



## First Chronicles - Chapter Twenty Two

- II 1 Chronicles 10:1-2 Chronicles 9:31 - The United Kingdom of David and Solomon (continues)
- II.e 1 Chronicles 21:1-29:30 - David's Census and Preparation for the Temple (continues)
- II.e.iii 1 Chronicles 21:28-22:1 - The Place Chosen for the Temple (continues/concludes)

### Summary of Chapter Twenty Two

David's designation of the temple site leads directly into the next major unit of the work in Chapters 22-29, which describe David's preparation for building the temple. Although David was prevented from taking part in the actual construction, he stands alongside Solomon in this chapter as the one who provided the materials, personnel, and conditions essential for the task. Chapter 22 has the form of a private commissioning of Solomon, while Chapters 28-29 include a public commissioning 'in the sight of all Israel'. Their reigns are presented as a complementary unit, both being essential for the fulfilment of the task: what David begins, Solomon completes. The presentation of events is modelled in part on the transfer of leadership from Moses to Joshua.

<sup>1</sup> Then David said, 'Here shall be the house of the Lord God and here the altar of burnt-offering for Israel.'

### 1 Chronicles 22:1

Here shall be the house of the Lord God and here the altar of burnt-offering for Israel. David understood that the future temple should be built on this spot in Jerusalem. God had sanctified this humble threshing floor to himself. This is that very place foretold by Moses: <<*When you cross over the Jordan and live in the land that the Lord your God is allotting to you, and when he gives you rest*

*from your enemies all around so that you live in safety, then you shall bring everything that I command you to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name: your burnt-offerings and your sacrifices, your tithes and your donations, and all your choice votive gifts that you vow to the Lord>> (Deuteronomy 12:10-11).*

#### **II.e.iv 1 Chronicles 22:2-5 - David Prepares to Build the Temple**

David's preparations involved gathering the materials and the workmen so that Solomon will have the necessary resources to build the temple when the time comes for him to do so.

<sup>2</sup> David gave orders to gather together the aliens who were residing in the land of Israel, and he set stonecutters to prepare dressed stones for building the house of God. <sup>3</sup> David also provided great stores of iron for nails for the doors of the gates and for clamps, as well as bronze in quantities beyond weighing, <sup>4</sup> and cedar logs without number — for the Sidonians and Tyrians brought great quantities of cedar to David. <sup>5</sup> For David said, 'My son Solomon is young and inexperienced, and the house that is to be built for the Lord must be exceedingly magnificent, famous and glorified throughout all lands; I will therefore make preparation for it.' So David provided materials in great quantity before his death.

#### **1 Chronicles 22:2-5**

David's preparation of the temple workforce included the imposition of forced labour on resident aliens. First Kings 5:15-18 describes how these were actually put to work in the building of the temple in Solomon's day, some 70,000 slaves. War booty provided some of the material, for example: <<*From Tibhath and from Cun, cities of Hadadezer, David took a vast quantity of bronze; with it Solomon made the bronze sea and the pillars and the vessels of bronze*>> (1 Chronicles 18:8).

He set stonecutters to prepare dressed stones for building the house of God. These were highly skilled craftsmen who could quarry, cut and dress stones of the quality and size needed to build the temple: <<*At the king's command, they quarried out great, costly stones in order to lay the foundation of the house with dressed stones. So Solomon's builders and Hiram's builders and the Gebalites did the stonecutting and prepared the timber and the stone to build the house*>> (1 Kings 5:17-18), and later to repair it: <<*So they gave money to the masons and the carpenters, and food, drink, and oil to the Sidonians and the Tyrians to bring cedar trees from Lebanon to the sea, to Joppa, according to the grant that they had from King Cyrus of Persia*>> (Ezra 3:7).

These events belong to the last years of David's life, when **Solomon** was still **young and inexperienced**, hence David's solicitous care. Even after David's death, Solomon knew that he was young and inexperienced: *<<And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in>>* (1 Kings 3:7), so when offered anything he wanted wisdom to lead God's people.

**Cedar logs without number**. The cedar trees of Lebanon were legendary for their excellent timber. This means David, and Solomon after him, wanted to build the temple out of the best materials possible.

David was more than willing to use resources from the Gentile nations and include Gentile workers in the building of the temple. From the very beginning everyone was included in the construction of the house of the Lord and so it is with the church: *<<And the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord, to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord, and to be his servants, all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it, and hold fast my covenant – these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt-offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples>>* (Isaiah 56:6-7), and: *<<There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus>>* (Galatians 3:28).

**David also provided great stores of iron for nails for the doors of the gates and for clamps**. The king's provision of a large amount of iron reflects how conditions had changed during his time - known archaeologically as Iron I - due, no doubt, to the incorporation of iron-producing Philistines within the sphere of Hebrew control. Again, the link to Gentile materials is made.

**The house that is to be built for the Lord must be exceedingly magnificent, famous and glorified throughout all lands**. Solomon had the same vision for the glory of the temple, and he indeed built it according to David's vision of a magnificent, famous, and glorious building. Solomon had this vision breathed into him through his father's influence.

The old David and the young Solomon can almost be pictured pouring over the plans and ideas for the temple together with excitement. David knew that it was not his place to build it, but had the right vision for what the temple should be in general terms, and he passed that vision on to his son.

**So David provided materials in great quantity before his death**. This indicates that David was at peace with the idea that he himself could not build the temple and was content to prepare the way for his son to build it successfully. This is a picture of a man who through stress and storm had found his way into the quiet

calm assurance of his place in the divine economy. It is a condition of peace and power, a status that David so often sought throughout life as reflected in so many of the psalms that he wrote.

The Chronicler was vitally concerned to insure support for the Jerusalem temple in his day. No more fitting stimulus for dedication in this regard could then be found than in the example set by David when he made preparations for the construction of that temple in his day.

#### II.e.v 1 Chronicles 22:6-19 - David's Charge to Solomon and the Leaders

David's private commission to his son Solomon is intended to prepare him in mind and heart for his demanding duty. David refers back to the dynastic promise of 1 Chronicles 17:7-14, amplifying some of its statements. His disqualification by the Lord from temple building arises chiefly from the character of his reign, a time of warfare and subduing enemies as reflected in Chapters 18-20, in contrast to Solomon's reign, the promised time of peace and quiet for Israel: <<*When you cross over the Jordan and live in the land that the Lord your God is allotting to you, and when he gives you rest from your enemies all around so that you live in safety, then you shall bring everything that I command you to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name: your burnt-offerings and your sacrifices, your tithes and your donations, and all your choice votive gifts that you vow to the Lord*>> (Deuteronomy 12:10-11). The wordplay on Solomon's name, Hebrew *Shelomoh*, and peace, Hebrew *shalom*, underlines this point.

<sup>6</sup> Then he called for his son Solomon and charged him to build a house for the Lord, the God of Israel. <sup>7</sup> David said to Solomon, 'My son, I had planned to build a house to the name of the Lord my God. <sup>8</sup> But the word of the Lord came to me, saying, "You have shed much blood and have waged great wars; you shall not build a house to my name, because you have shed so much blood in my sight on the earth. <sup>9</sup> See, a son shall be born to you; he shall be a man of peace. I will give him peace from all his enemies on every side; for his name shall be Solomon, and I will give peace and quiet to Israel in his days. <sup>10</sup> He shall build a house for my name. He shall be a son to me, and I will be a father to him, and I will establish his royal throne in Israel for ever."

#### 1 Chronicles 22:6-10

Then he called for his son Solomon and charged him to build a house for the Lord, the God of Israel. This was not a suggestion or an idea offered to Solomon. It was a sacred charge for him to fulfil. David knew that he could not fulfil this last great work of his life himself; he could only do it through Solomon after David

went to his reward: <<*And it was there until the time of David, who found favour with God and asked that he might find a dwelling-place for the house of Jacob. But it was Solomon who built a house for him*>> (Acts 7:45b-47). There was a sense in which if Solomon failed, David had failed also. Specifically, David wanted to build a house to the name of the Lord. That the temple was to be built for the name of the Lord means more than his reputation or honour but ultimately for his character.

You have shed much blood and have waged great wars; you shall not build a house to my name. This explanation was not previously recorded, either in Second Samuel or in First Chronicles. Here, the reasons why God did not want David to build the temple are given, and why he chose Solomon instead. God wanted a man of rest and peace to build a house for him. It was not that David's wars were wrong or ungodly, or that the blood he shed was unrighteous. It was that God wanted his house built from the context of peace, rest and victory; he wanted it to be built after and from the victory, not from the midst of struggle.

<sup>11</sup> Now, my son, the Lord be with you, so that you may succeed in building the house of the Lord your God, as he has spoken concerning you. <sup>12</sup> Only, may the Lord grant you discretion and understanding, so that when he gives you charge over Israel you may keep the law of the Lord your God. <sup>13</sup> Then you will prosper if you are careful to observe the statutes and the ordinances that the Lord commanded Moses for Israel. Be strong and of good courage. Do not be afraid or dismayed.

### 1 Chronicles 22:11-13

Now, my son, the Lord be with you, so that you may succeed in building the house of the Lord your God. The Chronicler emphasised David's legacy and Solomon's mission to build the temple. This would become by far Solomon's greatest accomplishment. Along with fulfilling his commission to build, David emphasises Solomon's need to keep the Law of Moses in the ruling of his kingdom. David knew that Solomon could not be strong or courageous without obedient fellowship with God. In this place of obedient fellowship, Solomon would prosper in all that he did.

Be strong and of good courage. Do not be afraid or dismayed. Solomon could take courage and reject fear because God promised David that as long as his sons walked in obedience, they would keep the throne of Israel; refer to 1 Kings 2:1-4. This is an amazing promise. No matter what the Assyrians or the Egyptians or the Babylonians did, as long as David's sons were obedient and followed God with their heart and with all their soul, God would establish their kingdom. He would take care of the rest. The charge given to Solomon is very similar to that given to Joshua: <<*Then Moses summoned Joshua and said to him in the sight of all*

*Israel: 'Be strong and bold, for you are the one who will go with this people into the land that the Lord has sworn to their ancestors to give them; and you will put them in possession of it. It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not fail you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed'>> (Deuteronomy 31:7-8), and: <<I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go'>> (Joshua 1:9).*

<sup>14</sup> With great pains I have provided for the house of the Lord one hundred thousand talents of gold, one million talents of silver, and bronze and iron beyond weighing, for there is so much of it; timber and stone too I have provided. To these you must add more. <sup>15</sup> You have an abundance of workers: stonecutters, masons, carpenters, and all kinds of artisans without number, skilled in working <sup>16</sup> gold, silver, bronze, and iron. Now begin the work, and the Lord be with you.'

#### 1 Chronicles 22:14-16

I have provided for the house of the Lord one hundred thousand talents of gold, one million talents of silver, and bronze and iron beyond weighing. David took seriously his mission to prepare the way by bringing both security and treasure to Israel and his successor Solomon. With these two resources he could build the house of the Lord.

In Ephesians 2:19-22, the Bible states that Jesus, the greater Son of David, is also building a temple. He could only do this after security and treasure were won; but the greater son of David made this peace and plundered the enemy himself at the Cross. Jesus could also say that he took much trouble to prepare for the house of the Lord and that he has prepared the building materials, that is, his people.

One hundred thousand talents of gold. This is an enormous amount of gold. Some Bible commentators believe this large number is accurate and some feel it is a scribal error. Even allowing for possible a copyist error, David clearly amassed significant resources for a temple he would never build. David also told Solomon to receive these enormous resources and add to them. David's provision for the temple preparation is distinct from the donation of three thousand talents of gold and seven thousand talents of silver that he gave out of his own treasure; refer to 2 Chronicles 29:3-4.

Now begin the work, and the Lord be with you. David made all the preparations, but it was all in vain if Solomon did not begin working. He had to actually do the work, and do it with the confidence that the Lord was with him.

David is an example of someone who works in the background, who receives little or no credit for his work, but the job cannot be done without him:

- David gathered the materials for the temple.
- David prepared some of those materials.
- David won the peace with surrounding nations that Israel needed in order to build the temple.
- David was directed to and purchased the site to build the temple.
- David established the plans for the temple.
- David organised and commanded the administration and servants of the temple.

Yet no one calls it 'David's temple.' It seems that all the credit, all the name, all the glory goes to Solomon. It does not seem to have bothered David, because he was a man after God's heart.

Charles Spurgeon comments, "So, if you go to a country town or village, and you preach the gospel to a few poor folk, you may never have seemed very successful; but you have been preparing the way for somebody else who is coming after you." and again, "But this is a terrible blow at self. Self says, 'I like to begin something of my own, and I like to carry it out; I do not want any interference from other people.' A friend proposed, the other day, to give you a little help in your service. You looked at him as if he had been a thief. You do not want any help; you are quite up to the mark; you are like a wagon and four horses, and a dog under the wagon as well! There is everything about you that is wanted; you need no help from anybody; you can do all things almost without the help of God! I am very sorry for you if that is your opinion."

<sup>17</sup> David also commanded all the leaders of Israel to help his son Solomon, saying, <sup>18</sup> 'Is not the Lord your God with you? Has he not given you peace on every side? For he has delivered the inhabitants of the land into my hand; and the land is subdued before the Lord and his people. <sup>19</sup> Now set your mind and heart to seek the Lord your God. Go and build the sanctuary of the Lord God so that the ark of the covenant of the Lord and the holy vessels of God may be brought into a house built for the name of the Lord.'

### 1 Chronicles 22:17-19

David also commanded all the leaders of Israel to help his son Solomon. David knew that one leader, even a great leader, was not enough to get a great work done. When God calls a leader he also calls other leaders to help.

Now set your mind and heart to seek the Lord your God. David's exhortation to the leaders of Israel to seek the Lord entails active obedience to the divine

command: Go and build the sanctuary of the Lord God. Solomon must already have been appointed to a co-regency with David by this time, refer to 1 Kings 1:28-2:12, in order for David to command Israel's leaders to assist Solomon in his task. As elsewhere in the book, the order of 1 Chronicles Chapters 22-29 is dictated more by thematic considerations than by strict chronology.

This command of David's is interesting in its context. David gave this command in the context of work, not the context of leisurely repose before God. David knew that it was possible to keep one's heart set on seeking God even in the midst of doing a great work before the Lord.

Thus Solomon came to the Jewish throne with every possible advantage. Had he made proper use of his position and of his gifts, he would have been the greatest as well as the wisest of sovereigns. But sadly he fell foul of his own human desires. He began with an unlawful matrimonial connection; this led him into commerce that was positively forbidden by the law of God: he then multiplied his matrimonial connections with pagan women, who turned his heart away from God, and the once wise and holy Solomon died a fool and an idolater.

Charles Spurgeon comments, "Did David live in vain? Can it be truly said that he failed in the grandest project of his life? Assuredly not; he did all that he was permitted to do, and by making those elaborate preparations, he was really the means of the building of the temple." and again, "God buries the workman, but the devil himself cannot bury the work. The work is everlasting, though the workmen die. We pass away, as star by star grows dim; but the eternal light is never-fading. God shall have the victory."