

The Events at the End of David's Life

1 Chronicles 29

1 Chronicles 29:22- 30 - *"So they ate and drank before the LORD with great gladness on that day. And they made Solomon the son of David king the second time, and anointed him before the LORD to be the leader, 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 All the leaders and the mighty men, and also all the sons of King David, submitted themselves to King Solomon. ²⁵ So the LORD exalted Solomon exceedingly in the sight of all Israel, and bestowed on him such royal majesty as had not been on any king before him in Israel.*

²⁶ David the son of Jesse reigned over all Israel. ²⁷ And the period that he reigned over Israel was forty years. Seven years he reigned in Hebron, and thirty-three years he reigned in Jerusalem. ²⁸ So he died in a good old age, full of days and riches and honor; and Solomon his son reigned in his place. ²⁹ Now the acts of King David, first and last, indeed they are written in the book of Samuel the seer, 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 events that happened to him, to Israel, and to all the kingdoms of the lands."

Background Notes

The final verses of the book of 1 Chronicles provide details of King David's reign, the transition from David to Solomon as king over all Israel, and David's death. King Solomon's coronation was accompanied by joyful celebration. *"So they ate and drank before the LORD with great gladness on that day... Then Solomon sat on the throne of the LORD as king instead of David his father, and prospered; and all Israel obeyed him"* (v22-23).

David and Solomon co-reigned over Israel for a short time. How do we know this? Verse 22: *"And they made Solomon the son of David king the **second time**."* There may be a spiritual picture (or type) of Christ in Solomon's two-stage reign. Right now, our Lord is reigning as King from His Father's throne, but when He returns to earth He will reign from His own throne, in the literal kingdom that He will set up in Jerusalem. *"To him who overcomes, I will grant to sit with me on my throne as I also overcame and sat down with my Father on His throne"* (Revelation 3:21). We will reign with Him. **All** will be subject to Him, and obey Him, and He will be highly exalted!

Notice how the Davidic throne is described as "the throne of the Lord" (v23). Remember, we've said that most likely Ezra was the author of 1 Chronicles, and it was written after the Jewish people returned from their Babylonian captivity. The mention of the Persian monetary value of *daric* is a good indication (v7). Ezra had source documents from which to work from the time of Samuel, Nathan, and Gad, including the biblical documents from that time (v29). So parts of these

records were incorporated into the book of 1 Chronicles by the chronicler, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

David died in a good old age, full of days (v28). David was thirty years old when he became king, and he reigned forty years, so he was seventy years old when he died.

Doctrinal Points

1. Older believers should set the example by their giving.

1 Chronicles 29:1-9 - *“King David said to all the assembly: ‘My son Solomon, whom alone God has chosen, is young and inexperienced; and the work is great, because the temple is not for man but for the LORD God. ² Now for the house of my God I have prepared with all my might: gold for things to be made of gold, silver for things of silver, bronze for things of bronze, iron for things of iron, wood for things of wood, onyx stones, stones to be set, glistening stones of various colors, all kinds of precious stones, and marble slabs in abundance.*

Moreover, because I have set my affection on the house of my God, I have given to the house of my God, over and above all that I have prepared for the holy house, my own special treasure of gold and silver: ⁴ three thousand talents of gold, of the gold of Ophir, and seven thousand talents of refined silver, to overlay the walls of the houses; ⁵ the gold for things of gold and the silver for things of silver, and for all kinds of work to be done by the hands of craftsmen. Who then is willing to consecrate himself this day to the LORD?’

⁶ Then the leaders of the fathers’ houses, leaders of the tribes of Israel, the captains of thousands and of hundreds, with the officers over the king’s work, offered willingly. ⁷ They gave for the work of the house of God five thousand talents and ten thousand darics of gold, ten thousand talents of silver, eighteen thousand talents of bronze, and one hundred thousand talents of iron. ⁸ And whoever had precious stones gave them to the treasury of the house of the LORD, into the hand of Jehiel the Gershonite. ⁹ Then the people rejoiced, for they had offered willingly, because with a loyal heart they had offered willingly to the LORD; and King David also rejoiced greatly.”

In his older years, King David was a great example for the younger generation in the area of giving. As king, he used all his ability to provide for the house of the Lord (v2). This would include money and materials from the spoils of war and from the national treasury. But in addition to all of this “government funding,” David gave substantially out of his own personal finances (v3-5). As a result, he set a wonderful example for others. So when the challenge of consecration went out, the people gave generously to the work of the Lord (v). There’s probably no way they would have done this if David had used words only! He personally set the example.

Notice that the result for David and the people was joy (v9). Joy is always the result when we give with a whole and loyal hearts, and for the right reasons (v9). Because of David’s zeal and commitment to the Lord, and to the Lord’s work, he gave generously of his time, talents, and money. He set a great example for the younger generation. Older believers should set the example by their giving.

2. Older believers should set the example by their praying.

1 Chronicles 29:10-21 - *“Therefore David blessed the LORD before all the assembly; and David said: “Blessed are You, LORD God of Israel, our Father, forever and ever.*

¹¹ Yours, O LORD, is the greatness, the power and the glory, the victory and the majesty; for all that is in heaven and in earth is Yours. Yours is the kingdom, O LORD, and You are exalted as head over all. ¹² Both riches and honor come from You, and You reign over all. In Your hand is power and might. In Your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all. ¹³ “Now therefore, our God, we thank You and praise Your glorious name. ¹⁴ But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly as this? For all things come from You, and of Your own we have given You. ¹⁵ For we are aliens and pilgrims before You, as were all our fathers. Our days on earth are as a shadow, and without hope. ¹⁶ “O LORD our God, all this abundance that we have prepared to build You a house for Your holy name is from Your hand, and is all Your own. ¹⁷ I know also, my God, that You test the heart and have pleasure in uprightness. As for me, in the uprightness of my heart I have willingly offered all these things; and now with joy I have seen Your people, who are present here to offer willingly to You. ¹⁸ O LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, our fathers, keep this forever in the intent of the thoughts of the heart of Your people, and fix their heart toward You. ¹⁹ And give my son Solomon a loyal heart to keep Your commandments and Your testimonies and Your statutes, to do all these things, and to build the temple for which I have made provision.”

²⁰ Then David said to all the assembly, “Now bless the LORD your God.” So all the assembly blessed the LORD God of their fathers, and bowed their heads and prostrated themselves before the LORD and the king. ²¹ And they made sacrifices to the LORD and offered burnt offerings to the LORD on the next day: a thousand bulls, a thousand rams, a thousand lambs, with their drink offerings, and sacrifices in abundance for all Israel.

David's prayer for Israel is one of the great prayers of the Bible. Notice how God was acknowledged and praised for who He is (v10-13). Look at the humble place David took for himself and the people (v14-15). Then David acknowledged that all of their gifts to the Lord are in reality only giving back what the Lord has given to them (v16-17). It reminds us of the apostle Paul's acknowledgement: *“What do you have that you did not receive?” (1 Corinthians 4:7).*

David concluded his prayer with a request that the Lord would preserve the people and Solomon with the right heart (v18-19). Then all the people joined in this prayer of commitment, followed by offering many sacrifices to the Lord (v20-21).

What an example David set for the people in this wonderful prayer! As believers grow older, they often have less energy and ability for serving the Lord than they formerly had. But older believers can **pray**. In fact, they can **pray even more!** They set the example for the younger generation by their praying - both by content and by showing the importance of prayer. They can *“offer through Jesus a continual sacrifice of praise to God, giving thanks to his name” (Hebrews 13:15).*

For a number of years our family was involved in ministry at a Christian camp for boys. When the younger boys prayed, their focus was usually on thanking the Lord for good weather and that their canoe didn't capsize, and then requesting the Lord for no rain and no bugs. And those are fine prayers! But I reminded the older campers and counselors to try to set an example by praising the Lord for His **holiness**, and for His **love** and **grace** in providing free salvation through Jesus'

death on the cross for our sins. And some of the younger campers noticed, and began to follow this good example. Older believers should set the example by their praying.

Practical Application

Remember, this life is short!

In verse 15 David prayed: *“Our days on earth are as a shadow, and without hope.”*

We need to remember that our life is short. Our days on earth are like a shadow. So why do we often live as if getting ahead in this world is most important? More success, more money, more power, more stuff! *“The world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions. These are not from the Father, but are from this world. And this world is fading away, along with everything that people crave. But the one who does what pleases God will live forever” (1 John 2:16-17 NLV).*

This world is passing away! We only have one life to live for Christ. The one who does what pleases God will live forever.

Remember: our life on earth is short – very short. Use it wisely!