

## 1 Chronicles 29:1-30, 1 Kings 2:1-12

### David Prepares Materials of the Temple for Solomon

David does everything that is needed in preparation for construction of the Temple by Solomon. He gathers the materials for him, donates much of his own personal treasure, and appoints a team of artisans and workers who will build the structure according to the heavenly design.

The full import of this chapter can be recognized by comparing it to the giving spirit of the first believers after Pentecost in Acts, and with the description of the New Jerusalem in the Book of Revelation.

### 'Solomon my son, whom alone God hath chosen'

**1 Chronicles 29:1** - "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."

By "palace" he means not just the Temple itself but the fortress and foundations. The whole enterprise was for God not for the king or for the glory of Israel or anyone else.

God chose Solomon, the youngest son. This continues a pattern seen throughout the Bible in which God turns worldly tradition upside down. Paul describes God's viewpoint:

- **1 Corinthians 15:46** - "Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual."

We see it in Jacob and Esau where "the elder shall serve the younger." God chooses the weak things:

- **1 Corinthians 1:27** - "But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: That no flesh should glory in his presence."

Natural man wants to be first, to win not lose, to have prominence over others, to have strength and be on top. God values weakness, humility and dependence on Him.

Gideon was the youngest son in the weakest clan of the tribe of Manasseh. Fearful and unbelieving at every step, nevertheless God said he was a "mighty man of valor" (**Judges 6:11**). Of course, David himself was the youngest of his father's sons, but defeated the giant Goliath and was anointed king.

Jesus is the best example. Born in a stable, leader of group of unlettered fishermen, and eventually executed in the worst possible way with His mission apparently a failure,

yet He was resurrected from the dead and became the way of salvation for all who believe and was given a name above all other names. (**Philippians 2.**).

### David's Preparations

**1 Chronicles 29:2-5** - "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 colors, and all manner of precious stones, and marble stones in abundance.

"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, 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:

"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?"

For comparison, read the description of the New Jerusalem: **Revelation 21:1-27**

David asked, "Who then is willing to consecrate his service this day unto the LORD?"

**1 Chronicles 29:6** - "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, 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. 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."

This is like the attitude of Israel when Moses calls for a contribution for the construction of the Tabernacle in the wilderness:

- **Exodus 25:1-8** - "Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, "Tell the sons of Israel to raise a contribution for Me; from every man whose heart moves him you shall raise My contribution. And this is the contribution which you are to raise from them: gold, silver and bronze, blue, purple and scarlet material, fine linen, goat hair, rams' skins dyed red, porpoise skins, acacia wood, oil for lighting, spices for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense, onyx stones and setting stones and setting stones, for the ephod and for the breastpiece. And let them construct a sanctuary for Me, that I may dwell among them".

...and Israel's response (**Exodus 35:1-36:7**).

It also reminds us of the situation after Pentecost in Acts.

- **Acts 2:42-45** - 'And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles. And all that believed were together, and had all things common; And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need.'

In other words, they furnished and decorated the New Jerusalem (of which they were "living stones") by offering what they had to "every man who had need." The willing heart to give within believers is combined with God's gifts of the Spirit, the offices of the Body and the fruit of the Spirit to equip the church to preach the Gospel.

Paul elaborates on this "heavenly pattern" while addressing divisions caused by a controversy between those who claimed to follow him vs those who followed another teacher, Apollos:

- **1 Corinthians 3:9** - "For we are laborers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building.

10 "According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.

11 "For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

12 "Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble;

13 "Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.

14 "If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.

15 "If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

16 "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?"

We willingly give of ourselves to others "as unto the Lord," and those good works are equivalent to the "gold, silver and precious stones" that Israel offered to beautify and build the Temple. But works that minister to self, cause division or hinder the kingdom of God will be burnt up.

**1 Chronicles 29:9** - "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."

Giving willingly always produces joy in the giver.

### David's Prayer

There is more to prayer than asking for something. Most of David's prayer here is praise and worship of God. At the end of the prayer he calls for the people to "bless" God, which is just another way to say praise Him.

To praise God is to acknowledge His attributes and blessings to us in an attitude of thanksgiving.

Atheists argue that God is a narcissist if He requires people to tell Him how great He is all the time. But our prayers are for our benefit. By speaking out loud what we believe, we increase our own faith and build up the faith of our brethren. We are united and resonating with the great cloud of witnesses in heaven who are falling down before the Lamb and praising Him. Our songs and words mix with theirs, since we are "seated with Him in heavenly places" even now (**Ephesians 2:6**).

Most of David's prayer is realizing that all that they have just given for the Temple comes from the hand of God anyway: "for all things come of thee, and of thine own have we given thee." (**verse 14**).

As Paul says, **Romans 11:35** - "Who has first given to God, that God should repay him? For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things."

**1 Chronicles 29:15** - "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."

"abiding" = *mikvah* - also used for the pool of water required to be cleansed. Without God there is no cleansing, or abiding or hope.

This is the vital truth we need to keep constantly in front of us - our mortality.

**1 Chronicles 29:18** - "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:"

"imagination" = *yetser* - inclination. i.e. an inclination for good, not the "evil inclination" resident in our flesh.

Once we understand our mortality, there is nothing to hold back our willingness to give toward God's mission and kingdom.

**1 Chronicles 29:19** - "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."

Then the people sacrificed and offered burnt offerings on the altar set up at the threshing floor of Araunah. Burnt offerings represent a complete understanding and total surrender to God, in which you are consumed. There were also peace offerings, in which God, the priest and the offerer all eat the same thing together. These represent acceptance and are called sweet savor offerings that are pleasing to God because they reflect the surrendered life of Jesus.

### **Solomon Anointed the Second Time**

**1 Chronicles 29:22-23** - "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. Then Solomon sat on the throne of the LORD as king instead of David his father, and prospered; and all Israel obeyed him."

### **David's Last Words to Solomon** (As we read previously in **1 Chronicles 28:20**)

**1 Kings 2:1-9** - "Now the days of David drew nigh that he should die; and he charged Solomon his son, saying, I go the way of all the earth: be thou strong therefore, and shew thyself a man;"

This is like Moses' charge to Joshua in **Deuteronomy 31:7** and **Joshua 1:9** - "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."

In fact he's quoting Joshua's last words in **Joshua 23:14** - "And, behold, this day I am going the way of all the earth: and ye know in all your hearts and in all your souls, that not one thing hath failed of all the good things which the LORD your God spake concerning you; all are come to pass unto you, and not one thing hath failed thereof."

**1 Kings 2:3** - "And keep the charge of the LORD thy God, to walk in his ways, to keep his statutes, and his commandments, and his judgments, and his testimonies, as it is written in the law of Moses, that thou mayest prosper in all that thou doest, and whithersoever thou turnest thyself:"

For believers, being "strong" means having faith in God.

The king was required to keep his own copy of the Torah scrolls near him and read it often (**Deuteronomy 17:18**).

It also reflects the promise that even the nations of the world would benefit from Israel and its king keeping the Law:

- **Deuteronomy 4:6** - "See, I have taught you statutes and ordinances just as the LORD my God has commanded me, so that you may follow them in the land that you are

about to enter and possess. 6Observe them carefully, for this will show your wisdom and understanding in the sight of the peoples, who will hear of all these statutes and say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.' For what nation is great enough to have a god as near to them as the LORD our God is to us whenever we call on Him?"

This foretells the profound historical influence that Judeo-Christian values have had on current governments around the world.

**1 Kings 2:4** - "That the LORD may continue his word which he spake concerning me, saying, If thy children take heed to their way, to walk before me in truth with all their heart and with all their soul, there shall not fail thee (said he) a man on the throne of Israel."

David repeats the promise that came through Nathan about the eternal Davidic kingdom, fulfilled in the Messiah (**2 Samuel 7:14**).

### Settling Unfinished Business

**1 Kings 2:5** - "Moreover thou knowest also what Joab the son of Zeruiah did to me, and what he did to the two captains of the hosts of Israel, unto Abner the son of Ner, and unto Amasa the son of Jether, whom he slew, and shed the blood of war in peace, and put the blood of war upon his girdle that was about his loins, and in his shoes that were on his feet. But shew kindness unto the sons of Barzillai the Gileadite, and let them be of those that eat at thy table: for so they came to me when I fled because of Absalom thy brother. And, behold, thou hast with thee Shimei the son of Gera, a Benjamite of Bahurim, which cursed me with a grievous curse in the day when I went to Mahanaim: but he came down to meet me at Jordan, and I swore to him by the LORD, saying, I will not put thee to death with the sword. Now therefore hold him not guiltless: for thou art a wise man, and knowest what thou oughtest to do unto him; but his hoar head bring thou down to the grave with blood."

Solomon carried out this retribution (**1 Kings 2:25-46**).

Abiathar was rejected from the priesthood. Adonijah, Shimei and Joab were killed by the hand of Solomon's warrior Benaiah, whose name means "Yahweh has built up." This means that, spiritually, to build up sometimes you first have to destroy, like in the picture of the chaff and the wheat on the threshing floor.

- **Jeremiah 1:10** - "See, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant."

God is long suffering, but his justice is sure.

### The Death of David

**1 Chronicles 29:26-30** - "Thus David the son of Jesse reigned over all Israel. 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. And he died in a good old age, full of days, riches, and honor: and Solomon his son reigned in his stead. 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, 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."

What are the books of Nathan and Gad? We don't know because they're lost.

The tradition was that David died on Pentecost, which is why Peter refers to his sepulcher in **Acts 2:29-36**.

**1 Kings 2:12** - "Then sat Solomon upon the throne of David his father; and his kingdom was established greatly."

- greatly = *m<sup>o</sup>ōd* - with might, from a root that means "stir up a fire with a poker"