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**Day 108 – April 18**

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## **Israel as a Monarchy (1100 – 930 BCE)**

### ***The National Convention***

**Readings: *1 Chronicles 26:12-29:22***

### ***Reflections:***

- This section finds many parallels to the preparation for building the Tabernacle under Moses (see Exodus 35-39; Leviticus 8,9 and Numbers 3-8). Themes include God inspired (Spirit led) design, visionary leadership, excellent organization, skilled craftsmanship, radical generosity, and a sense of joy and gratitude. The reader is to see very obvious parallels. A similar experience for us today happens when communities of Christ-followers begin to embrace all that God has for us and then in time we see how our lives begin to parallel the same qualities and experiences of the first Christians in Acts.
- In the first section the focus is in re-establishing all of the necessary leadership for the nation.
- The idea of numbering the fighting men is mentioned again and that this is a bad idea. Here we see very practically again how important it was for the leaders and people to trust God alone and to intentionally decide not to try to measure their own strength. A comparison may be to a bunch of ants living in an ant farm that is owned by a guy who loves ants. Rather than trusting in their owner, they are trying to see how much strength they can muster in case they have to move a twig. You see, it shows they really don't trust their owner or they significantly over estimate their true strength.
- I liked the personal note that David's uncle was also named Jonathan and was his counselor, a man of insight and a scribe. I wonder how often David would remember his best friend Jonathan when he would talk to his uncle?
- Again we see in David's speech that because he is a man of war and not a man of peace, he is unable to build the temple. Again, we see God's heart is for peace, not war even though in the broken condition of the human race God at times uses war in Israel as a way to establish them as a nation and protect the Messianic bloodline.
- God's selection of Solomon seems to again suggest a foreshadowing of the coming Messiah or King: "I have chosen him to be my son and I will be his father. I will establish his kingdom forever..."

- David's call to Solomon captures the heart of a true follower. "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 the motive behind the thoughts. If you seek him, he will be found by you..." This sentence doesn't need to be completed because of Jesus. We as Christ-followers don't need to worry about being rejected by God. This is one of the benefits of having complete reconciliation!
- David's vision regarding the design of the Temple is amazing: "[God] gave me the plans for all that the Spirit had put in his mind for the ...temple..." "I have in writing from the hand of the Lord upon me and he gave me understanding in all the details of the plan." This is what every leader of the church should be seeking for their community. A clear and detailed vision of how God wants them to grow and reach out as a portion of his family.
- "Be strong and courageous and do the work. Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord God, my God is with you." Again leaders need to be encouraged to remain strong and not give in to fear. We are so naturally afraid of failure and the problems that come with leadership that it is easy to get down and want to give up. God continually reminds us to remain confident in Him. I love what David says to Solomon, "the Lord God, ...my God...is with you!" Who is David's God? He is the God that helped him take out Goliath. He is the God who protected him from Saul. He is the God who forgave him even when his sin was so great and terrible. He is the God who delivered him from danger. He is the God who poured out his love to him in countless ways. Solomon as his son knew all of this and so David said to him to remember for "My God is with YOU!" What an incredible encouragement to him.
- David goes wild with generosity in investing his gold and wealth into the building of the temple. The rest of the nation's leadership follows next with an outpouring of generosity. Then the people follow. Here we see two principles. Point leaders go first and then their leaders follow them. When all the leaders step out in unity, the community will follow after. This is the most basic principle of leadership. Second, generosity is no different. It starts with the point leader and then her or his leadership team modeling generosity. Basic Kingdom Fundraising 101!
- As we would expect, David wraps it up with a song that honors God for how truly amazing he is. Key statement: "Everything comes from and we have given you only what comes from your hand." Worship is only offering back to God what he has already given you. It is like a parent giving a child five dollars so they can buy the parent a gift for their birthday. The child only has to offer what the parent has already provided to them. Why does God still want this exchange? Because this is how love is shown and grows. He gives so that we might give that he might give that we might give that he might give that we might give...etc." It is the cycle of love and generosity that grows a deep and lasting bond of intimate love.

- David also prays for Solomon and states, “I know my God that you test the heart and are pleased with integrity. All these things have I given willingly and with honest intent...keep [your people’s] hearts loyal to you. And give my son Solomon the wholehearted devotion to keep your commands...” Integrity does not mean perfection in every way but having a willing and honest heart that is seeking to do what is right. God is always looking at the heart first and so this can give us confidence that as our hearts are right before him that we can step out in faith and attempt great and even risky things for him without the worry of somehow messing up on some point or detail.
- As with the Israelites at the building of the Tabernacle, Israel again rejoices, “They ate and drank with great joy in the presence of the Lord that day.” God loves a great party!