

# Through the Bible- 1 Chronicles 23-29

Mark Swift – 9/20/2023

- Setting
  - David is old. He is handing off the kingdom and his passion project to Solomon.
  - Written to Israelites returning to the homeland after exile. History of the kingdom intended for instruction and encouragement to get the kingdom, religion, and their hearts back on track to being a kingdom of priests under the rule of the line of David. More religion centered than Samuel/Kings which is biographical.
- Chapter 22 review
  - David kicks off the temple project at the site of the threshing floor and puts a young Solomon in charge as coregent of the kingdom. He starts preparing in earnest by first gathering the raw materials and conscripting stone cutters to start cutting and dressing the stones needed.
  - Jebusite connection
- David summons all the leaders and the priests and Levites
- Census of Levites
- New division of labor for the priests.
  - Help from Zadock and Ahimelek the heads of the two Aaronic priest families (direct descendants from Aaron's two sons - Eleazar and Ithamar).
  - They cast lots to choose the order of service choosing from each family alternatively. This is a common and ancient way to decide things fairly.
  - 24 families of priests - one family per week.
  - These two priest families (usually Zadock and Ahimelek's father Abiathar) are almost always mentioned together in Samuel and Kings. Abiathar's family is the head priest during David's reign and then Solomon makes Zadock's family head priest after Abiathar son rebels against Solomon with Adonijah and this is still followed when the Israelites come back from exile. Ezra, Nehemiah, and Ezekiel all reference Zadok's family as the head priest family.
- Levites cast lots
  - Musicians under Asaph, Heman and Jeduthun - One from each line of Levi (Merari, Gershon, and Kohath).
    - Asaph is the director of music - wrote many psalms
    - All three are called seers in various other places. Heman and Jeduthun being called "the king's seer". Samuel was also called a seer.
    - These three families seem to hold the role of musician priests going forward.
    - Lots cast to divide these into 24 family groups
  - Gatekeepers
    - Kohath/Izhar/Korah and Merari descendants
  - Treasurers, Officials, and Judges
    - Gershon/Ladan and Kohath descendants
- Army divisions
  - 12 divisions - one per month. Interesting that there isn't one leader per tribe.
- Tribe leaders
- King's overseers (top officials of the kingdom)
  - Storehouses, farms, livestock, counselors, army commander
- David names Solomon his successor
  - Chosen due to a word from the Lord
  - Interesting that Solomon isn't really mentioned up until now outside of his birth. Certainly no oath from David was recorded and no direction from God before David mentions it here.
  - Charge to Solomon:  
8 "So now I charge you in the sight of all Israel and of the assembly of the LORD, and in the hearing of our God: Be careful to follow all the commands of the LORD your God, that you may possess this good land and pass it on as an inheritance to your descendants forever.

9 “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 desire and every thought. If you seek him, he will be found by you; but if you forsake him, he will reject you forever.

- David's passion project - The Temple
  - David summons all the officials, officers, commanders, warriors, and brave fighting men (everyone with power)
  - This is the official ceremony + party to hand the kingdom and the temple project over to Solomon
  - This is a few years after chapter 22 when David puts Solomon in charge of the temple project.
  - Charges Solomon and Israel to build the temple
  - Temple is all planned out in detail and all the materials have been gathered
    - Priest instructions
    - Building plans
    - Plans for all the furniture and utensils - with the amount of weight in gold or silver required for each.
    - “All this I have in writing as a result of the LORD’s hand on me, and he enabled me to understand all the details of the plan.”
  - Giving into the temple treasury -
    - \$200 billion in gold was already set aside for construction
      - 2,000,000 yearly wages for a common worker
      - \$100 billion in today's wages (assuming 50k average wage)
    - \$6 billion in gold from David
      - 60,000 yearly wages for a common worker
      - \$3 billion in today's wages
  - Call for leaders to also give
    - \$10 billion in gold from the leaders
      - 100,000 yearly wages for a common worker
      - \$5 billion in today's wages

- David's prayer

**10** David praised the LORD in the presence of the whole assembly, saying, “Praise be to you, Yahweh, the God of our father Israel, from everlasting to everlasting.

**11** Yours, Yahweh, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, Yahweh, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all.

**12** Wealth and honor come from you; you are the ruler of all things. In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all.

**13** Now, our God, we give you thanks, and praise your glorious name.

**14** “But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand.

**15** We are foreigners and strangers in your sight, as were all our ancestors. Our days on earth are like a shadow, without hope.

**16** Yahweh our God, all this abundance that we have provided for building you a temple for your Holy Name comes from your hand, and all of it belongs to you.

**17** I know, my God, that you test the heart and are pleased with integrity. All these things I have given willingly and with honest intent. And now I have seen with joy how willingly your people who are here have given to you.

**18** Yahweh, the God of our fathers Abraham, Isaac and Israel, keep these desires and thoughts in the hearts of your people forever, and keep their hearts loyal to you.

**19** And give my son Solomon the wholehearted devotion to keep your commands, statutes and decrees and to do everything to build the palatial structure for which I have provided.”

- Identifies and praises God
- Acknowledges God as the true ruler of the kingdom and recipient of all the glory
- All wealth, honor, and strength come from God
- Yahweh is our God
- Thanks
- All our generosity is just giving back what comes from Yahweh
- Keep us loyal and wholly devoted to your commands.
- Festival day
  - 1000 bulls, 1000 rams, 1000 lambs, drink offerings, other sacrifices
  - Had gathered "all the leaders as well as the priests and Levites."
  - Solomon is about 18 years old at official coronation. David is about 68.
  - Solomon acknowledged a second time (first time in chapter 22)
- David's death - good old age - long life, wealth and honor.