

I CHRONICLES

Please turn in your Bibles this evening I Chronicles chapter 28 as we continue our study through the Word of God and we finish up our study in I Chronicles. Now, as we come to the last two chapters of this book of I Chronicles keep in mind that we are moving towards the end of King David's life. And yes, his life was not perfect, but the Bible says that David was a man after God's own heart and thus, the desire of his heart, the passion of his life was to honor the Lord, to serve the Lord faithfully! (I Samuel 13:14, Acts 13:22).

And David lived a very full life. He was a shepherd boy, a giant killer, a warrior, a leader, the sweet psalmist of Israel, an administrator, a father, and a king! And David knows that his life is coming to an end and thus, the lessons he has learned he wants to share with the leaders of Israel and his son Solomon, the next king in Israel to help them continue their walk with the Lord!

And think about this, if you knew you were going to die shortly, what words would you leave behind for your family and friends? Would you talk about what sport teams you like and the ones you dislike? I hope not? Would you speak of your favorite restaurants? I hope that is not the last words you speak! What about your favorite movie, would you talk about that? Again, as important as that might be to you, what are you leaving behind for the living?

Let me share with you some last words from Christians and then from a few men who were not Christians and notice the difference. You see, where you stand with the Lord will make a difference in life and even in death and the legacy we can leave behind may draw others to the Lord.

This first one is a Moslem woman whose child had died at 16 years of age and she came to a Christian missionary and asked him this question, “What did you do to our daughter?” The Missionary was caught off guard and he did not know what to say and just replied back, “We did nothing.” But that was not good enough for this mother and she persisted. She told him, “Oh, yes, you did! She died smiling. Our people do not die like that.” As it turned out, the girl had found Christ and believed on Him only a few months before. What was the difference in this young girl’s life as she died? The fear of death was gone and it was replaced with hope and joy and even in her death she was a witness of what Christ can do!

Then there was the famous Dwight Moody and Mr. Moody awoke from his sleep shortly before he died and this is what he said, “Earth recedes. Heaven opens before me. If this is death, it is sweet! There is no valley here. God is calling me, and I must go.” In the room with Mr. Moody was his son who said to him, “No, no, Father. You’re dreaming.” And Mr. Moody replied back to his son, “I am not dreaming. I have been within the gates. This is my triumph; this is my coronation day! It is glorious!” Do you see the perspective we should have in life and death? The sting of death has been removed by Jesus and we need to leave behind words that will encourage believers and draw unbelievers to Jesus, our hope!

And lastly, listen to these words of a Christian and how even in death he knew the outcome of where he was going. Did he leave a legacy behind? You tell me as you listen to what he said. We are told:

As a third-century man was anticipating death, he penned these last words to a friend: "It's a bad world, an incredibly bad world. But I have discovered in the midst of it a quiet and holy people who have learned a great secret. They have found a joy which is a thousand times better than any pleasure of our sinful life. They are despised and persecuted, but they care not. They are masters of their souls. They have overcome the world. These people are the Christians – and I am one of them."

- Moody Bible Institute's, Today in the Word, June, 1988, p. 18

We tend to think that in life we can only affect people and that is not true. Even in death, what we have believed in will live on if we leave those things behind, if we leave heavenly treasures instead of earthly ones!

Here are the words of some who were not Christians and listen to what they left behind, it too is a legacy and this legacy you might say is telling people not to follow them down this path because it only leads to death, eternal separation from God!

First of all there is Thomas Payne who wrote the anti-Christian book, Age of Reason and this is what he said as he was dying, "I would give worlds, if I had them, if the Age of Reason had never been published. O Lord, help me! Christ, help me! Stay with me! It is hell to be left alone!" Not a pretty picture of the unsaved dying and yet, he leaves a legacy behind of what it is like in death for the unbeliever!

Then there is the atheist named Voltaire, who said, “I am abandoned by God and man! I shall go to hell! O’ Jesus Christ!” What amazes me is that there is no repentance, only the acknowledgement of where they are going!

Another atheist who died in utter despair was David Hume who said as he was crying out in agony, “I am in the flames!” That is pretty powerful!

Let me share two more with you. The first is from Sir Thomas Scott, who said, “Until now I thought there was no God or hell. Now I know there is both, and I am doomed.” A tragic perspective to have and not turn! And lastly, Sir Francis Newport said, “Do not tell me there is no God for I know there is one, and that I am in his angry presence! You need not tell me there is no hell, for I already feel my soul slipping into its fires! I know that I am lost forever.” Those two are powerful showing the ultimate end of the unsaved and that they are aware of it.

Now, when you look at the last words in the Bible you see how important they are because they are admonishing, encouraging, directing people in the things of God. We saw that as Moses was coming to the end of his life, after the children of Israel had wandered for 40 years in the wilderness and now they are on the boarder of the Promise Land preparing to go in. And we are told in Deuteronomy 31:1-3, **“Then Moses went and spoke these words to all Israel. And he said to them: ‘I am one hundred and twenty years old today. I can no longer go out and come in. Also the Lord has said to me, “You shall not cross over this Jordan.” The Lord your God Himself crosses over before you; He will destroy these nations from before you, and you shall dispossess them. Joshua himself crosses over before you, just as the Lord has said.”**”

Moses was encouraging them to enter into the land for the Lord would go before them and destroy their enemies; the Lord would fulfill His promise to them as Joshua would lead them into the Promise Land. Very important words he spoke to the nation before he died.

We see that in the life of Joshua as his life was coming to an end, after they had entered the Promise Land and were established in the land. We are told in Joshua 24:13-15, **“I have given you a land for which you did not labor, and cities which you did not build, and you dwell in them; you eat of the vineyards and olive groves which you did not plant.’ Now therefore, fear the Lord, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt. Serve the Lord! And if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”**

Again, he was admonishing them to serve the Lord before He died! He wanted them to take a stand for what they believed in and even if they refused, he told the people that his house, his family was going to serve the Lord!

And here in I Chronicles we see David speaking to the leaders of Israel, admonishing them to serve the Lord, to build the Temple, to make God a priority in their lives! So with that said, let’s begin reading in I Chronicles chapter 28, starting in verse 1 and see what the Lord has for us as we study His Word this evening.

I CHRONICLES 28

VERSES 1-2a

1. Here we see David gather the leadership of Israel together, probably the men that were spoken of in I Chronicles chapter 27 as well as others. David wanted these leaders before him so he could pass the mantle of leadership to Solomon as their next king so that these men would get behind Solomon and serve him. That there would be no fighting for this position, even though we have seen in our studies of Kings that David's son, Adonijah tried to take the throne of David when he died! And so, David is just getting his house in order before he dies.

VERSES 2b-3

1. David starts out by explaining what he wanted to do, build God a house but the Lord would not let him because he was a man of war. And notice that David is not angry, he is just explaining what took place and what is going to take place, that his son Solomon will build the house of God, the Temple! And did you notice what David called this house of God? He called it the **“house of rest for the Ark of the covenant of the LORD.”** David was a man of war like I said, but as we are told in I Chronicles 22:9, **“Behold, a son shall be born to you, who shall be a man of rest; and I will give him rest from all his enemies all around. His name shall be Solomon, for I will give peace and quietness to Israel in his days.”** In other words, the man of rest, Solomon, will build the house of rest for the Lord!

VERSES 4-8

1. Notice the humility in what David is saying here. David recognized that God did not choose him because he was so special, he did not deserve it, but out of God's sovereign grace He chose David! Don't think God saved you because you were so special, such a great deal for Him, it was all His grace and the same is true for me! We need to be careful as Christians that we don't get that superiority complex thinking we are better than other people, we are not. Martin Luther warned years ago regarding this issue and what can happen to us as we have this haughty attitude. He wrote, "Striving after a righteousness so great that you no longer appear as a sinner in your own eyes."

You see, that is a dangerous place to be as John warns us, "**If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.**" John's point is simple. If you think you no longer sin, you are wrong and in saying that you make God out to be a liar because He has told us we are going to do battle with the flesh nature because it will war against our spirit that wants to live for God. If you truly believe you are perfect, without sin in a practical sense, John is saying you are not saved because Jesus, the Word, is not in you. It is as Trapp said, "No man was ever kept out of God's kingdom for his confessed badness; many are for their supposed goodness." How true that is!

2. David is also warning them of becoming complacent because of prosperity. You see, during the reign of David the enemies were being defeated, the land was prosperous, things were going well and during the reign of Solomon, they would also enjoy a time of peace as the kingdom was strong. And what happens many times in the days of prosperity and peace is that people turn from God, they don't need God and we see that in America today. So this warning by David in verse 8 is for us. Listen carefully to what he was admonishing them to do and may we learn from it.

First of all David exhorted them to ***BE CAREFUL***, or to pay attention to the things of God. It is not time to become complacent. David also exhorted them to ***SEEK OUT*** all the commandments of God. It is not a time to pick and chose what you like and what you don't like. It is the whole counsel of God! It was time to search the Scriptures daily and diligently! And lastly, and we touched on this one, but David exhorted them to seek out ***ALL THE COMMANDMENTS OF THE LORD***. Again, it is not time to compromise or say things like, "Well, I know that is not Scriptural, it is not found in the Bible but there are some good things we can glean from this!" No, it is not time to play that game; we need to ***BE CAREFUL AND SEEK OUT ALL THE COMMANDMENTS OF THE LORD!***

3. Now this exhortation was not only important for the individual but for the nation as well, for future generations. And again, this applies to us as well. You see, we are not living just for ourselves but to pass those blessings on to our children and grandchildren. In this country our focus is self, to get all that we can, and in doing so we are robbing our children and our grandchildren of the blessings. Yes, we want them to have more than we had but when we say and do things like that we are speaking of material things and not spiritual things and that will not help them in the long run! We have a debt that is out of control, both personal and as a country. We have placed our children in the hands of others to raise them so we can climb the corporate ladder. And the list goes on. David is warning Solomon not to foster this selfish attitude in the hearts of the people, for it will destroy them. Draw close to the Lord and He will draw close to you and in the end, you will be prosperous, maybe not monetarily but spiritually speaking and that is eternal and not temporary!

VERSES 9-10

1. Here we see David give instructions to his son Solomon and they are pretty simple and yet, if your heart is not in it, they will be very difficult to follow. David tells his son to not only know the Lord, but to serve Him with all your heart, be focused on Him. Make a conscious decision to do these things and you will find true joy. And David could tell Solomon these things because he experienced them in his own life!

Once you know the Lord then you can serve Him but you can't serve Him unless you know Him, He will not accept that kind of service no matter how good it may be! It is as we are told in Daniel 11:32, "**Those who do wickedly against the covenant he shall corrupt with flattery; but the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits.**" You see, if you truly know the Lord you will be able to do great things for the Lord but if you don't, it will be worthless in the end!

The tragedy for Solomon is that it took him his whole life to figure out that what his dad said was true. Solomon thought he would find joy in building projects, books, studies, material possessions, entertainment, but none of these brought him joy. Then, at the end of his life, this is the conclusion he came to: "**... Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is the whole duty of man.**" Ecclesiastes 12:13. We too have the same information as Solomon, may we learn from his mistakes and be obedient to the Lord's command, for that is where true joy is found, in knowing Him and then in serving Him! And we are to do so with a loyal heart and a willing mind. Many Christians serve the Lord with all their heart but there is no mind you might say in their service to Him. Others are all mind and yet there is no heart in what they are doing. God wants both if we are to serve Him!

2. Here we see that controversial subject of the sovereignty of God and man's free will. These two explosive and potentially divisive doctrines came to be formed into two groups back in the 1500's. Followers of John Calvin, known as Calvinism, believe that God has chosen you, sustains you, and you don't have any choice in the matter. In extreme views they don't even believe in witnessing for if God has chosen you, He will save you. I saw this view with a group of Plymouth Brethren, and it is extreme. Thus, God's atonement is limited for only those whom He has chosen, but the Bible says that he died so that all may be saved, but not all receive it!

Then there is the other view and this view is that of Jacob Hermann, best known by the Latin form of his last name, Arminius, from which we get the Arminianism view. This view is focused totally on man's responsibility. If you stop living the holy life, you lost your salvation. It is all on your shoulders!

Now here is the million dollar question, "Who is right?" That is easy, neither are right! You see, I believe that both views are off balance. The Bible teaches that it is 100% God and 100% man and not 50-50. And I do understand that it is difficult to reconcile this in our finite minds, but that is what God's word says. In Joshua 24:15 we read **“. . . choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”**

When you read that what does it sound like Joshua is saying? It sounds like man's free will to chose who he wants to serve. So then the Arminius view is right! No, you see, in John 15:16 we read "**You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.**" So then Calvin is right because here it sounds like it is totally the sovereignty of God! Well, it is the sovereignty of God and it is man's free will to chose. These both are parallel truths that don't intersect or meet and they both are 100% true.

The best explanation I have heard regarding this issue is by Ironside. He said to imagine walking down a long corridor with many doors on either side. As you come to this one door it says "Whoever wills may enter." So you enter through this door and inside the room you see a huge banquet hall with a table that seems to extend forever. On this table that is set for a banquet you see name tags by each plate. And one of the name tags has your name on it. As you turn towards the door, which is now closing, you see these words written on the inside of that door, "Predestined before the foundations of the world." You see, you entered by your own free will, but as you entered you then realized that this was all predestined! I may not fully understand it, but I believe it by faith because that is what the Scriptures are teaching us.

3. Now one more point here and let me share with you what Paul said in I Corinthians 6:19-20 first. He wrote, **“Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.”** Remember what David said Solomon was to do, he was to build the Temple of God, and now, in the New Testament we see that our bodies are called the temple of God in which the Holy Spirit dwells in.

Here’s the thing. What does your temple look like? Is it a slum, filled with all kinds of filth and garbage? Notice what Peter calls for us to do in I Peter 1:13-16. He says **“Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, ‘Be holy, for I am holy.’”**

We are not going to be perfect people, but we should strive to live after the things of God, to be transformed into His image. Obviously this can only be done by the grace of God working in our lives as we *SUBMIT* to the Holy Spirit’s direction. The thing is we must be willing to submit to what God is saying to us or we can quench the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. We can be conformed to the former lusts instead of being transformed by God. Make your temple a place in which God will feel comfortable to dwell in! And I realize it is not easy, but David is going to give to Solomon the blueprints for the Temple and thus, there are some truths we can apply to our temple in which the Holy Spirit dwells in, our body! Let’s read on and see what David is saying.

VERSES 11-13

1. As I have said, David is giving to Solomon the blueprints for the Temple, they were not to build it anyway they wanted. And David not only gave to Solomon the blueprints for the Temple, but he also gave Solomon the land, the building materials and-so-on.

Folk's, God has also has given to us the blueprints for our temple, our lives, how our temple should be built. That blueprint is the Word of God - if we know it and apply it to our lives, if we are obedient to what God is telling us, our temple will be magnificent, and if we don't it will be like a slum! And like David, we see the Son of David give to us the orders, "Here's the pattern, son. Start building!" May we do that!

2. I also believe that God has given to us the blueprint for the church, and it is simple. It is found in Acts 2:42 and verse 47 where it says, "**And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. . . . And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.**" In fact, this was my first sermon that I gave on a Sunday morning when I started up here some 16 years ago because I believe that is what we are about here at Calvary Chapel Manitowoc! This is what we are to do. Teach God's Word. We are to fellowship with each other. Share our bread together as well as communion. And we are to be in prayer with each other. It is God then who will add to the church daily those being saved!

VERSES 14-19

1. Look at all the riches David amassed for the building of this Temple of God, this house of rest as he called it. And David tells us that God spoke through him to give him these plans. Does that mean that God had taken control of David and forced him to draw up these plans? No, God inspired David to write these things down; it was inspiration and not perspiration for David. You see, as David was writing he was in control, but God was inspiring him to pen the words and the blueprints for the Temple.

We even see this in the New Testament as Peter tells us in II Peter 1:20-21, **“knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.”** You see, God did not change their writing styles but used these men, inspired them, to pen the Words of God, and sometimes they did not even understand what they were writing. Thus, if these are the Words of God we are holding in our hands, then we can't make our own interpretation of them, for they have a specific message, a specific meaning. Nor did man sit down to write these words by his own will, these are not the words of man, but of God written through man. And again, God has given us the blueprints for our own lives, for our families, for our work environments, for our church and-so-on, may we read them and obey them in our lives!

VERSE 20

1. How encouraging this must have been for Solomon, to hear these words from his father, David. Here we see once again David is encouraging his son to continue on with the work of God, don't give up, because God is with you, He is your strength. You will complete the work He has called you to do. And understand this, God does not remove us from ministry, from the work, we do that ourselves. We do it by falling into sin, or not going through the door of opportunity, or by not walking with Him. God wants to use us! It is as Spurgeon wrote regarding the work of God and what we need to do, "Do not talk about it; do not sit down, and dream over the plans, and think how admirable they are, and then roll them up; but, 'Be strong and of good courage, and do it.'" That is the failure of many Christians, not going through that door because of fear, anxiety, because you are feeling inferior for the work or not up for the task that is before you. But if God has called you don't you think He will equip you for the work? Absolutely and thus, "Be strong and of good courage and do it!"

VERSE 21

1. David not only gave to Solomon the plans and the materials for the Temple, he also gave him the people to assist in the work. You see, there is no way that Solomon could do all this work on his own and that is true today in the church. I could not do all the work here at Calvary on my own, there are many things I would not even venture in trying to do and yet, God has placed people alongside me to assist in the work of the ministry and that truly is what a healthy body does. It works together for the betterment of the whole body!

I CHORNICLES 29

VERSES 1-5

1. David is saying that he not only put all the treasures he obtained from his military victories, the spoils of those battles, into the house of the Lord, but out of his own resources, his own personal treasuries, he gave to the Lord. Jesus said in Matthew 6:21 **“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”** You see, whoever or whatever you worship, you will serve. What do you spend your money on and many times, as you look at that you will see who your god really is! David loved the Lord and he gave freely to the work of the Lord. He was an example to the people. Look at what David gave to the Lord here. He gave 3,000 talents of gold or some 110 tons. He also gave 7,000 talents of silver or some 260 tons. This is above and beyond what he gave from the spoils of his military victories. Now you can understand why Solomon’s temple was so magnificent.

2. Giving is a very touchy subject today. There are those who say we need to give our tithe of 10% and they tell us that is what the Bible tells us to do. Well, it really does not say that. In fact, what Israel gave to the Lord each year in their tithes was more around 21% or 22%. So if you want to give a tithe like in the Old Testament, it is 22%. Now here’s the thing. The New Testament does not tell us how much we are to give; it just speaks of us giving joyfully. So if you can’t give 10% joyfully, don’t do it. If you can’t give 5% joyfully don’t do it. If you can’t give anything joyfully, don’t do it! You see, if you do it won’t matter to God because your heart is not right!

Paul tells us the way we should give in II Corinthians 9:6-7. He says “**... He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.**” God wants us to give cheerfully or out of a hilarious heart. It should be a joy to give to the Lord, and understand this, God is not broke, nor has He ever been broke, nor will He ever be broke. In fact, as slaves, we own nothing, it is all our masters, it is all the Lords. May we not forget that, we are just giving back to the Lord that which was His in the first place and He entrusted to us for the work of the Kingdom!

VERSES 6-9

1. As David gave to the Lord with a joyful heart, as the people saw what their offerings were going for, the work of God, the people followed after David and gave from a willing heart. But if the leaders are carnal or selfish, so too will be the people. If the work is carnal, then the peoples giving will also be carnal. We not only have to have a right heart, but a right reason in our giving!

2. Look at the estimate of the materials that were given for the house of God. We are told that there were 5,000 talents of gold or some 190 tons. Also, there were some 10,000 darics of gold and that equaled some 185 pounds. We see that there were 10,000 talents silver and that was around 375 tons. In regards to the bronze that they received, it was 18,000 talents of bronze or some 675 tons. There were 100,000 talents of iron or some 3,750 tons.

And it does not end there. We see precious stones also. Think about what they received in total when we add I Chronicles 22:14 and 29:4, 7 together. We come up with more than 46,000 tons or 93.22 million pounds of gold, silver and bronze, not including some of the other metals, stones and lumber. I am only telling you what they have estimated this to be, and it truly is amazing!

3. Now here's the thing and again, a lesson for us. When people give willingly there is great rejoicing for there is no pressure to give. Here at Calvary Chapel Manitowoc we do not *take* an offering but we *receive* it from you. You truly do not give it to us, but to the Lord and our prayer is for God to use us in the building of His Kingdom, to use the resources that have been entrusted to us to see people come into the Kingdom of God!

VERSES 10-12

1. Notice that David does not want the people to focus on the riches that they have gathered together, but on the Lord in these words of praise. He wants to give to the Lord all honor and praise that is due His holy name. It all belongs to the Lord in the first place, may we not lose sight of that fact! Asaph pointed that out to us in Psalm 50:10-15 as he wrote, **“For every beast of the forest is Mine, And the cattle on a thousand hills. I know all the birds of the mountains, And the wild beasts of the field are Mine. ‘If I were hungry, I would not tell you; For the world is Mine, and all its fullness. Will I eat the flesh of bulls, Or drink the blood of goats? Offer to God thanksgiving, And pay your vows to the Most High. Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me.’”** Thus, it all came from God in the first place and they are rejoicing that they can return this back to Him and bring Him glory by doing so!

VERSES 13-15

1. This is interesting to me because David is saying that our ability to give and the heart to give come from the Lord, these are gifts from God. Then why don't people give to the Lord? Because they are hindering what the Holy Spirit wants to do in their lives! And truly, look at what God is doing. He gives to us and then out of what He gives to us He gives us the privilege to give back to Him and we are blessed by that!

2. David ends this praise by speaking of there being no hope in this world apart from God, apart from the Lord and how true that is. David said in Psalm 39:7, “**And now, Lord, what do I wait for? My hope is in You.**” People are without hope today because they do not have the Lord. But we as Christians, we have this precious hope in the Lord that He will never leave us or forsake us, that we will be with Him for eternity! I can’t imagine living without that hope!

VERSES 16-19

1. David is now committing this offering that was received from the people to the Lord. And as you read this you can see how David moved from praise unto God in the previous verses to prayer unto God for Solomon and this next generation to follow after the Lord! I like the way that Morgan sums this up. He wrote, “Praise then merged into prayer that the state of mind in which they had given might be maintained; and for Solomon, that he might be kept with a perfect heart to complete the work of Temple building. It was a fitting and glorious ending to a great reign.”

2. We also see that God tests our heart to see where we stand. And please understand that this test is not for God’s knowledge, He knows everything! It is for us, so we can see where we stand and what we need to do in our relationship with the Lord. You see, you can’t fool God, He knows your heart. And for David, he loved the Lord, he never went after idols. He was truly a lover of God. Yes David had a problem with his flesh, but his desire was to serve the Lord and he did just that!

3. What a great day it was, the people were freely giving to the Lord, there was great joy, and David is asking the Lord to burn this into the hearts of the people so that they would never forget it. Tragically, during the reign of Solomon, during a time of peace and prosperity, their hearts did turn from the Lord and they forgot all that God had done, and they drifted from Him. And because of that judgment eventually came down upon them, they went into captivity because they refused to return to the Lord!

4. Now this idea of a loyal heart was the key that David was trying to pass on to his son Solomon because David knew that this was the only thing that would keep the kingdom of Israel healthy and strong, it was the only thing that would secure his dynasty. And, as I have said, Solomon did depart for a time from the Lord and paid the price for not having a loyal heart unto God!

VERSES 20

1. Notice that they gave honor to God by laying face down on the ground with their arms extended. This was a sign of adoration unto the Lord. Now here's the thing. You can lay down with your face to the ground and your arms outstretched and it will be meaningless unless your heart is truly surrendered to the Lord. You see, your outward actions can be deceiving, but if your outward actions are in response to what has taken place on the inside, then God will accept that adoration, that worship from you! That is what we see here with the people, what was building up on the inside of their lives, this relationship with the Lord was now flowing like a gusher outwardly as they gave to the Lord and worshiped the Lord!

VERSES 21-25

1. Now this coronation of Solomon as the next king probably took place after the death of David. Before David was saying that Solomon is the next king and he may have ruled a short time with David but now he took the throne! I tend to see Solomon taking the throne after the death of David. I believe this coronation took place, this first one, to silence what Adonijah tried to do, take the kingdom away from Solomon!

And this second time that Solomon was made king probably took place after the rebellion of Adonijah, the brother of Solomon and son of David who tried to take the throne away from Solomon. The first time it was most likely done hastily because of what Adonijah tried to do, but now that he has been dealt with, the celebration was elaborate! And as we have read, the people placed themselves under the leadership of their new King, Solomon!

VERSES 26-30

1. As we come to the close of the book of I Chronicles we see the death of King David and his son Solomon now on the throne. Of the life of David, Clarke wrote, “By birth, a *peasant*; by merit, a *prince*; in youth, a *hero*; in manhood, a *monarch*; and in age, a *saint*. The matter of Uriah and Bath-Sheba is his great but only *blot*! There he sinned deeply; and no man ever suffered more in his body, soul, and domestic affairs, than he did in consequence. His penitence was as deep and as extraordinary as his crime; and nothing could surpass both but that eternal mercy that took away the guilt, assuaged the sorrow, and restored this most humbled transgressor to character, holiness, and happiness. Let the God of David be exalted forever!” David, a man after God’s own heart!

2. Now that Solomon is on the throne, we will see that God blessed Solomon tremendously, and the nation was also blessed. But again, with all the wisdom Solomon had, it took him his whole life to figure out that true joy is only found in the Lord. May we not wait that long, may we see that our joy is not found in things, or possessions or whatever, but in the Lord, in the person of Jesus!

3. One last point before we close this evening and that is what it says of David, that David died being **“full of days.”** What does that mean? It speaks of David living his life for the Lord to the fullest. Folk’s, I don’t know about you but that is how I want to die. Not necessarily going to be with the Lord at the age of 80 or 90, but that my work has been completed, that I have not wasted the years that God has given me, and it is time to go home and be with my Lord because I am **“full of days”** or my days on this earth have been fulfilled. It is as Moses said, **“So teach us to number our days, That we may gain a heart of wisdom.”** Psalm 90:12. May we learn to number our days with the Lord, serving Him until the day we go home to be with Him!