

## 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 David assembled in Jerusalem all the officials of Israel, including the commanders of the tribes, the commanders of the army divisions that served the king, the commanders of units of a thousand and a hundred, the officials who were in charge of all the property and livestock of the king and his sons, the eunuchs, and the warriors, including the most skilled of them.

2 King David rose to his feet and said: "Listen to me, my brothers and my people. I wanted to build a temple where the ark of the LORD's covenant could be placed as a footstool for our God. I have made the preparations for building it.

3 But God said to me, 'You must not build a temple to honor me, for you are a warrior and have spilled blood.'

4 The LORD God of Israel chose me out of my father's entire family to become king over Israel and have a permanent dynasty.

Indeed, he chose Judah as leader, and my father's family within Judah, and then he picked me out from among my father's sons and made me king over all Israel.

5 From all the many sons the LORD has given me, he chose Solomon my son to rule on his behalf over Israel.

6 He said to me, 'Solomon your son is the one who will build my temple and my courts, for I have chosen him to become my son and I will become his father.

7 I will establish his kingdom permanently, if he remains committed to obeying my commands and regulations, as you are doing this day.'

8 So now, in the sight of all Israel, the LORD's assembly, and in the hearing of our God, I say this: Carefully observe all the commands of the LORD your God, so that you may possess this good land and may leave it as a permanent inheritance for your children after you.

9 "And you, Solomon my son, obey the God of your father and serve him with a submissive attitude and a willing spirit, for the LORD examines all minds and understands every motive of one's thoughts. If you seek him, he will let you find him, but if you abandon him, he will reject you permanently.

10 Realize now that the LORD has chosen you to build a temple as his sanctuary. Be strong and do it!"

### The Presentation of the Temple Plans to Solomon

11 David gave to his son Solomon the blueprints for the temple porch, its buildings, its treasuries, its upper areas, its inner rooms, and the room for atonement.

12 He gave him the blueprints of all he envisioned for the courts of the LORD's temple, all the surrounding rooms, the storehouses of God's temple, and the storehouses for the holy items.

13 He gave him the regulations for the divisions of priests and Levites, for all the assigned responsibilities within the LORD's temple, and for all the items used in the service of the LORD's temple.

14 He gave him the prescribed weight for all the gold items to be used in various types of service in the LORD's temple, for all the silver items to be used in various types of service,

15 for the gold lampstands and their gold lamps, including the weight of each lampstand and its lamps, for the silver lampstands, including the weight of each lampstand and its lamps, according to the prescribed use of each lampstand,

16 for the gold used in the display tables, including the amount to be used in each table, for the silver to be used in the silver tables,

17 for the pure gold used for the meat forks, bowls, and jars, for the small gold bowls, including the weight for each bowl, for the small silver bowls, including the weight for each bowl,

18 and for the refined gold of the incense altar. He gave him the blueprint for the seat of the gold cherubim that spread their wings and provide shelter for the ark of the LORD's covenant.

19 David said, "All of this I put in writing as the LORD directed me and gave me insight regarding the details of the blueprints."

### Concluding Exhortation

20 David said to his son Solomon: "Be strong and brave! Do it! Don't be afraid and don't panic! For the LORD God, my God, is with you. He will not leave you or abandon you before all the work for the service of the LORD's temple is finished.

21 Here are the divisions of the priests and Levites who will perform all the service of God's temple. All the willing and skilled men are ready to assist you in all the work and perform their service. The officials and all the people are ready to follow your instructions."

### David's Personal Contribution Toward the Construction of the Temple

29:1 King David said to the entire assembly: "My son Solomon, the one whom God has chosen, is just an inexperienced young man, and the task is great, for this palace is not for man, but for the LORD God.

2 So I have made every effort to provide what is needed for the temple of my God, including the gold, silver, bronze, iron, wood, as well as a large amount of onyx, settings of antimony and other stones, all kinds of precious stones, and alabaster.

3 Now, to show my commitment to the temple of my God, I donate my personal treasure of gold and silver to the temple of my God, in addition to all that I have already supplied for this holy temple.

4 This includes 3,000 talents of gold from Ophir and 7,000 talents of refined silver for overlaying the walls of the buildings, 5 for gold and silver items, and for all the work of the craftsmen. Who else wants to contribute to the LORD today?"

### **The People's Contributions Toward the Construction of the Temple**

6 The leaders of the families, the leaders of the Israelite tribes, the commanders of units of a thousand and a hundred, and the supervisors of the king's work contributed willingly.

7 They donated for the service of God's temple 5,000 talents and ten thousand darics of gold, 10,000 talents of silver, 18,000 talents of bronze, and 100,000 talents of iron.

8 All who possessed precious stones donated them to the treasury of the LORD's temple, which was under the supervision of Jehiel the Gershonite.

9 The people were delighted with their donations, for they contributed to the LORD with a willing attitude; King David was also very happy.

### **David Leads the People in Worship**

10 David praised the LORD before the entire assembly: "O LORD God of our father Israel, you deserve praise forevermore!

11 O LORD, you are great, mighty, majestic, magnificent, glorious, and sovereign over all the sky and earth! You have dominion and exalt yourself as the ruler of all.

12 You are the source of wealth and honor; you rule over all. You possess strength and might to magnify and give strength to all.

13 Now, our God, we give thanks to you and praise your majestic name!

14 "But who am I and who are my people, that we should be in a position to contribute this much? Indeed, everything comes from you, and we have simply given back to you what is yours.

15 For we are resident foreigners and nomads in your presence, like all our ancestors; our days are like a shadow on the earth, without security.

16 O LORD our God, all this wealth, which we have collected to build a temple for you to honor your holy name, comes from you; it all belongs to you.

17 I know, my God, that you examine thoughts and are pleased with integrity. With pure motives I contribute all this; and now I look with joy as your people who have gathered here contribute to you.

18 O LORD God of our ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, maintain the motives of your people and keep them devoted to you.

19 Make my son Solomon willing to obey your commands, rules, and regulations, and to complete building the palace for which I have made preparations."

20 David told the entire assembly: "Praise the LORD your God!" So the entire assembly praised the LORD God of their ancestors; they bowed down and stretched out flat on the ground before the LORD and the king.

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

1 Chronicles 29:21–22

21 The next day they made sacrifices and offered burnt sacrifices to the LORD ( 1,000 bulls, 1,000 rams, 1,000 lambs), along with their accompanying drink offerings and many other sacrifices for all Israel.

22 They held a feast before the LORD that day and celebrated. Then they designated Solomon, David's son, as king a second time; before the LORD they anointed him as ruler and Zadok as priest.

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

1 Kings 2:1–9

### **Keep the Law**

1 When David was close to death, he told Solomon his son:

2 "I am about to die. Be strong and become a man!

3 Do the job the LORD your God has assigned you by following his instructions and obeying his rules, commandments, regulations, and laws as written in the law of Moses. Then you will succeed in all you do and seek to accomplish,

4 and the LORD will fulfill his promise to me, 'If your descendants watch their step and live faithfully in my presence with all their heart and being, then,' he promised, 'you will not fail to have a successor on the throne of Israel.'

### **One Friend and Two Enemies**

5 "You know what Joab son of Zeruiah did to me—how he murdered two commanders of the Israelite armies, Abner son of Ner and Amasa son of Jether. During peacetime he struck them down like he would in battle; when he shed their blood as if in battle, he stained his own belt and the sandals on his feet.

6 Do to him what you think is appropriate, but don't let him live long and die a peaceful death.

7 "Treat fairly the sons of Barzillai of Gilead and provide for their needs, because they helped me when I had to flee from your

brother Absalom.

8 “Note well, you still have to contend with Shimei son of Gera, the Benjaminite from Bahurim, who tried to call down upon me a horrible judgment when I went to Mahanaim. He came down and met me at the Jordan, and I solemnly promised him by the LORD, ‘I will not strike you down with the sword.’

9 But now don’t treat him as if he were innocent. You are a wise man and you know how to handle him; make sure he has a bloody death.”

### David’s Last Oracle (c. 969t BC)

2 Samuel 23:1–7

1 These are the final words of David:

“The oracle of David son of Jesse,  
the oracle of the man raised up as  
the ruler chosen by the God of Jacob,  
Israel’s beloved singer of songs:

2 The LORD’s spirit spoke through me;  
his word was on my tongue.

3 The God of Israel spoke,  
the protector of Israel spoke to me.  
The one who rules fairly among men,  
the one who rules in the fear of God,

4 is like the light of morning when the sun comes up,  
a morning in which there are no clouds.  
He is like the brightness after rain  
that produces grass from the earth.

5 My dynasty is approved by God,  
for he has made a perpetual covenant with me,  
arranged in all its particulars and secured.  
He always delivers me,  
and brings all I desire to fruition.

6 But evil people are like thorns—  
all of them are tossed away,  
for they cannot be held in the hand.

7 The one who touches them  
must use an iron instrument  
or the wooden shaft of a spear.  
They are completely burned up right where they lie!”

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

1 Kings 2:10–11

11 David reigned over Israel forty years; he reigned in Hebron seven years, and in Jerusalem thirty-three years.  
10 Then David passed away  
and was buried in the city of David.

1 Chronicles 29:26–30

26 David son of Jesse reigned over all Israel.  
27 He reigned over Israel forty years; he reigned in Hebron seven years and in Jerusalem thirty-three years.  
28 He died at a good old age,  
having enjoyed long life, wealth, and honor.  
  
His son Solomon succeeded him.  
29 King David’s accomplishments, from start to finish, are recorded in the Annals of Samuel the prophet, the Annals of Nathan the prophet, and the Annals of Gad the prophet.  
30 Recorded there are all the facts about his reign and accomplishments, and an account of the events that involved him, Israel, and all the neighboring kingdoms.