

David's Final Public Instructions to Israel and Solomon (c. 971t–970t BC)

1 Chronicles 28:1–29:20

The National Convocation—David's Address to the People and to Solomon

[This section resumes the narrative of 1 Chronicles 22:17–23:1]

28:1 Then David assembled all the commanders of Israel, the commanders of the tribes and the commanders of working groups who served the king, and the commanders of thousands, the commanders of hundreds, and the commanders over all the property of the king and his sons, with the court officials and mighty warriors, and all the mighty warriors of ability, at Jerusalem.

2 And King David rose to his feet and said, "Listen to me, my brothers and my people. I myself wanted to build a house of rest for the ark of the covenant of Yahweh and the footstool of our God, and I prepared to build.

3 But God said to me, 'You may not build a house for my name because you *are* a man of war, and you have shed blood.'

4 But Yahweh the God of Israel chose me from all of the house of my father to be king over Israel forever, for he chose Judah as leader, and in the house of Judah, the house of my father, and among the sons of my father he took pleasure in me to reign over all Israel.

5 And from all my sons—for Yahweh has given many sons to me—he has chosen Solomon my son to sit on the throne of the kingdom of Yahweh over Israel.

6 And he said to me, 'Solomon your son, he himself shall build my house and my courts, for I have chosen him as a son to myself, and I myself will be as a father to him,

7 and I will establish his kingdom forever if he firmly performs my commandments and my judgments as *he has to* this day.'

8 So now in the sight of all Israel, the assembly of Yahweh, and in the hearing of our God, observe and seek all the commandments of Yahweh your God so that you may take possession of this good land and bestow *it* as an inheritance to your children after you forever."

9 "And you, Solomon my son, know the God of your father and serve him with a whole heart and a willing mind, for Yahweh searches all hearts and understands every plan and *all* thoughts. If you seek him, he will be found by you, but if you abandon him, he will reject you forever.

10 Look now, for Yahweh has chosen you to build a house for the sanctuary; be strong and do it!"

The Presentation of the Temple Plans to Solomon

11 Then David gave to Solomon his son the plan of the vestibule and of its houses, its treasuries, its upper rooms, its inner chambers, and of the house of the lid of the ark,

12 and the plan of all that he had in mind for the courtyards of the house of Yahweh and for all the surrounding storage rooms, the treasuries of the house of God, and the treasuries for sanctified objects,

13 and for the working groups of the priests and the Levites, and for all the work of the service of the house of Yahweh, and for all the vessels for the service of the house of Yahweh,

14 *and* for the gold, according to the weight of the gold for all the vessels of the service, and the service of all the vessels of silver according to the weight of all the vessels for every kind of service.

15 And the weight of the golden lampstands and the golden lamps, the weight of each lampstand and each lamp, *and* the silver according to the weight of a lampstand and its lamp, according to the use of each lampstand,

16 and the weight of gold for the tables of the arranged *bread*, each table, and silver for the tables of silver,

17 and pure gold *for* the three-pronged meat forks, and the bowls and the pitchers, and for the golden bowls, by weight for each bowl, and for the silver bowls, by weight for each bowl,

18 and for the altar of incense *made of* refined gold, by weight, and gold for the plan for the chariot—the cherubim with outspread and covering wings over the ark of the covenant of Yahweh.

19 "All this *I give you* in writing; from the hand of Yahweh he instructed me *about* all the workings of this plan."

Concluding Exhortation

20 Then David said to Solomon his son, "Be strong and courageous, and do *this!* Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed, for Yahweh God, my God, *is* with you. He will not fail you and will not forsake you until all the work of the service of the house of Yahweh is finished.

21 And behold, the working groups of the priests and the Levites for all the service of the house of God; and with you in all the work for all *those* willing with the skill for every service, and the commanders and all the people for all your commands."

David's Personal Contribution Toward the Construction of the Temple

29:1 Then David the king said to all the assembly, "God has chosen Solomon my son alone, a young man and inexperienced, and the work *is* great, for the citadel *is* not for humankind, but for Yahweh God.

2 So I have provided for the house of my God according to all my strength, the gold for the things of gold, the silver for the things of silver, the bronze for the things of bronze, the iron for the things of iron, and the wood for the things of wood, *along with* an abundance of onyx stones, stones for settings, stones of turquoise, and variegated stones, and all *kinds of* precious stones and alabaster stones.

3 And moreover, with respect to my provisions for the house of my God I have a treasure of gold and silver that I have given to the house of my God above all that I have provided for the holy house:

4 three thousand talents of gold from the gold of Ophir and seven thousand talents of refined silver to overlay the walls of the houses,

5 gold for the golden things and silver for the silver things, for all the work by the hand of skilled craftsmen. Now who will offer willingly, consecrating himself today to Yahweh?"

The People's Contributions Toward the Construction of the Temple

6 Then the commanders of the families, the commanders of the tribes of Israel, and the commanders of thousands and hundreds, and the commanders of the work of the king offered themselves willingly.

7 And they gave for the service of the house of God five thousand talents and ten thousand darics of gold, ten thousand talents of silver, eighteen thousand talents of bronze, and one hundred thousand talents of iron.

8 And whoever had *precious* stones gave *them* to the treasury of the house of Yahweh under the authority of Jehiel the Gershonite.

9 And the people rejoiced over their freewill offering, for with a whole heart they had willingly offered to Yahweh, and King David also rejoiced with great joy.

David Leads the People in Worship

10 Then David blessed Yahweh in the sight of all the assembly, and David said, "Blessed *are* you, O Yahweh, God of Israel, our father forever and ever!

11 To you, O Yahweh, *is* the greatness and the power and the splendor and the glory and the strength, for everything in the heavens and in the earth. Yours, O Yahweh, *is* the kingdom and exaltation over all as head!

12 And wealth and glory *are* from you, and you rule over all. And in your hand *is* power and might. And in your hand *is power* to make great and to give strength to all.

13 And now, our God, we give thanks to you and offer praise to the name of your splendor.

14 And indeed, who *am* I, and who *are* my people that we retain power to offer according to these *offerings* willingly? For everything *is* from you, and from your hand we have given to you.

15 For we *are* strangers before you and sojourners like all our ancestors. Our days *are* like the shadow upon earth, and there is no hope *of abiding*.

16 O Yahweh our God, all this abundance that we have provided to build for you a house for your holy name is from your hand, and all *of it* is yours.

17 And I know, my God, that you yourself test the heart and are pleased with uprightness. I, in the uprightness of my heart, have willingly offered all these *things*, and now I have seen your people who are found here willingly offer to you.

18 O Yahweh, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, our ancestors, keep this forever as a plan *and* thoughts of the heart of your people, and establish their heart toward you.

19 Grant to Solomon my son a heart of peace to keep your commands, your statutes, and your regulations to do everything, and to build the citadel for which I have provided."

20 And David said to all the assembly, "Bless Yahweh your God!" And all the assembly blessed Yahweh, the God of their ancestors. And they bowed down and prostrated themselves before Yahweh and the king.

Solomon's Second Crowning (c. 969t BC)

1 Chronicles 29:21–22

21 And they offered sacrifices to Yahweh, and on that next day they offered burnt offerings to Yahweh: one thousand bulls, one thousand rams, one thousand lambs, with their libations and sacrifices in abundance for all Israel.

22 And they ate and drank before Yahweh on that day with great joy. And they made Solomon the son of David king the second time, and they anointed *him* commander for Yahweh, and Zadok the priest.

David's Last Private Message to Solomon (c. 969t BC)

1 Kings 2:1–9

Keep the Law

1 The days of David came near *for him* to die, and he charged Solomon his son, saying,

2 "*I am about to* go the way of all the world. Be strong and be courageous.

3 You shall keep the charge of Yahweh your God, to walk in his ways, to keep his statutes, his commandments, his judgments, and his testimonies, as are written in the law of Moses, so that you may prosper in all that you do and everywhere you turn,

4 so that Yahweh may establish his word which he spoke concerning me, saying, 'If your sons take heed of their way, to walk before me in faithfulness, with all their heart and with all their soul, no man of yours will be cut off from the throne of Israel.'"

One Friend and Two Enemies

5 “Moreover, you also know what Joab the son of Zeruiah did to me when he dealt with the two commanders of the armies of Israel, to Abner son of Ner and to Amasa son of Jether, and he murdered them and put the blood of war in *a time of* peace. He put the blood of war on the leather belt that was on his waist and on the sandals which were on his feet.

6 You must act according to your wisdom, but you must not let his gray hair go down to Sheol in peace.

7 Regarding the sons of Barzillai the Gileadite, you shall do loyal love and let them be among those who eat at your table, because they met me when I fled from Absalom your brother.

8 And look, Shimei the son of Gera the son of the Benjaminite from Bahurim is with you. Now he cursed me severely when I went to Mahanaim, but he came down to meet me at the Jordan, so I swore to him by Yahweh, ‘I surely will not kill you with the sword.’

9 So then, do not leave him unpunished, for you *are* a wise man, and you will know what you must do to him. You must bring his grey hair down to Sheol with blood.”

David’s Last Oracle (c. 969t BC)

2 Samuel 23:1–7

1 These *are* the last words of David, the declaration of David the son of Jesse, and the declaration of the man exalted *by* the Most High, the anointed one of the God of Jacob and the darling of the songs of Israel.

2 “The spirit of Yahweh speaks through me, and his word *is* upon my tongue.

3 The God of Israel said to me, the rock of Israel has spoken; ‘He who rules over mankind rules righteously, in the fear of God.

4 Like the light of *the* morning when the sun rises, shining with no clouds, *bringing* vegetation from the earth apart from rain.’

5 Yet not so *is* my house with God, for he made an everlasting covenant for me, arranging everything. He has secured all my deliverance, and all my desire he will cause to happen.

6 But evil persons *are* like thorns cast aside; all of them, because they cannot be picked up in the hand.

7 And if a man wants to touch them, he must use an iron instrument or the shaft of a spear; then they *are* consumed entirely with fire on the spot.”

The Death of King David (c. 969t BC)

1 Kings 2:10–11

11 The days that David reigned over Israel *were* forty years; he reigned seven years in Hebron and thirty-three years in Jerusalem.

10 Then David slept with his ancestors and was buried in the city of David.

1 Chronicles 29:26–30

26 And David the son of Jesse reigned over all Israel.

27 And the days that he reigned over Israel *were* forty years. In Hebron he reigned seven years, and in Jerusalem he reigned thirty-three years.

28 And he died in a good old age, full of days, wealth, and honor.

And Solomon his son reigned in his place.

29 Now the words of King David, *from* the first to the last, see, they are written among the words of Samuel the seer, and among the words of Nathan the prophet, and among the words of Gad the seer,

30 with all *the accounts of* his kingdom, his power, and the times that came upon him, and upon Israel, and upon all the kingdoms of the earth.

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