

David's Last Instructions

1 Chronicles 28

1 Chronicles 28:1-8 - *"Now David assembled at Jerusalem all the leaders of Israel: the officers of the tribes and the captains of the divisions who served the king, the captains over thousands and captains over hundreds, and the stewards over all the substance and possessions of the king and of his sons, with the officials, the valiant men, and all the mighty men of valor.*

² Then King David rose to his feet and said, "Hear me, my brethren and my people: I had it in my heart to build a house of rest for the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and for the footstool of our God, and had made preparations to build it. ³ But God said to me, 'You shall not build a house for My name, because you have been a man of war and have shed blood.' ⁴ However, the LORD God of Israel chose me above all the house of my father to be king over Israel forever, for He has 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 was pleased with me to make me king over all Israel. ⁵ And of all my sons (for the LORD has given me many sons) He has chosen my son Solomon to sit on the throne of the kingdom of the LORD over Israel. ⁶ Now He said to me, 'It is your son Solomon who shall build My house and My courts; for I have chosen him to be My son, and I will be his Father. ⁷ Moreover I will establish his kingdom forever, if he is steadfast to observe My commandments and My judgments, as it is this day.' ⁸ Now therefore, in the sight of all Israel, the assembly of the LORD, and in the hearing of our God, be careful to seek out all the commandments of the LORD your God, that you may possess this good land, and leave it as an inheritance for your children after you forever."

Background Notes

1 Kings 1 tells us that King David was not well during the last year of his life. He was frail, and couldn't keep himself warm. Furthermore, David's son Adonijah attempted to usurp the throne, but David quelled this uprising by installing Solomon as king, and co-reigning with him during his last days. In spite of these problems, throughout his final days David continued his active preparations for the Temple that Solomon would build.

The practical lesson here is that even when we're older and may be weary and hindered by physical problems, we can still get a lot of work done! This week I felt a lot like David – same name, same age, and not feeling up to par. I even have chills! I'm currently taking three medications for three different tick-borne diseases. So what do we do at times like this? Like David, we just keep plugging along at the jobs God has given to us! We do our best to recover, and in the meantime we get as much work done as we can!

It's amazing how much David accomplished during his last days. He collected money, material, and skilled workmen for the Temple project. He organized all the Levites for efficient and effective service in leading the nation in acceptable worship of the Lord, including good music with valuable content from skilled musicians and talented singers. He made

sure the Temple treasures and Temple precincts would be well protected. He organized the civil and military leadership so Solomon would begin with a stable reign in which to build the house of the Lord.

In chapter 28 David gave his final instructions and exhortations to his subjects to Solomon.

Doctrinal Points

1. There is a divine purpose for the house of God.

David assembled all the “who’s who” of the kingdom together, and gave them his final “State of the Kingdom” address (v1-8). Quite an impressive assembly was gathered for this important speech (v1).

Notice how David began his address: *“Then King David rose to his feet and said, “Hear me, my brethren and my people: I had it in my heart to build a house of rest for the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and for the footstool of our God, and had made preparations to build it” (v2).* Once again David went over how he had wanted to build the House of the Lord, but God had told him that Solomon was to build the Temple.

In verse 2 we have the purpose of the Temple. The purpose of the Temple was not for exterior glory and grandeur to impress other nations. Although it was grand, and it did impress other nations, that was not its purpose. The primary purpose of the Temple was to be a permanent home for the Ark of the Covenant. The Ark signified God’s presence in the midst of His people. Notice the description: God’s “footstool” - a place of rest (v2). *“He sits enthroned between the cherubim...” (Psalm 99:1).* God seated on His throne, dwelling in the midst of His people – that was the purpose of the Old Testament Temple.

And this is the purpose of God’s Temple today. His Temple today is not a magnificent building or cathedral. **It is the people of God, the Church.** And the divine purpose of this worldwide group of true believers is to be the home of the Holy Spirit, so God can dwell in the midst of His people, and we can worship Him. *“You also as living stones are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ” (1 Peter 2:5).* Some folks, even some Christians, attend church for the wrong reasons; some even for social and economic reasons. How tragic! Whether the local church is meeting in a designated building, or in a home, or in a storefront, or in hiding - that is where we worship the Lord together, **because** He dwells in the midst of His people. There is a divine purpose for the house of God.

2. There is a divine pattern for the house of God.

1 Chronicles 28:9-21 - *“As for you, my son Solomon, know the God of your father, and serve Him with a loyal heart and with a willing mind; for the Lord searches all hearts and understands all the intent of the thoughts. If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will cast you off forever. ¹⁰ Consider now, for the LORD has chosen you to build a house for the sanctuary; be strong, and do it.”*

¹¹ Then David gave his son Solomon the plans for the vestibule, its houses, its treasuries, its upper chambers, its inner chambers, and the place of the mercy seat; ¹² and the plans for all that he had by the Spirit, of the courts of the house of the LORD, of all the chambers all around, of the treasuries of the house of God, and of the treasuries for the dedicated things; ¹³ also for the division of the priests and the Levites, for all the work of the service of the house of the LORD, and for all the articles of service in the house of the LORD. ¹⁴ He gave gold by weight for things of gold, for all articles used in every kind of service; also silver for all articles of silver by weight, for all articles used in every kind of service; ¹⁵ the weight for the lampstands of gold, and their lamps of gold, by weight for each lampstand and its lamps; for the lampstands of silver by weight, for the lampstand and its lamps, according to the use of each lampstand. ¹⁶ And by weight he gave gold for the tables of the showbread, for each table, and silver for the tables of silver; ¹⁷ also pure gold for the forks, the basins, the pitchers of pure gold, and the golden bowls—he gave gold by weight for every bowl; and for the silver bowls, silver by weight for every bowl; ¹⁸ and refined gold by weight for the altar of incense, and for the construction of the chariot, that is, the gold cherubim that spread their wings and overshadowed the ark of the covenant of the LORD. ¹⁹ “All this,” said David, “the LORD made me understand in writing, by His hand upon me, all the works of these plans.”

²⁰ And David said to his son Solomon, “Be strong and of good courage, and do it; do not fear nor be dismayed, for the LORD God, my God, will be with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you, until you have finished all the work for the service of the house of the LORD. ²¹ Here are the divisions of the priests and the Levites for all the service of the house of God; and every willing craftsman will be with you for all manner of workmanship, for every kind of service; also the leaders and all the people will be completely at your command.”

David concluded his address with the exhortation to follow the Lord in all His commandments (v8). Building the magnificent Temple would not result in blessing unless they obeyed the Lord!

Then David turned to his son Solomon to give the new king of Israel his last instructions as king and father. David urged Solomon to follow the Lord with a whole heart and willing mind (v9). He challenged him to be strong and courageous (v10 & 20). And David gave Solomon all the plans and patterns for the Temple that the Lord had directly given to him.

“All this,” said David, “the Lord made me understand in writing, by His hand upon me, all the works of these plans” (v19).

“All this” - down to the last detail - the Lord Himself gave directly to David. David didn't dream up the architectural designs for the Temple on his own. David didn't just decide to divide up the priests and Levites into divisions, or create a praise band for music on his own initiative. David didn't come up with the idea to put two golden cherubim in the Holy of Holies, to spread their wings over the Ark of the Covenant. No! The Lord gave David **His pattern, and all the details of His pattern**. There was a divine pattern for the house of God.

There is a divine pattern for the house of God today. God's pattern for the church provides spiritual gifts for each member, and God knows where every single part fits in the body of Christ. Furthermore, the divine pattern includes the divine way of worship in the house of God today. All believers are priests, and we can worship the Lord together without the need of human clergy to preside. *"Whenever you come together, each of you has a psalm, has a teaching, has a tongue, has a revelation, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification, and for strengthening all of you"* (1 Corinthians 14:26). This is part of the divine pattern for worship in the house of God. There is a divine pattern for the house of God.

Practical Application

If you seek Him, you will find Him!

Look once again at the end of verse 9: *"...for the Lord searches all hearts and understands all the intent of the thoughts. If you seek Him He will be found by you."* What great counsel David gave to his son Solomon! And what great counsel for parents to give their children today: *"If you seek Him, you will find Him."*

It's a wonderful truth for everyone. God knows our thoughts and our hearts. We can't hide anything from God. But the good news is that God sees every heart that is seeking Him! **No one who is seeking God will ever be disappointed.**

Let me ask you, are you seeking God? If you seek Him, you will find Him!