

The Beginning of a New Era

It is amazing to me how quickly our time together flies by. We started this journey together nearly ten weeks ago! Throughout our study we have been focusing on those traits of faith and character modeled by David that made him a man after God's own heart. Through studying David's life I sincerely hope his thoughts, choices and actions have initiated opportunities of reflection in your own life and relationship with the Lord. The purpose of each and every study that I write is solely to draw you into a deeper relationship with the Lord. While David lived an extraordinary life well beyond what most of us experience, he also lived a very human life. He sought the Lord both in times of rejoicing and in heartache. He made mistakes, and those mistakes had consequences he had to weather, but he did so with the Lord by his side. I know for me, seeing all the things David lived through, the good and the bad, strengthens my faith in knowing that the Lord walks by my side even through the whirlwinds of my own reaping. I hope that this study both strengthens your faith, and also helps you to examine your character in light of what it means to be a woman after God's own heart.

It has been my joy and pleasure to share this study with you over these many weeks, and I so look forward to an opportunity to do so again. God bless you richly for persevering through this study while living a busy life that draws your focus and attention in so many directions. God will bless you for choosing to put him first in your life and setting aside your precious time to spend it with him.

We've reached the final years of King David's life. We've so closely followed David from his youthful idealistic enthusiasm slaying giants who defy the Lord. We've heard his songs of praise and his songs of desperation from the cave Adullam. We've seen him stand for righteousness when he had the opportunity to take vengeance against an unjust King. We were there for his coronation over all of Judah and Israel. We celebrated with him the return of the Ark to the center of the nation. Our hearts broke in his dark days of sin and separation from the Lord. We rejoiced at his "return to the city gate" after Absalom's rebellion. Now we see him in his declining years, but still the Lord has much for him to do. Now it is time for him to prepare his son to take the throne in his place.

David Makes Solomon King

Our first passage this week is a bit sad in that we see our vibrant King so near the end of his life. It is not an image of David to which we are accustomed, and before we can wrap our minds around this image of David, a wind from the past blows threateningly into David's court. David's whirlwind begins to rear its ugly head once more and we are faced with the prospect of one of his sons following in the traitorous footsteps of his elder brother. We have a long passage today, but the drama will no doubt draw you in as we embark on the last years of David's life.



Read 1 Kings 1:1-52 and answer the following questions.

What does this chapter tell you of the health, state of mind, and awareness of the King?

♥ Read 1 Chronicles 22:6-10. These verses reflect back on the time in David's life when he wanted to build a house for the Lord, long before Solomon was even born. What do these verses tell us of David's understanding of who would be the Lord's next anointed king?

We don't know for certain that Adonijah knew these plans, but it would be a fair guess to say he did. At any rate, Adonijah had plans of his own. Adonijah was the next in line of David's sons after Absalom, and was David's eldest living son.

Now Adonijah, whose mother was Haggith, put himself forward and said, " _____ ." 1 Kings 1:5 (NIV)

Who did Adonijah conspire with to take over the throne?

Who did not join the conspiracy?

Who is Benaiah son of Jehoiada? (2 Sam 23:20-23)

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What do Zadok the priest, Benaiah, and Nathan each represent?

What did David instruct these men to do?

The first few verses of 1 Kings 1, reveal that David is quite advanced in years. We know that David lived to be in his Seventies according to 2 Samuel 5:4.¹ A young woman is brought in to “keep David warm”, which honestly means that she was brought to serve as his nurse. The verses imply that David was even too old to be “entertained” by the young woman. He had a harem for that purpose. Confined to his bed it appears he is not completely up on Adonijah’s activities, failing to keep his son in line and establishing Solomon as his heir. It seems that Joab and Abiathar the priest are following Adonijah as the likely successor to King David. Adonijah seems to be the favorite for the throne among David’s court and even among the population of Israel, in the absence of David’s promoting and grooming of Solomon to that role.

Despite his advanced age, David with skill and diplomacy quickly diffused a dangerous situation that could rapidly have devolved into yet another civil war. Nathan’s involvement and advice to Bathsheba indicates a divine hand in the timing of these events. Just as Samuel had been the Spiritual leader of Israel in the time of Saul, Nathan too holds that same position in David’s Kingdom. It is not unlikely that Nathan’s actions were divinely encouraged. We know from the Chronicles passage that God’s plan was for Solomon to succeed his father on the throne of Israel. David has Zadok, Nathan and Benaiah (the three ranking authorities -- priest, prophet, and military respectively -- of David’s administration) take Solomon to be publicly anointed and crowned King before Adonijah even realizes what is happening. The presence of these three leaders would demonstrate to the population of Israel that this action is carried out under the King’s direction. The uprising is ended before it can even begin.

What was the response of all the people?

What was the response of Adonijah and his supporters?

¹ David was thirty years old when he became king, and he reigned forty years. (2 Samuel 5:4)

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What does the description of Adonijah grasping the horns of the altar indicate? Notice he calls his brother "King Solomon".

♥ Upon hearing of his son's coronation, what is David's response?

When Solomon took his place on David's throne it signified that his rule began immediately. The intention is for Solomon to rule with David until his death. It was not a symbolic gesture that Solomon one day would be his successor; he became king that very moment. David is confident in what he has done. He has no fear of sharing his kingly position with Solomon. He rejoices in knowing that his successor is seated on the throne, and he worships the Lord for allowing him to see that day come. It is so very telling of David's character that his immediate response to hearing of his son's coronation is a response of praise to the Lord. Most commentaries agree that David lived only one or two years after Solomon was made king. In that time David and Solomon ruled together.

David's Preparation to Build the Temple

"Now devote your heart and soul to seeking the LORD your God."
(1 Chronicles 22:19)

Taking responsibility for establishing Solomon confidently upon the throne appears to have reinvigorated our old King. He has a new energy and vigor to follow through on God's plan for the Nation of Israel. It is a reminder that age is no boundary to serving our Lord and completing the work he has set before us.

For this portion of our homework we will study the passages in 1 Chronicles of David preparing his son Solomon to rule Israel and build a temple to the Lord. 1 Chronicles provides a much more detailed account of these events than does 1 Kings. Turn to 1 Chronicles, and read Chapter 22.



Read 1 Chronicles 22:1-19 and answer the following questions.

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Where does David choose to build the house of the Lord? (Look back to 1 Chronicles 21:22-30 to review.)

Why does David begin the preparations to build the temple, knowing it is his son who will actually build it?

How does verse 5 describe the preparations?

Who does David command to help Solomon?

What is the implied reason behind the peace in the nation at this time during David's reign? (v18)

David commands the leaders of Israel and Solomon to begin building the sanctuary of the Lord so that what can be brought there?

♥ How had this site already been sanctified? What occurred here previously in the reign of David? (see 1 Chronicles 21:14-30 to review if necessary) Who (or what) had been seen at this place and what did David do in response?

Turn ahead and read 1 Chronicles 28. According to verse 6, who chose Solomon as the next king?

David was able to supply all the plans, workers and materials Solomon needed to build the temple. From where did David receive the plans? (See 28: 12, 19)

David commanded Solomon "And you, my son Solomon, _____ the God of your father, and serve him with _____ and with a _____, for the LORD searches every heart and understands every motive behind the thoughts. If you seek him, he will be found by you; but if you forsake him, he will reject you forever." (1 Chronicles 28:9)

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What do you think is the point David is making to Solomon in these commands?

- Acknowledge God

- Serve with whole hearted devotion

- Willing mind (See also Luke 10:27)

Turn back to Chapter 22. What else does David command them to do in verse 19? Write (or copy from above) the verse:

The NIV uses the word "devote", the KJV says "set". The Hebrew word is *nathan*, meaning to "give, put, deliver, grant, fasten"². This verse gives the image of attaching or fastening, linking your heart to the Lord. Affixing it to the Lord in such a way that it is physically attached and not separated. If our hearts are devoted to the Lord in this manner, what will our actions accomplish when we set ourselves to the work each of is set to do for the Lord? David commanded his nation to set their hearts on the Lord and to help Solomon in building the Temple. We know the Lord has specific work for each of us to do, no matter our age or ability he has work for us to do to further his kingdom.

♥ Read the following two verses. What does each have to tell us about the Lord's work for us?

- Ephesians 2:10
- 2 Timothy 3:16-17

² Strong's Talking Greek & Hebrew Dictionary

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David concludes his instructions to his son regarding the building of the temple with the following promise from the Lord. Read 1 Chronicles 28:20.

- What is Solomon to do?
- Who is with Solomon in this work?
- To what point will the Lord be with Solomon in this work?

Chronicles 23-27 describe David's role in preparing Solomon to rule in his place. In these chapters David appoints Solomon's governing administration, establishes the roles of the Levites and the priests and even the musicians in serving the Lord in the temple. David also organizes the army to defend the nation. Sharing the throne with Solomon has given David the strength to finish the task the Lord set before him. David will let know detail go undone in preparing Solomon for his divinely appointed future.

David Exhorts the Assembly

"And you, my son Solomon, acknowledge the God of your father, and serve him with wholehearted devotion and with a willing mind, for the LORD searches every heart and understands every motive behind the thoughts. If you seek him, he will be found by you; but if you forsake him, he will reject you forever.

Consider now, for the LORD has chosen you to build a temple as a sanctuary. Be strong and do the work." 1 Chronicles 28:9-10 (NIV)

As we saw in the previous section, David exhorted Solomon with the words above. This exhortation, while addressed to Solomon, is also appropriate to all of Israel and its leaders in supporting Solomon as their king and providing for the building of the temple. Our passage today will continue with David's final exhortation before those assembled representing all Israel.



Read 1 Chronicles 29:1-30 and answer the following questions.

In verse 3, what did David give to the Temple in addition to everything else he had provided?

How did the leaders of Israel respond to David's gift? (What adjective describes their attitude?)

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What was the response of the people and King David in verse 9?

King David's response to the generosity of the people resulted in spontaneous and compulsory praise of the Lord who had blessed him and his nation so abundantly. David was also humbled by the gratitude and willing hearts of his people who recognized the source of their blessings. Verse 13 tells us that David says "Now, O God, we give you thanks, and praise your glorious name."

♥ For what things are David and the rest of Israel thankful? Look over the Psalm and write specific answers.

Verse 14 sums up King David's sentiments in his psalm: "*But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? _____ comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from _____.*"

A proper perspective on man's relationship with the Lord is what permits King David and the rest of Israel to give so generously in building the Temple. By recognizing that the Lord is not only sovereign in all things, but also the creator of the universe, man's accomplishments cannot compare. "All wealth and honor" come from the Lord as blessings upon his creation. The vertical perspective of seeing the Lord above mankind, in humility compared against the greatness of the Lord allows for a generous and willing heart to return all things back to the Lord because of his initial generosity. Write out King David's words in verse 16:

Verse 18 voices a prayer to the Lord for two things on behalf of Israel. What does King David request of the Lord?

1.

2.

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King David's final speech before the assembly concludes with him calling all to "Praise the Lord your God". How did they praise and honor God?

They also "*bowed low and fell prostrate*" before the king. This would be the last recorded formal act of King David before his kingdom. His last speech, his last psalm, his last prayer, his last public worship of Lord he spent an entire life time seeking, serving, praying, and praising. There were no words of his own greatness, his own achievements and victories, no monument to himself. It is a fitting farewell address for man after God's own heart. His final words were to praise the generosity of his people, to exhort and encourage his son, the new king, and to exalt the Lord.

*So Solomon sat on the throne of the LORD as king in place of his father David.
He prospered and all Israel obeyed him. 1 Chronicles 29:23*

What occurred on the next day, in abundance? (v.21)

In the presence of whom did Israel eat and drink with great joy? (v.22)

The scriptures make it very clear that at this time, because of King David's leadership and example, and because of Solomon's obedience, there was a closeness, a unity between God and the Nation of Israel heretofore unknown. This integrity of heart, and obedience to the Lord cause this nation and this new king to succeed to even greater heights than did his father.

The LORD highly exalted Solomon in the sight of all Israel and bestowed on him royal splendor such as no king over Israel ever had before. (1 Chronicles 29:25)

The King's Legacy

David son of Jesse was king over all Israel.... He died at a good old age, having enjoyed long life, wealth and honor. His son Solomon succeeded him as king. 1 Chronicles 29:26-28 (NIV)

King David lived long enough to see peace in his kingdom, his son established upon the throne (with the support of all Israel) and everything necessary to build the temple to his God at the ready. The sword had finally departed the House of David and there was peace in the Kingdom. Read 1 Chronicles 29:26-30.



Thought to be among the last words of King David is a psalm in Chapter 23 of Second Samuel. Turn there and read his last words.

To what covenant is David referring in 2 Samuel 23: 5?

What does Jeremiah 33: 14-22 say of the covenant?

Read Luke 2:4-7 and summarize the meaning of these verses.

Complete Luke 1:32 . "He will be great and be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of His Father _____."

I want to leave you with some last thoughts on the legacy of King David and his prominence in the Line of Christ. We know that David's father was Jesse. The name Jesse means "man" according to the Holman Bible Dictionary. The name Adam also means

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“man”, as in mankind or human kind.³ When we read, “David, son of Jesse” in scripture we can take it to mean symbolically “David, son of Man”. He is in fact a man, and a descendent of Adam, the first man. In the New Testament, we come across the title “Son of Man” in relation to Jesus. In the Gospels Jesus frequently used this title. In Matthew 16:27-28 Jesus clearly identifies himself as both the Son of Man and the Son of God. The title Son of Man carries with it all the humanity embodied in Jesus, the son of Mary and Joseph, contrasted against his divine origin as the Son of God.

For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what he has done. I tell you the truth, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

David and Jesus are both linked with Adam. David, receiving the highest praise of a “man after God’s own heart”, strove to become all that man could be in relation to God. Jesus, both the son of man in the line of David and the divine Son of God, fulfilled all that man needed in order for man to freely enter into a relationship with God.

³ Strong's Talking Greek & Hebrew Dictionary