

Lesson 4 30 August, 2020

David Desires to Build a Temple

Lesson Scope: [1 Chronicles Chapters 17 & 22 through 27](#)

References in brackets relate to Lesson Scope unless noted otherwise

Lesson Focus

The previous chapters in 1 Chronicles show David in many roles - spiritual leader, military victor, composer of psalms and restorer of true worship at Gibeon and before the ark.

In this lesson, we see David in meditation and communion with God.

God spoke to David, and David prayed to God. David, in meditation on God's blessings to him, desired to do something for God, to build a magnificent temple where all the world could come to worship.

But man is small, and God is so great. God revealed to David three parts of His plan. First, the temple must represent rest and peace—the desire of God's heart for His people. Second, the house (family) that God would build for David would be greater than the house David could build for God. Third, the throne of David's family would be fulfilled in an eternal kingdom. David was overwhelmed and yielded himself to God.

Every spiritual man desires to contribute liberally to God's kingdom. But when his personal goals conflict with God's sovereign purposes, man's responsibility is to submit.

This is a lesson very close to the heart of the faith once delivered to the saints. Persecution and suffering have been endured by the faithful church as a sign of submission to God's will because they would not submit to the false authority of man. Our forefathers believed that humility was the key to salvation. "[God] giveth grace to the humble." Humility and submission cannot be separated.

Carefully contrast the Way of humility and submission with the Way of pride and rebellion.

Lesson Aim: To see responses of the person who surrenders to God's will.

Theme Verse: [Hebrews 10:7](#). Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God.

Lesson Text

David's Desire

[1 Chronicles 17:1-4](#)

¹ (KJV) Now it came to pass, as David sat in his house, that David said to Nathan the prophet, Lo, I dwell in an house of cedars, but the ark of the covenant of the LORD *remaineth* under curtains. ² Then Nathan said unto David, Do all that *is* in thine heart; for God *is* with thee. ³ And it came to pass the same night, that the word of God came to Nathan, saying, ⁴ Go and tell David my servant, Thus saith the LORD, Thou shalt not build me an house to dwell in:

[1 Chronicles 17:11-12](#)

¹¹ (KJV) And it shall come to pass, when thy days be expired that thou must go *to be* with thy fathers, that I will raise up thy seed after thee, which shall be of thy sons; and I will establish his kingdom. ¹² He shall build me an house, and I will stablish his throne for ever.

David's Response

[1 Chronicles 17:16-27](#)

¹⁶ (KJV) And David the king came and sat before the LORD, and said, Who *am* I, O LORD God, and what *is* mine house, that thou hast brought me hitherto? ¹⁷ And *yet* this was a small thing in thine eyes, O God; for thou hast *also* spoken of thy servant's house for a great while to come, and hast regarded me according to the estate of a man of high degree, O LORD God. ¹⁸ What can David *speak* more to thee for the honour of thy servant? for thou knowest thy servant. ¹⁹ O LORD, for thy servant's sake, and according to thine own heart, hast thou done all this greatness, in making known all *these* great things. ²⁰ O LORD, *there is* none like thee, neither *is there any* God beside thee, according to all that we have heard with our ears. ²¹ And what one nation in the earth *is* like thy people Israel, whom God went to redeem *to be* his own people, to make thee a name of greatness and terribleness, by driving out nations from before thy people, whom thou hast redeemed out of Egypt? ²² For thy people Israel didst thou make thine own people for ever; and thou, LORD, becamest their God. ²³ Therefore now, LORD, let the thing that thou hast spoken concerning thy servant and concerning his house be

established for ever, and do as thou hast said. ²⁴ Let it even be established, that thy name may be magnified for ever, saying, The LORD of hosts *is* the God of Israel, *even* a God to Israel: and *let* the house of David thy servant *be* established before thee. ²⁵ For thou, O my God, hast told thy servant that thou wilt build him an house: therefore thy servant hath found *in his heart* to pray before thee. ²⁶ And now, LORD, thou art God, and hast promised this goodness unto thy servant: ²⁷ Now therefore let it please thee to bless the house of thy servant, that it may be before thee for ever: for thou blessest, O LORD, and *it shall be* blessed for ever.

David's Preparation

1 Chronicles 22:5-10

⁵ (KJV) And David said, Solomon my son *is* young and tender, and the house *that is* to be builded for the LORD *must be* exceeding magnifical, of fame and of glory throughout all countries: I will *therefore* now make preparation for it. So David prepared abundantly before his death. ⁶ Then he called for Solomon his son, and charged him to build an house for the LORD God of Israel. ⁷ And David said to Solomon, My son, as for me, it was in my mind to build an house unto the name of the LORD my God: ⁸ But the word of the LORD came to me, saying, Thou hast shed blood abundantly, and hast made great wars: thou shalt not build an house unto my name, because thou hast shed much blood upon the earth in my sight. ⁹ Behold, a son shall be born to thee, who shall be a man of rest; and I will give him rest from all his enemies round about: for his name shall be Solomon, and I will give peace and quietness unto Israel in his days. ¹⁰ He shall build an house for my name; and he shall be my son, and I *will be* his father; and I will establish the throne of his kingdom over Israel for ever.

Questions for Study

David's Desire

1. What motivated David's desire?
2. Did God's denial of David's desire indicate that David was spiritually lacking?
3. What holy motivations should direct our minds and desires?

David's Response

4. What greater purposes did God reveal to David?

5. What characteristics of Himself did God reveal to David?
6. Describe and evaluate David's response to God's revelation.
7. What issues may we face in which we must submit to God's Will?

David's Preparation

8. How did David prepare for the temple before his death?
9. What legacy will children receive from parents who live a surrendered life?

Analysing the Passage

In this lesson, God unfolded more of His redemption plan. From the first Sabbath at Creation to the eternal Sabbath portrayed in Revelation 14:13, God has revealed His desire for man to find rest and peace in Him therefore, the temple needed to represent peace and rest (17:9; 22:7-10).

In this lesson, David personally experienced God's rest and peace by submitting to divine revelation.

Surrender to God's will places us under the blessing of divine providence. Divine providence sees far beyond the present into eternity. The house, the throne, and the kingdom God promised were eternal (17: 10-12, 14, 22-27; 22:10).

David portrayed his concept of God in his prayer. Lord God (17: 16-17) portrays Him as sovereign of the universe. "The God of Israel, even a God to Israel" (17:24) identifies God's claim on His people as they cling to Him. "Thou, O my God" (17:25) gives testimony of a personal relationship and accountability to God.

Principles and Applications

David's Desire

1. Those who are surrendered to God seek counsel from godly brethren (17:1-2). In all the greatness and glory of David's kingship, he always maintained his position below the spiritual leadership of the priests with Urim and Thummim. He also received the counsel of the prophets. This is the way God through Moses established in the Law. Everyone, irrespective of position, needs spiritual help from others.

We must choose carefully those from whom we seek counsel. There are many claims to "spirituality." There are many claims to knowledge. We

must beware of “religious” books that give worldly counsel on child training. Our godly brethren are the safest advisers that we have.

2. Sincere, surrendered hearts desire to contribute to God’s cause (17:1-2). We can almost feel and hear the heartthrob of those who have made the cause of the Lord their own personal joy. David could have been enthralled by the ease and luxury he enjoyed in his new home. But he was not thinking of himself! David was thinking of God. Are we?

3. God’s sovereign plan for His surrendered servant may be unexpectedly different from man’s thought (17:3-4, 11-12). God may call us to serve in ways different from our hopes and dreams. God may call us to suffer when we had hoped to serve. God may call us to make preparations for someone else to succeed. Remember, to this day, the temple is called Solomon’s temple, not David’s temple.

David’s Response

4. One who surrenders to God’s will responds in humility and unworthiness (17:16-18). Did you ever wonder, “Why does God use men?” For us to be worthy for God to use, He must make us worthy Himself. John the Baptist did not feel worthy to serve Christ even by unloosing His shoe. Are we humbly waiting so God can use us?

5. We surrender to God’s will because we recognize His greatness (17:20). God knows us better than we know ourselves. God knows the future better than we know the present. God knows the choices men will make many years down the road. In God’s all-wise plan, He prepares us now for the service, suffering, and sorrow we may face later. Or perhaps He takes us through the valley of the shadow of death to prepare us for the blessing He purposes to give us.

6. The higher purposes of God may be more than the surrendered heart can fully grasp (17:23-24, 26-27). David was a prophet (Acts 2:30), but the New Testament says the prophets did not fully understand the words they spoke. David probably did not fully understand Messiah’s reign as foretold here. Do we understand all that God has in store for us? No, but God continually reveals more to us by His Spirit (1 Corinthians 2:9-10). Only in the life to come will we have a fullness of knowledge (1 Corinthians 13:9-12).

7. The man who surrenders to God’s will is a man after God’s own heart (17:23-24, 26-27). Whatever God’s will was, David wanted it.

David's heart beat with God's heart. Have we laid down our agenda? Are we concerned most about God's will on earth, or are we carefully calculating and manipulating to bring ourselves out on top of others?

David's Preparation

8. The one who surrenders to God's will desires to glorify God (22:5). Paul also lived a surrendered life. He wanted to magnify Christ even if that meant physical death. "So now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death. . . . Yea, and if I be offered up on the sacrifice and service of your faith, I joy, and rejoice with you all" (Philippians 1:20; 2:17). But if Paul lived, he could glorify Christ for His sustaining power in adversity. "I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" (Philippians 4: 12-13). We may be tempted to think that God will always maintain our present social well-being. He may not. Are we willing to sacrifice everything—even our life—to glorify God?

9. Those who have lived a surrendered we leave behind a legacy of spiritual provision and vision (22:5-10). David left to Solomon the plan for the house, an abundance of building materials, and spiritual vision of God's eternal kingdom. Can your children build on the heritage you have left them? Will you leave this world as a stranger and pilgrim on his way to glory? Will your children have a vision for separated, godly schools? Will your children be caring, compassionate persons, ministering as Jesus did to the needy He met? Will your children have a vision for evangelism?

10. God gives peace and rest to those who surrender to His will (22:9-10). Rest is the central theme of God's redemptive provision. Therefore, the temple would need to represent rest. "We which have believed do enter into rest" (Hebrews 4:3). "And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance for ever. And my people shall dwell in a peaceable habitation, and in sure dwellings, and in quiet resting places" (Isaiah 32: 17-18). Parents who are at rest in Christ produce children who are obedient, satisfied, and content. They are building material for conservative churches because they are not looking for change, new experiences, or new technology.

Important Teachings

1. Those who are surrendered to God seek counsel from godly brethren (17:1-2).
2. Sincere, surrendered hearts desire to contribute to God's cause (17:1-2).
3. God's sovereign plan for His surrendered servant may be unexpectedly different from man's thought (17:3-4, 11-12).
4. One who surrenders to God's will responds in humility and unworthiness (17:16-18).
5. We surrender to God's will because we recognize His greatness (17:20).
6. The higher purposes of God may be more than the surrendered heart can fully grasp (17:23-24, 26-27).
7. The man who surrenders to God's will is a man after God's own heart (17:23-24, 26-27).
8. The one who surrenders to God's will desires to glorify God (22:5).
9. Those who have lived a surrendered life leave behind a legacy of spiritual provision and vision (22:5-10).
10. God gives peace and rest to those who surrender to His will (22:9-10).

Answers to Questions

1. What motivated David's desire?

David felt that if he dwelt in a house of cedars, then God deserved something better. He felt God deserved the best. David Wanted to glorify God above himself. He wanted a glorious house for God that would bring God glory among all nations.

2. Did God's denial of David's desire indicate that David was spiritually lacking?

No. God reveals no imperfection on David's part. The wars which David fought were God-directed. God was simply revealing His sovereign plan to David. David, like all of us, was finite and human. God does not look down on us for our humanity.

3. What holy motivations should direct our minds and desires?

We should desire to glorify God by living in His will. We should desire that the work of our lives should serve God and not ourselves. "Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and

with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets” (Matthew 22:37-40). We should desire that others find fulfillment in salvation and serving the Lord. We should desire that the faith be preserved in coming generations.

4. What greater purposes did God reveal to David?

God revealed a coming time of greater rest, peace, and prosperity under David’s successor, by whom the temple would be built. God revealed that the Messianic King would come through David’s house and establish an eternal kingdom.

5. What characteristics of Himself did God reveal to David?

God desires to bless His people. God’s eternal blessings for His people are known to Himself far before man begins to comprehend them. God’s blessings to His people cannot be conceived by finite man. “Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen” (Ephesians 3:20-21).

6. Describe and evaluate David’s response to God’s revelation.

David was overwhelmed by the greatness of God’s plan. He felt unworthy to be used of God in this way. He humbly submitted to God’s plan, desiring most of all God’s blessing, because he knew that men in their weakness can do nothing of value without the blessing of God.

7. What issues may we face in which we must submit to God’s will?

We may face loss of health or income, by acts of either God or man. We might experience the loss of a loved one. We might experience suffering or persecution. We might be called to serve in a way we are afraid to undertake. Our friends might betray us, leave the faith, or disappoint us. Our submission to God’s will may not have a glorious outcome on earth as David’s did. Some of our forefathers lived their lives under persecution and died in prison.

8. How did David prepare for the temple before his death?

David gathered together crews of workmen and prepared stone, iron, brass, and cedar trees (22:1-4, 14-16). David organized the Levites in their courses (chapters 23-26). David gave Solomon the pattern for the temple which he received by inspiration from God (28:11-19).

9. What legacy will children receive from parents who live a surrendered life?

Their children will learn to read and study the Bible and to fear God. They will be taught to be obedient and conscientious at home, school, and church. Faith in God will help them overcome the disappointments of life. These things will all greatly influence children to choose right.

Summarizing the Lesson

There are two courses in life: humility and submission versus pride and rebellion, a God-controlled life versus a Satan-controlled life, a life of blessing under God versus seeking satisfaction in self-fulfillment, and eternal life versus eternal death.

Research Guide

1. Read 1 Chronicles Chapters 17 & 22 through 27 (the lesson scope) to understand David's influence on the temple Worship throughout the Old Testament.
2. Notice the influence of David in the time of Ezra and Nehemiah (Ezra 3:10; 8:20; Nehemiah 12:24, 36, 45-46).