

~ Our Spiritual Safari will conclude commentary of first Chronicles in this report. We have come to the end of the life of King David as seen from God's perspective. When we arrive in Psalms, we're going to consider how David laid his heart bare to the Lord in so many ways. We have learned how and why God said David was a man after His own heart; but, in Psalms, we'll have that point emphasized to the inth degree. You and I would do well to learn to be the same type of person David was – men and women who believe and trust God. We moved through this book of the Bible faster than any other book thus far; and, after this lesson, we will proceed through second Chronicles before returning to the New Testament and Paul's first letter to the Corinthians.

This section of first Chronicles contains the preparations for the building of the temple. David's heart and soul is wholly invested in this construction project. Building the temple is the one thing he desperately wanted to do; but, as we have seen, God could not permit him to because David was a bloody man with bloody hands. Even so, David made every preparation required for Solomon to come along and execute the building process. We have seen in subsequent reports how David gathered the materials, bought the real estate, hired the laborers, drafted the blueprints, wrote the job descriptions for the Levites who would serve in it, and encouraged Solomon to do something worthwhile for God....

XXVIII

¹¹ Then David gave to Solomon his son the pattern of the porch, and of the houses thereof, and of the treasuries thereof, and of the upper chambers thereof, and of the inner parlours thereof, and of the place of the mercy seat,

12 And the pattern of all that he had by the spirit, of the courts of the house of the LORD, and of all the chambers round about, of the treasuries of the house of God, and of the treasuries of the dedicated things:

13 Also for the courses of the priests and the Levites, and for all the work of the service of the house of the LORD, and for all the vessels of service in the house of the LORD.

~ In our previous report, I referred to a model of the temple that was in Jerusalem. These are not little mediocre tourist trap things; they are outdoors — and one must walk around them. I would say it is approximately fifty feet by fifty feet and highly detailed. Of course, it is a replica of Herod's temple as it was in his day — not Solomon's. Well, there was a definite simplicity about Solomon's temple. It wasn't as simple as the tabernacle was during the wilderness march but, even so, there was simplicity. It was not an imposingly large structure; but a work of beauty and richness. The wealth that was bestowed upon it was magnificent. David had enough silver and gold for Solomon to make whatever he wanted to make and still have material left over.

Throughout the years, estimates have been made of the cost to construct the temple. In today's dollars, it would be in the hundreds of millions. Modern man wouldn't build anything like Solomon's Temple, though; with everything covered in gold and silver and precious stones. Well, it was built the way God wanted it built. Today, I think God's house should correspond to the neighborhood in which it is built. A gaudy cathedral in a poor slum neighborhood is shameful. That's not the way God wants us to worship and praise Him. Unfortunately, when a church is built in the modern-day millionaires neighborhood, the emphasis is on the building itself. What goes on inside is typically as poor as impoverishment knows; but I digress, sort of.

A conference was held in Jerusalem concerning prophecy many decades ago; and the statements made would have been laughable if they hadn't been so deeply and seriously misguided. One question was: will the temple ever be rebuilt? The accepted answer was that it would not be rebuilt because God doesn't live in a box. Well, David had no notion whatsoever that God could be boxed in. Solomon will say at his dedication of the temple, *"the Heaven of Heavens cannot contain Thee!"* So, it seems Solomon knew the created universe couldn't contain God; and we know where he learned that – from his father, David. See, it's important to actually know God before speaking of His Name.

Solomon's temple was the meeting place for the children of Israel to worship the glory and honor of the True and Living God, friends. That's what is important. Today, God doesn't meet us downtown in a building. God indwells individuals by the omnipotence of the Holy Spirit. We need to understand that distinction of basic truth if we are to reach a proper, correct and complete understanding of God the Father and of the Lord Jesus Christ through Holy Writ. The indwelling of the Holy Spirit is the thing we should emphasize. As we read on, we see into the heart of David...

¹⁴ He gave of gold by weight for things of gold, for all instruments of all manner of service; silver also for all instruments of silver by weight, for all instruments of every kind of service:

¹⁵ Even the weight for the candlesticks of gold, and for their lamps of gold, by weight for every candlestick, and for the lamps thereof: and for the candlesticks of silver by weight, both for the candlestick, and also for the lamps thereof, according to the use of every candlestick.

¹⁶ And by weight he gave gold for the tables of shewbread, for every table; and likewise silver for the tables of silver:

17 Also pure gold for the fleshhooks, and the bowls, and the cups: and for the golden basins he gave gold by weight for every basin; and likewise silver by weight for every basin of silver:

18 And for the altar of incense refined gold by weight; and gold for the pattern of the chariot of the cherubims, that spread out their wings, and covered the ark of the covenant of the LORD.

~ No expense was too great in the building of the temple. It was a complete expenditure of the wealth of King David personally and of the nation as an entity. David did this for one reason and one reason only: to honor God. Because David purposed to do this thing, God gave David the pattern for the temple firsthand. God picked the place; which was the threshing floor of Ornan. God encouraged David and motivated him; but wouldn't allow him to build it. We need to notice how God did all of this, too – because it sure wasn't in some dream or vision – and this is the Old Testament! No, friends, God did it *IN WRITING!* The truths we find in this dry section of Scripture just happen to be water for our souls; and it *is written....*

19 All this, said David, the LORD made me understand in writing by his hand upon me, even all the works of this pattern.

20 And David said to Solomon his son, Be strong and of good courage, and do it: fear not, nor be dismayed: for the LORD God, even my God, will be with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee, until thou hast finished all the work for the service of the house of the LORD.

21 And, behold, the courses of the priests and the Levites, even they shall be with thee for all the service of the house of God: and there shall be with thee for all manner of workmanship every willing skilful man, for any manner of service: also the princes and all the people will be wholly at thy commandment.

XXIX

¹ Furthermore David the king said unto all the congregation, Solomon my son, whom alone God hath chosen, is yet young and tender, and the work is great: for the palace is not for man, but for the LORD God.

² Now I have prepared with all my might for the house of my God the gold for things to be made of gold, and the silver for things of silver, and the brass for things of brass, the iron for things of iron, and wood for things of wood; onyx stones, and stones to be set, glistening stones, and of divers colours, and all manner of precious stones, and marble stones in abundance.

³ Moreover, because I have set my affection to the house of my God, I have of mine own proper good, of gold and silver, which I have given to the house of my God, over and above all that I have prepared for the holy house,

⁴ Even three thousand talents of gold, of the gold of Ophir, and seven thousand talents of refined silver, to overlay the walls of the houses withal:

⁵ The gold for things of gold, and the silver for things of silver, and for all manner of work to be made by the hands of artificers. And who then is willing to consecrate his service this day unto the LORD?

⁶ Then the chief of the fathers and princes of the tribes of Israel, and the captains of thousands and of hundreds, with the rulers of the king's work, offered willingly,

⁷ And gave for the service of the house of God of gold five thousand talents and ten thousand drams, and of silver ten thousand talents, and of

brass eighteen thousand talents, and one hundred thousand talents of iron.

⁸ And they with whom precious stones were found gave them to the treasure of the house of the LORD, by the hand of Jehiel the Gershonite.

⁹ Then the people rejoiced, for that they offered willingly, because with perfect heart they offered willingly to the LORD: and David the king also rejoiced with great joy.

¹⁰ Wherefore David blessed the LORD before all the congregation: and David said, Blessed be thou, LORD God of Israel our father, for ever and ever.

¹¹ Thine, O LORD, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O LORD, and thou art exalted as head above all.

¹² Both riches and honour come of thee, and thou reignest over all; and in thine hand is power and might; and in thine hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all.

¹³ Now therefore, our God, we thank thee, and praise thy glorious name.

¹⁴ But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly after this sort? for all things come of thee, and of thine own have we given thee.

¹⁵ For we are strangers before thee, and sojourners, as were all our fathers: our days on the earth are as a shadow, and there is none abiding.

16 O LORD our God, all this store that we have prepared to build thee an house for thine holy name cometh of thine hand, and is all thine own.

17 I know also, my God, that thou triest the heart, and hast pleasure in uprightness. As for me, in the uprightness of mine heart I have willingly offered all these things: and now have I seen with joy thy people, which are present here, to offer willingly unto thee.

18 O LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, our fathers, keep this for ever in the imagination of the thoughts of the heart of thy people, and prepare their heart unto thee:

19 And give unto Solomon my son a perfect heart, to keep thy commandments, thy testimonies, and thy statutes, and to do all these things, and to build the palace, for the which I have made provision.

20 And David said to all the congregation, Now bless the LORD your God. And all the congregation blessed the LORD God of their fathers, and bowed down their heads, and worshipped the LORD, and the king.

21 And they sacrificed sacrifices unto the LORD, and offered burnt offerings unto the LORD, on the morrow after that day, even a thousand bullocks, a thousand rams, and a thousand lambs, with their drink offerings, and sacrifices in abundance for all Israel:

22 And did eat and drink before the LORD on that day with great gladness. And they made Solomon the son of David king the second time, and anointed him unto the LORD to be the chief governor, and Zadok to be priest.

23 Then Solomon sat on the throne of the LORD as king instead of David his father, and prospered; and all Israel obeyed him.

24 And all the princes, and the mighty men, and all the sons likewise of king David, submitted themselves unto Solomon the king.

25 And the LORD magnified Solomon exceedingly in the sight of all Israel, and bestowed upon him such royal majesty as had not been on any king before him in Israel.

26 Thus David the son of Jesse reigned over all Israel.

27 And the time that he reigned over Israel was forty years; seven years reigned he in Hebron, and thirty and three years reigned he in Jerusalem.

~ So, David is on his deathbed and, just as Jacob had done, he called the nation together to give them a departing message in prayer. Verse one makes it clear God chose Solomon; because David's choice would have been Absalom - if Absalom hadn't been killed in rebellion so long ago. We learned in the Book of Kings that David almost didn't even make the appointment of Solomon as king! I don't think David really cared who succeeded him, seeing how Absalom was dead. David knew Solomon was "*young and tender*" – a.k.a. a sissy. Solomon was inexperienced in everything from war to politics to reigning over a nation. I feel David was ashamed of Solomon on some level. David was a hard-boiled veteran. He didn't go for the soft, easy stuff. You can just write that down. David was gracious and generous, but he could be extremely terse and curt.

David gave everything to the temple project, and he gave with *JOY* – as we saw in verse nine. Some people think we should give until it hurts; but, quite frankly, if it hurts – God doesn't want it. If you cannot give with joy, God would rather you just keep it because He won't use it anyway. You can be selfish, and you can give sinfully – either way, it's all wrong if you don't give with joy.

Verse ten begins David's great final prayer. David acknowledges God as the Father of the nation Israel; but *NOT* of individuals within the nation! That's a critical distinction to understand. David never called God his Father. God never called David anything but His servant, either! The Mosaic Law never made a son of God. The only way we become sons of God is through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ in this age of Grace! It is a relationship that was not available in the age of Law. God didn't change – He changed us. Let's learn to thank Him for that.

When the disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray, the Lord taught them. Jesus took them to this prayer of David's – verse eleven. This is what was in David's heart. A man on his deathbed is apt to reveal his heart in almost embarrassing honesty. Here, the words are of brevity and simplicity. This prayer of David gathers up the aspirations and hopes of centuries; and it is *STILL* one of the *GREAT* prayers of Scripture. I think this is all very comprehensive, majestic, adoration oriented, praiseworthy, thanksgiving, repudiation of all human merit, self-humiliation, confession; and it places all dependence upon the True and Living God while dedicating everything to Him and admitting that it *ALREADY* belongs to Him in the first place. David recognizes and acknowledges to the people and to his son that the kingdom is God's....

²⁸ And he died in a good old age, full of days, riches, and honour: and Solomon his son reigned in his stead.

²⁹ Now the acts of David the king, first and last, behold, they are written in the book of Samuel the seer, and in the book of Nathan the prophet, and in the book of Gad the seer,

³⁰ With all his reign and his might, and the times that went over him, and over Israel, and over all the kingdoms of the countries.

~ So, we end this leg of our Spiritual Safari in a dry place; but, the tremendous weight of the matter of this passage is what Jesus took from to teach His disciples to pray. The Scriptural concept of the kingdom is eternal and temporal; universal and local; immediate and mediated – all at the same time! Generally speaking, we’re talking about the reign of Heaven over this earth; past, present and future.

When God created Adam, He gave Adam dominion over everything on earth. That was lost in the fall to sin in chapter three of Genesis. Today, the Kingdom of God is His rule over the earth. When the Lord Jesus returns, He will recover the kingdom and bring it back under God’s direct will and authoritative control. Many erroneously believe Christ is the King today, and that He is ruling in this world; well, you couldn’t be more wrong about that. When He reigns down here, there won’t be heart-break, tears, disappointment, death, wars, strife, envy, murder, injustice, hate, adultery – *NONE* of that. This is the kingdom we should be praying for – not erroneously thinking it has already come. Thinking like that in total and complete ignorance of the Word of God is why there are so many defeated Christians; and so many apostate denominations. It will only ever come about in God’s way and in God’s time. Not yours. It will only come about through divine protocol. Not through your effort, planning or might. Man cannot now, and never will, be permitted to build God’s kingdom on this earth. Let’s stop playing church and learn the Bible properly, correctly and completely, shall we?

Only the Lord Jesus can establish His Kingdom. The prayer says, “*THINE* is the kingdom!” The so-called “*Lord’s Prayer*” doesn’t happen to be for public consumption today, either, friends. Tacking the phrase onto the ritual of a Sunday morning service is almost blasphemous, to be quite honest. I *DO* believe it is proper for private devotion, and it should be the prayer of every individual – but – only individually. This is a glorious end to this study as we see how David was looking to the coming of the kingdom here upon this earth. David knew we couldn’t give anything to God;

<<< The Lord Made Me Understand in Writing
1 Chronicles 28:11 – 29:30 >>>

because He owned it to begin with. However, God can bless us, and He will bless us – but *ONLY WHEN WE ARE IN HIS WILL IN OBEDIENCE!*

The reason some of us are so poor, narrow-minded and petty is because we aren't very generous with God. Wondering why God doesn't bestow generous blessings upon us isn't a huge secret. God will *ONLY* bless us when we open up our hearts to Him in truth. I wish we could just stay here for a thousand more reports; but, very few people read them anyways – so, we must move on in hopes of reaching someone else in some other section of Scripture.

This study through first Chronicles was God's record and account to let you know exactly how He felt about David during David's lifetime. I know some of you don't care very much for King David after getting to know him correctly as king of Israel. God did – and does care for David. Personally, I'm thankful God dealt with David as He did; and that He gave us these instructions in such a manner. David was very human; and Andrew Hunt just happens to be very human. I need reality, friends. I have found out that God deals with Andrew just as graciously and as good as He did with David. The Lord is good and wonderful, and He is worthy of our praise. I can't build God a temple; but I can offer the Holy Spirit this temple called a body. God doesn't get very much with Andrew – but He gets it all. What a joy it is to be committed to God. What a privilege it is, my beloved ~

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