

Preparations for Construction of the Temple

1 Chronicles 22

1 Chronicles 22 - *"Then David said, 'This is the house of the LORD God, and this is the altar of burnt offering for Israel.'*

² So David commanded to gather the aliens who were in the land of Israel; and he appointed masons to cut hewn stones to build the house of God. ³ And David prepared iron in abundance for the nails of the doors of the gates and for the joints, and bronze in abundance beyond measure, ⁴ and cedar trees in abundance; for the Sidonians and those from Tyre brought much cedar wood to David.

⁵ Now David said, 'Solomon my son is young and inexperienced, and the house to be built for the LORD must be exceedingly magnificent, famous and glorious throughout all countries. I will now make preparation for it.' So David made abundant preparations before his death.

⁶ Then he called for his son Solomon, and charged him to build a 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 a house to the name of the LORD my God; ⁸ but the word of the LORD came to me, saying, 'You have shed much blood and have made great wars; you shall not build a house for My name, because you have shed much blood on the earth in My sight. ⁹ Behold, a son shall be born to you, who shall be a man of rest; and I will give him rest from all his enemies all around. His name shall be Solomon, for I will give peace and quietness to Israel in his days. ¹⁰ He shall build a 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 forever.'

¹¹ Now, my son, may the LORD be with you; and may you prosper, and build the house of the LORD your God, as He has said to you. ¹² Only may the LORD give you wisdom and understanding, and give you charge concerning Israel, that you may keep the law of the LORD your God. ¹³ Then you will prosper, if you take care to fulfill the statutes and judgments with which the LORD charged Moses concerning Israel. Be strong and of good courage; do not fear nor be dismayed. ¹⁴ Indeed I have taken much trouble to prepare for the house of the LORD one hundred thousand talents of gold and one million talents of silver, and bronze and iron beyond measure, for it is so abundant. I have prepared timber and stone also, and you may add to them. ¹⁵ Moreover there are workmen with you in abundance: woodsmen and stonecutters, and all types of skillful men for every kind of work. ¹⁶ Of gold and silver and bronze and iron there is no limit. Arise and begin working, and the LORD be with you.'

¹⁷ David also commanded all the leaders of Israel to help Solomon his son, saying, ¹⁸ 'Is not the LORD your God with you? And has He not given you rest on every side? For He has given the inhabitants of the land into my 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. Therefore arise and build the sanctuary of the LORD God, to bring the ark of the covenant of the LORD and the holy articles of God into the house that is to be built for the name of the LORD.'"

Background Notes

1 Chronicles 21 is the record of David's sinful census and the judgment that God had to bring upon the people of Israel for their national pride. The question could be raised: Why did God want this sad side of David's reign to be recorded? After all, one of the purposes of 1 Chronicles is to highlight the blessings, accomplishments and glories of David's divinely chosen dynasty. Even David's great sins of adultery and murder are passed over in 1 Chronicles. So why include this chapter about his sinful census? Several reasons could be given, but one important purpose for chapter 21 was to lay the groundwork for the building of the Temple by Solomon.

Because of the plague of judgment that God brought on Israel, David bought the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite as a place of sacrifice. David sacrificed at this site by the direct command of the Lord. *"The angel of the LORD commanded Gad to say to David that David should go and erect an altar to the LORD on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite. So David went up at the word of Gad, which he had spoken in the name of the LORD" (1 Chronicles 21:18-19).* This threshing floor would become the site of the Temple – and not only Solomon's Temple, but all future Temples as well.

When the Lord approved David's sacrifice with fire from heaven on this site, David said, *"This is the house of the LORD God, and this is the altar of burnt offering for Israel" (21:22).* That is, this will be the site of the house of the Lord. This is the new location for the altar of sacrifice. The time for the Ark-less Tabernacle at Gibeon was over. The Ark of the Covenant was now in Jerusalem, awaiting its new home in Jerusalem. Not Gibeon. No doubt this was part of the reason why David no longer went to the Tabernacle at Gibeon (1 Chronicles 21:29-30).

The Ark-less Tabernacle at Gibeon is a spiritual picture of many churches today. We've seen that the Ark of the Covenant represents Christ as the only Mediator between God and mankind. Just as the Ark was no longer at the religious center of Gibeon, so Christ is no longer in many churches that fail to preach salvation through Jesus Christ alone as the Mediator between God and man. Those churches are merely a religious center - with no Christ.

In chapter 22 David makes elaborate preparations for the building of the First Temple.

Doctrinal Points

1. Building the house of the Lord involves plans and preparation.

In this chapter we see a number of ways in which David planned and prepared for the Temple. Men, materials, and money were gathered together for the project. Stones were cut from limestone quarries (v2), and cedar timbers were shipped from Lebanon (v4). Large quantities of iron and bronze were accumulated (v3), and billions of dollars (by today's value) were set aside in preparation for the building of the House of the Lord (v14). A great workforce was already involved, including foreign labor.

Another part of the preparation was the counsel David gave his son Solomon. After David explained to Solomon why God had chosen him to build the Temple (v6-10), he encouraged and exhorted Solomon (v11-13). Notice that David emphasized **obedience** and **courage**: *“Only may the LORD give you wisdom and understanding, and give you charge concerning Israel, that you may keep the law of the LORD your God. Then you will prosper, if you take care to fulfill the statutes and judgments with which the LORD charged Moses concerning Israel. Be strong and of good courage; do not fear nor be dismayed”* (v12-13). We should counsel and encourage our own children to “carefully obey the law of the Lord” and “be strong and courageous.”

All the plans and preparation for the building of the Temple contain spiritual lessons for building the Lord’s house today. The House of the Lord today is His Church – that means every true believer. 1 Corinthians 3:16 describes the Church as the temple of the Holy Spirit. While God is the Builder of the Church, believers are involved in the building project. God uses our Christian service to help build up His Church. As 1 Corinthians 3:12-15 says, we can build on the foundation of Christ. We can build with gold, silver, and precious stones that will stand the test of fire, or we can build with wood, hay, and straw, that will go up in smoke at the judgment seat of Christ. By the way, this passage from 1 Corinthians 3 is often applied to building of our own Christian lives - and that can be an application - but **in the context**, it is the Church that is being built.

Building with gold, silver, and precious stone is not automatic. It involves planning and preparation for whatever ministry and function in the church that the Lord has given to us. Do we plan and prepare for our service to the Lord? Building the house of the Lord involves plans and preparation.

2. Building the house of the Lord involves gifts and dedication.

The workforce that David gathered together in preparation for building the Temple consisted not only of a **dedicated** workforce, but many of the workmen were **gifted** and **skilled**: *“There are workmen with you in abundance: woodsmen and stonecutters, and all types of skillful men for every kind of work”* (v15).

Then David challenged Solomon and the leaders to be dedicated. Get to work! *“Arise and begin working, and the LORD be with you”* (v15). And, *“Now set your heart and your soul to seek the LORD your God. Therefore arise and build the sanctuary of the LORD God, to bring the ark of the covenant of the LORD and the holy articles of God into the house that is to be built for the name of the LORD”* (v19).

There’s a spiritual lesson for us today in these verses. Building the house of the Lord involves **skill** (gift) and **dedication**. The Lord has provided spiritual gifts for the building up of His Church. *“He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ”* (Ephesians 4:11-12). Using our gifts skillfully implies training and developing the gift the Holy Spirit has given us. So the Lord has provided gifted believers for building up His Church.

And of course there must be zeal and dedication in our building responsibilities. About the Temple, the Lord said, “*Zeal [passion] for Your house consumes me*”(*John 2:17*). Can we say that? Building the house of the Lord involves both gifts and dedication.

Practical Application

Don't let fundraising limit the work of the Lord!

David told his son Solomon, “*Of gold and silver and bronze and iron there is no limit. Arise and begin working, and the LORD be with you*” (*v16*). Unlimited funds! What a great position to be in - as a ministry, or as a local church! Don't you wish your church or ministry was in that position?

Well, it can be! The secret is right here in verse 16: “*Arise and begin working, and the LORD be with you.*” Get up and get moving! Start working! And when **the Lord is with you, He will provide!** That's the key! Find me an example in the Bible where the Lord did not provide for the needs of the work He called His people to do. You won't find it! No fancy fundraising was necessary. God provides the needed funds!

Our problem is that many times we mislabel the work of the Lord. We paste the label of “the work of the Lord” on **our own** work, and on **our own** selfish goals, and on **our own** grandiose ideas for “ministry,” and on **our own** prideful agendas. **Refuse to use a ministry to satisfy your personal ambitions!**

And we can use fundraising techniques to keep a ministry going when the Lord wants to close it, and use us elsewhere. And thus we can limit what the Lord really wants us to do.

So **don't spend your time fundraising** for the work of the Lord. Spend your time **doing** the work of the Lord! **If it really is His work, the Lord will provide the needed funds without human fundraising efforts!**

Don't let fundraising limit the work of the Lord!