles details the history of Israel from *God's viewpoint*; whereas the books of Kings and Samuel were man's political and secular point of view. In Kings and Samuel, continual warfare was the state of the nation. Intrigue and laughably petty accounts are recorded in Samuel and Kings. Here, God's viewpoint is that the temple is the most important project in the life of King David. The temple was more important to God than anything else in the nation. David had an urban development housing project in Jerusalem — and he built *MANY* houses there — but that act was only given *one* verse of explanation. See, until a man is right with Almighty God, all of the subsidiaries and secular subjects are obsolete. Only when man comes to God *His way* do other issues of life develop meaning and begin to work out. A poverty program isn't going to have any positive effect until the hearts of the men responsible for said program are right with God; and until the sin question is settled in those lives.

Sin is the reason we have corruption at every level of government and in all governments around the world. Our poverty program is thoroughly inept and ineffective; while media erroneously espouses an emphasis on material balance would somehow solve the problems of the world. Well, I don't think anyone will disagree that we are *FAR* from solving the problems of the world; and the reason is because we are *FAR* from God in our hearts — far from His Word and truth — and very far from Him in the sense of a personal spiritual relationship. Solomon's temple speaks of that high and lofty relationship; and of things deeply spiritual. From God's viewpoint, *this* is what is important in David's life.

Consider Great Britain, as an example. At one time, Britain ruled the world. Monarchy declared the sun would never set on the British Empire. They controlled more physical territory in the world than any other nation previously had — even more than Rome. Britain had *TREMENDOUS* influence over the whole earth. Of course, they can be criticized for not being perfect — as America can be criticized today; but they did rule the world — which America has never done.

Well, the important matters in Britain didn't take place at ten Downing Street. Their respect didn't come from matters settled in Parliament or decrees imposed on the world. No, the single-most important thing to ever happen to Britain was when a man named John Wesley walked upstairs at Alders Gate. The world continues to reap the benefits of what he did through the Word of God.

Not far from there, Wesley began his preaching in a graveyard. Society ostracized him and the organized church shut the doors in his face. So, he went out, stood on a tombstone and preached from there. That resulted in a spiritual movement that led even Lloyd George to say, "*... John Wesley was the greatest Englishman who ever lived; and did more for the British Empire than any other man had ever done!*"

Well, in Wesley's day, society-at-large didn't regard his sermons as important. A man standing alone preaching on a tombstone doesn't have worldly credibility, friends! Interestingly, John Wesley was God's instrument; through whom He saved Great Britain from a bloody revolution – French style. Britain was well-overdue for a historical bloodbath – there's no denying that. Wesley began a movement that enabled Britain to establish civilization throughout the world. We can belittle the Colonial policy – which did corrupt to atrocious levels – but there was a movement that sent missionaries throughout the world at that time, too. That movement brought a civilizing influence on a global scale; and it was Biblically-based. I think the most prejudice person on the planet would agree those days were better than these days. This Godless age we're living in is going nowhere – and getting there fast.

When we read this account in Kings, David doesn't seem concerned with which son would succeed him as king. Solomon was a sissy with a capital "S!" Solomon was brought up in the women's court of the palace. That's one of the reasons Solomon had so many wives. Women are what he knew. Solomon wouldn't have lasted a day out in the wilderness with John the Baptist. Solomon wouldn't have had a snowball in Florida's chance defending himself against Saul as David had done. Solomon and David were at opposite ends of the spectrum in terms of manliness; and the explanation for that is found in their backgrounds.

So, David is also attempting to encourage Solomon to do what he could not do – build the temple – and Solomon needed encouragement. Further, Solomon is reaping the benefits of his father. As Jesus said, "*other men have labored*" – well, you and I have entered into the labor of others in Christian service. However, David didn't escape judgment just because he was a man after God's own heart. We know that because David was not permitted to do the one thing that he most wanted to do in his entire reign and life – build the temple! My friends, there have been *MANY* men who have been utterly set aside because of the sin in their life, too. God has

never let them reach the goal they wanted to reach down here. Their sin dragged them down as it dragged David down at this time in which we are studying. That is absolutely critical to understand....

## **XXII**

***10 He shall build an house for my name; and he shall be my son, and I will be his father; and I will establish the throne of his kingdom over Israel for ever.***

***11 Now, my son, the LORD be with thee; and prosper thou, and build the house of the LORD thy God, as he hath said of thee.***

***12 Only the LORD give thee wisdom and understanding, and give thee charge concerning Israel, that thou mayest keep the law of the LORD thy God.***

***13 Then shalt thou prosper, if thou takest heed to fulfil the statutes and judgments which the LORD charged Moses with concerning Israel: be strong, and of good courage; dread not, nor be dismayed.***

***14 Now, behold, in my trouble I have prepared for the house of the LORD an hundred thousand talents of gold, and a thousand thousand talents of silver; and of brass and iron without weight; for it is in abundance: timber also and stone have I prepared; and thou mayest add thereto.***

***15 Moreover there are workmen with thee in abundance, hewers and workers of stone and timber, and all manner of cunning men for every manner of work.***

***16 Of the gold, the silver, and the brass, and the iron, there is no number. Arise therefore, and be doing, and the LORD be with thee.***

***17 David also commanded all the princes of Israel to help Solomon his son, saying,***

***18 Is not the LORD your God with you? and hath he not given you rest on every side? for he hath given the inhabitants of the land into mine hand; and the land is subdued before the LORD, and before his people.***

***19 Now set your heart and your soul to seek the LORD your God; arise therefore, and build ye the sanctuary of the LORD God, to bring the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and the holy vessels of God, into the house that is to be built to the name of the LORD.***

~ David is encouraging Solomon to follow the Lord; and friends – ask yourself – what is the ambition and goal of your life? What have you taught your children to aspire to? We have a generation of young people that have no purpose or goal in their lives today. They have been brought up in homes of affluence with *ZERO* Christian direction. They have never had anything pointed out to them that is worthwhile. The schools have utterly failed them. In this connection, our schools receive a grade of *F minus*. I may sound like a revolutionary to most people, but I think we need to close many of our schools and universities. Until moral training, direction and discipline are given, there is no purpose to life. We see our highly educated youths do the dumbest things as they wander aimlessly through life; and we scratch our heads in amazement and seem unable to figure out why. Mom and dad, the schools and the church - particularly the church - have flagrantly failed society. David wasn't the best father in Israel by any means, but he gave direction to Solomon. And Solomon had a worthy goal: to build God a house.

In the catechism, the question is: what is the chief end of man? Well, the chief end of man is to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ that we may enjoy Him eternally. *THAT'S* worthwhile — and it is the *ONLY* thing that is worthwhile. I'll be honest with you readers – because I always am honest with you – I

believe I have failed completely on this safari because I cannot get anyone enthusiastic about the Word of God. When I see people get enthusiastic about God, it is *ONLY* because something good has happened to them; but, then the next day, they're utterly defeated, and their faith is shipwrecked. They turn to football and baseball and everything in the world except for a proper, correct and complete Bible study. And their problems grow. The only thing I see people getting excited about today is themselves. They're only interested in what Jesus can do for them. Frankly, most people should not be involved in church work in *ANY* capacity; because all they do is get in the way. They sure never get into a Bible. It seems to be impossible to get people involved in the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Well, God has told me — in His Word — I'm going to be with Him forever. Obviously, His way is going to prevail — not mine. God has something glorious in mind for us — but all I am interested in is getting the entire Word of God to the entire world in the proper manner. Of course, most of you think I'm doing it improperly — but — guess what? — I'm doing this the way God told me to do it; and I don't report to *YOU!* I report directly to my Father in Heaven! We need to press towards the high calling of the Lord Jesus Christ; and that's what David is doing here — and that is why David was a man after God's own heart.

Now, wherever you are, and whatever you are doing, my Christian friends, God is saying to you "*COME ALIVE*" because you are spiritually dead. It's time to get right with God today and move out towards the Lord Jesus Christ. Why don't you confess your sins and tell God you want to go along with Him? Tell God you're tired of going your own way. Tell God you want real spiritual life; and that you want this all to be important to you. Why don't you do something definite and positive for a change? Why don't you stop just sitting there and actually have some personal contact with God? "*Get busy*" is what David said to Solomon....

**XXIII**

***<sup>1</sup> So when David was old and full of days, he made Solomon his son king over Israel.***

***<sup>2</sup> And he gathered together all the princes of Israel, with the priests and the Levites.***

***<sup>3</sup> Now the Levites were numbered from the age of thirty years and upward: and their number by their polls, man by man, was thirty and eight thousand.***

***<sup>4</sup> Of which, twenty and four thousand were to set forward the work of the house of the LORD; and six thousand were officers and judges:***

***<sup>5</sup> Moreover four thousand were porters; and four thousand praised the LORD with the instruments which I made, said David, to praise therewith.***

***<sup>6</sup> And David divided them into courses among the sons of Levi, namely, Gershon, Kohath, and Merari.***

***<sup>7</sup> Of the Gershonites were, Laadan, and Shimei.***

***<sup>8</sup> The sons of Laadan; the chief was Jehiel, and Zetham, and Joel, three.***

***<sup>9</sup> The sons of Shimei; Shelomith, and Haziël, and Haran, three. These were the chief of the fathers of Laadan.***

***<sup>10</sup> And the sons of Shimei were, Jahath, Zina, and Jeush, and Beriah. These four were the sons of Shimei.***

***<sup>11</sup> And Jahath was the chief, and Zizah the second: but Jeush and Beriah had not many sons; therefore they were in one reckoning, according to their father's house.***

***12 The sons of Kohath; Amram, Izhar, Hebron, and Uzziel, four.***

***13 The sons of Amram; Aaron and Moses: and Aaron was separated, that he should sanctify the most holy things, he and his sons for ever, to burn incense before the LORD, to minister unto him, and to bless in his name for ever.***

***14 Now concerning Moses the man of God, his sons were named of the tribe of Levi.***

***15 The sons of Moses were, Gershom, and Eliezer.***

***16 Of the sons of Gershom, Shebuel was the chief.***

***17 And the sons of Eliezer were, Rehabiah the chief. And Eliezer had none other sons; but the sons of Rehabiah were very many.***

***18 Of the sons of Izhar; Shelomith the chief.***

***19 Of the sons of Hebron; Jeriah the first, Amariah the second, Jahaziel the third, and Jekameam the fourth.***

***20 Of the sons of Uzziel; Michah the first, and Jesiah the second.***

***21 The sons of Merari; Mahli, and Mushi. The sons of Mahli; Eleazar, and Kish.***

***22 And Eleazar died, and had no sons, but daughters: and their brethren the sons of Kish took them.***

***23 The sons of Mushi; Mahli, and Eder, and Jeremoth, three.***



***24 These were the sons of Levi after the house of their fathers; even the chief of the fathers, as they were counted by number of names by their polls, that did the work for the service of the house of the LORD, from the age of twenty years and upward.***

***25 For David said, The LORD God of Israel hath given rest unto his people, that they may dwell in Jerusalem for ever:***

***26 And also unto the Levites; they shall no more carry the tabernacle, nor any vessels of it for the service thereof.***

***27 For by the last words of David the Levites were numbered from twenty years old and above:***

***28 Because their office was to wait on the sons of Aaron for the service of the house of the LORD, in the courts, and in the chambers, and in the purifying of all holy things, and the work of the service of the house of God;***

***29 Both for the shewbread, and for the fine flour for meat offering, and for the unleavened cakes, and for that which is baked in the pan, and for that which is fried, and for all manner of measure and size;***

***30 And to stand every morning to thank and praise the LORD, and likewise at even;***

***31 And to offer all burnt sacrifices unto the LORD in the Sabbaths, in the new moons, and on the set feasts, by number, according to the order commanded unto them, continually before the LORD:***

***32 And that they should keep the charge of the tabernacle of the congregation, and the charge of the holy place, and the charge of the sons of Aaron their brethren, in the service of the house of the LORD.***

~ So, we close out this leg of our Spiritual Safari with David dying from the “full of days” syndrome; and with Solomon being made king and taking the throne. All the Levites were gathered, and we see there were thirty-eight thousand of them. When we studied Numbers, only eight-thousand Levites came out of Egypt. Obviously, they’ve increased and multiplied as God said they would and *in spite of* the judgment. I hope you actually read that chapter carefully; if not, go back and read it now – carefully and completely. The Levites are given a new assignment for service in the temple by David; and, from here forward, they served by courses. We also see the families of the Gershonites and the Kohathites, which carried the articles of furniture in the tabernacle; and the sons of Merari – who carried the heavy stuff through the wilderness, you will recall. They’re all listed here, because those carrying the Ark and the tabernacle are the ones God considers important. Make a note.

The assignment of carrying the tabernacle through the wilderness is abolished as of verse twenty-six. Now, they have a new business — in a permanent place. I think there is a very practical lesson here for all of us, too. The lesson is that there have been some very fine Christian organizations that God Himself raised up – and they served a very wonderful purpose during their course – but now, God is finished with their program. Well, friends, when God is through with something – that’s it – it’s over for that thing. Even so, people are trying to preserve the old organizations. Most of them are already as dead as a dinosaur; and they generally serve no purpose at all except to write paychecks to a small group of people. I won’t name any names but one of them rings the bell as loud as they can at Christmas time. That money goes straight into millionaires pockets – trust me – I just happen to know what I am talking about! It’s time for some new things in God’s work. Here, David is telling the Levites they’re not going to be marching through the wilderness any longer. They now have a temple, and their service is becoming altogether different. We need people who are doing something that is alive and real today in the

service of the Lord Jesus Christ and for the Word of God. What are you doing? ~

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<<< To Stand Every Morning  
1 Chronicles 22:10 – 23:32 >>>