

## 1 Chronicles 28:1-21

### David Announces Solomon Will Build the Temple

These Old Testament stories of the history of Israel that we're studying, combined with the meaning of the feasts and the sacrifices as well as the layout and materials of the Tabernacle (and later the Temple) all interlock to create a brilliant mosaic reflecting the gospel and the meaning of the cross.

The type of King David as Messiah is too big for one man to carry. David represented Christ as the warrior accomplishing victory over Israel's enemies and he extended the boundaries of the kingdom as well as revealing Messiah's innermost thoughts in the psalms he wrote. Here, David passes the scepter to his son Solomon who will reflect a different manifestation of the Messiah, as the Prince of Peace, building the Temple and excelling in wisdom.

Remember that the earthly Temple was a picture of the spiritual Temple that all believers comprise as "living stones" in the dwelling place of the Lord - which is also His Bride and His Body.

David says it will follow plans of a heavenly Temple revealed to him from God "by the Spirit," just as Moses saw a similar pattern of the Tabernacle.

- **Exodus 25:9** - "According to all that I show you, that is, the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its furnishings, just so you shall make it."

- **Hebrews 8:5** - "Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount."

So the earthly Tabernacle and Temple, made according to a heavenly pattern, only foreshadowed the real thing.

**As Melito of Sardis said** in his sermon "On Pascha" : "But when the church came on the scene, and the gospel was set forth, the type lost its value by surrendering its significance to the truth, and the law was fulfilled by surrendering its significance to the gospel. Just as the type lost its significance by surrendering its image to that which is true by nature, and as the parable lost its significance by being illumined through the interpretation, so indeed also the law was fulfilled when the gospel was brought to light, and the people lost their significance when the church came on the scene, and the type was destroyed when the Lord appeared. Therefore, those things which once had value are today without value, because the things which have true value have appeared." (See the whole sermon here: <https://www.crossroadsinitiative.com/media/articles/on-the-passover/>)

**1 Chronicles 28:1** - "And David assembled all the princes of Israel, the princes of the tribes, and the captains of the companies that ministered to the king by course, and the

captains over the thousands, and captains over the hundreds, and the stewards over all the substance and possession of the king, and of his sons, with the officers, and with the mighty men, and with all the valiant men, unto Jerusalem."

All the chief rulers and men of authority in Israel were gathered at Jerusalem for this announcement.

**1 Chronicles 1:2-3** - "Then David the king stood up upon his feet, and said, Hear me, my brethren, and my people: As for me, I had in mine heart to build an house of rest for the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and for the footstool of our God, and had made ready for the building: But God said unto me, Thou shalt not build an house for my name, because thou hast been a man of war, and hast shed blood."

David calls them "my brothers." This reveals the incredible humility of Christ:

- **Hebrews 2:11** - "For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren, Saying, 'I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee.'" (quoting **Psalm 22:22**)

"the footstool of the Lord" = the Ark of the Covenant, where God's feet metaphorically touched his dwelling place as he sits between the cherubim on the mercy seat (Hebrew "*kapporet*;" "*hilastērion*" in Greek).

Christ is our mercy seat (**Romans 3:25**), where the blood of the sacrifice was sprinkled on the Day of Atonement.

### **Solomon will Build the Temple**

**1 Chronicles 28:4-6** - "Howbeit the LORD God of Israel chose me before all the house of my father to be king over Israel for ever: for he hath chosen Judah to be the ruler; and of the house of Judah, the house of my father; and among the sons of my father he liked me to make me king over all Israel: And of all my sons, (for the LORD hath given me many sons,) he hath chosen Solomon my son to sit upon the throne of the kingdom of the LORD over Israel. And he said unto me, Solomon thy son, he shall build my house and my courts: for I have chosen him to be my son, and I will be his father. Moreover I will establish his kingdom for ever, if he be constant to do my commandments and my judgments, as at this day."

How could David be king "forever?" Only in Jesus as the Messiah and "son of David" whose kingdom will never end.

Solomon was the youngest of David's sons, so again God turns human traditions upside down.

"I have chosen him to be my son, and I will be his father" - This is the same prophecy that God gave David earlier:

- **2 Samuel 7:12-14** - "And when your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will raise up your descendant after you, who will come from your own body, and I will establish his kingdom. He will build a house for My Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be his Father, and he will be My son. When he does wrong, I will discipline him with the rod of men and with the blows of the sons of men."

### Exhortation to Obey God

**1 Chronicles 28:8** - "Now therefore in the sight of all Israel the congregation of the LORD, and in the audience of our God, keep and seek for all the commandments of the LORD your God: that ye may possess this good land, and leave it for an inheritance for your children after you for ever."

This had been God's promise to Israel originally:

- **Deuteronomy 28:1** - "Now if you faithfully obey the voice of the LORD your God and are careful to follow all His commandments I am giving you today, the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth."

The prophets reminded Israel of this constantly;

- **Isaiah 1:18-20** - "Come now, let us reason together," says the LORD. "Though your sins are like scarlet, they will be as white as snow; though they are as red as crimson, they will become like wool. If you are willing and obedient, you will eat the best of the land. But if you resist and rebel, you will be devoured by the sword."

Our obedience always fails, but not Christ's. Jesus lived a life without sin. He fulfilled the Law and introduced the New Covenant, in which the Law is written on our hearts (**Jeremiah 31:33**). Faith in Christ keeps us close to the cross and releases His resurrection life. We exchange our old life for His.

### Instructions to Solomon

**1 Chronicles 28:9** - "And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the LORD searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: if thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever."

"serve him with a perfect heart" = means with your whole heart. i.e. don't be double-minded

Our natural mind is wicked, and can't understand the things of God.

- **Genesis 6:5** - "Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great upon the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was altogether evil all the

time."

Rashi - In Genesis Rabbah 9:3 it says, "Before a creature is created, the Holy One, blessed be He, understands what the person is destined to think."

**1 Chronicles 28:10-13** - "Take heed now; for the LORD hath chosen thee to build an house for the sanctuary: be strong, and do it. 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 parlors thereof, and of the place of the mercy seat, 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: 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."

God even preplanned the size and weight of each of the Temple's furnishings and instruments:

**1 Chronicles 28:14-18** - "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: 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. And by weight he gave gold for the tables of shewbread, for every table; and likewise silver for the tables of silver: Also pure gold for the fleshhooks, and the bowls, and the cups: and for the golden basons he gave gold by weight for every bason; and likewise silver by weight for every bason of silver: 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."

By listing all the different details of the Temple, it urges us to reflect on our earlier study of the Tabernacle and the meaning of each pieces as it points to Christ and His finished work of redemption.

**1 Chronicles 28:19** - "All this, said David, the LORD made me understand in writing by his hand upon me, even all the works of this pattern."

Or, "in writing from the hand of the Lord, unto me, he made me to understand: even all the works of this pattern"

How did this writing happen? It's not clear. The rabbis maintain that Samuel received it first and passed it on to David in writing. But it was probably similar to how Moses received the Commandments written by the finger of God, or possibly through the ministry of angels. Was this different from how David was inspired to write his psalms? It remains a mystery.

## ‘Be Strong and of Good Courage, Fear Not’

**1 Chronicles 28:20** - "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."

This is similar to what God told Joshua:

- **Joshua 1:5** - "No one will be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you."

And repeated for New Testament believers:

- **Hebrews 13:5** - "Let your manner of living be without covetousness, and be content with such things as ye have. For He hath said, 'I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee'"

## Who Will Help?

**1 Chronicles 28:21** - "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 skillful man, for any manner of service: also the princes and all the people will be wholly at thy commandment."

## Summary

Christ is really the “pattern” revealed to David. Each part of the new Temple would speak of His redemptive work. So, by briefly surveying the pattern in this chapter, we are led through the whole gospel. The sin offering required to get in the door, then the trespass offering and the sweet savor offerings - meal, peace and burnt offerings, the Brazen Altar in the courtyard, the Incense altar and Lamp Stand and Table of Shewbread in the Holy Place, with finally the High Priest entering the Holy of Holies on Yom Kippur.

- **John 5:39** - "You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me, yet you refuse to come to Me to have life"

- **Luke 24:27** - "And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, He explained to them what was written in all the Scriptures about Himself."

Finally, as a royal priesthood, we believers “will be with thee (Jesus)” for all the service of the house of God, responding to His will and commands.

- **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 praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.”

We become the vehicles for God's grace to be showered on any who will believe through preaching the gospel. We act out through our lives in the power of the Holy Spirit the spiritual truth set forth in the "heavenly pattern" that God gave to Moses and to David and which is perfectly reflected in Jesus.