

1 Chronicles 21-29

David

Lesson 4

Key Verse

Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, *so let him give*; not grudgingly,
or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.

—2 Corinthians 9:7

Key Verse Thought: Read today's key verse. Understand the key verse with the following definitions:

purposeth means *to prefer, choose, or intend for oneself; to resolve*

grudgingly means *in grief or sorrow*

necessity means *compelling force as opposed to willingness*

loveth means *to love, or regard with strong affection;*

cheerful means *joyous, happy, or glad*

In this lesson, we will learn that David gave of his time and substance to prepare for the house of the Lord.

Emphasis: We are to learn to want to please God with all of our heart – just as King David did. We are also to understand that God forgives our sin and still wants to use us to complete the work He has for us to do.

Lesson Summary: Today we will remember when David was moved to number the people. We will learn that Satan was the one who stood up against Israel. Satan is the enemy of God's people, and he wants to destroy them. Through this event, we will see David remember that God is a forgiving God. We will find out the importance of Mount Moriah (the threshing floor of Onan).

David had a burden to build a permanent house for the Lord, and God revealed to David where the Temple was to be built. God said David could not build that house, but promising that David's son, Solomon would be allowed to build it. Even though David would not be the builder, he prepared for the Temple. The first thing David did was anoint Solomon as the next king of Israel (remember that God had told David that Solomon was to be the next king of Israel). David then organized the people, gathered many supplies to build the Temple (giving much of it

himself), and made the plans for the Temple, and instructed Solomon and the people of Israel. David emphasized to the people the importance of completing the Temple – and to make it such a magnificent building that all of the world would recognize its glory.

David led by example when it came time to bring gifts in preparation for the building of the Temple. David was greatly pleased that he was able to give toward that building. David's praise turned into a prayer recognizing that God saw the intent of the heart in wanting to give back to God with what He had abundantly blessed them. Solomon then became king of Israel, and God magnified Solomon greatly.

Remember: The books of the Chronicles do not dwell upon the wrongdoings of the kings, but what good they accomplished for Judah.

Suggested Bible Reading to Prepare for This Lesson

- Monday: 1 Chronicles 21-22
- Tuesday: 1 Chronicles 23-24
- Wednesday: 1 Chronicles 25-26
- Thursday: 1 Chronicles 27
- Friday: 1 Chronicles 28
- Saturday: 1 Chronicles 29

1 Chronicles 21-29

David

1. Satan Provoked David (1 Chronicles 21)
 - David numbered the people
 - The consequences of sin
 - David's repentance and God's provision
2. David's Preparation for the Future (1 Chronicles 22-27)
 - For the Temple
 - For Solomon as king
 - For the Levites and their duties
3. David's Final Charges to Israel (1 Chronicles 28-29)
 - The charge to Solomon as the new king
 - The plans for the Temple
 - Gifts for the Temple and David's prayer

Note: In our last lesson, we learned how King David brought the Ark of the Lord to the tent in Jerusalem. The first time he did it wrong, but after seeking God's Word, David learned the correct way to move the Ark of the Lord. We watched as God blessed King David, subduing the enemies around and extending the kingdom – when David sought God with all of his heart.

1. Satan Provoked David (1 Chronicles 21)

We come to an event in King David's life about which we have already learned (compare to 2 Samuel 24). Nevertheless, as we read the accounting of that event in First Chronicles, we learn more information. "And Satan stood up against Israel, and provoked David to number Israel" (1 Chronicles 21:1). Remember what we have already learned about Satan: when he became proud, wanting to be greater than God (Isaiah 14:12-16), he became God's enemy. As God's enemy, he wants to destroy God's people. (See what we now know: "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour" 1 Peter 5:8.) That will help us understand the events we read today.

When Satan stood up against Israel, what did David do? "And David said to Joab and to the rulers of the people, Go, number Israel from Beersheba even to Dan; and bring the number of them to me, that I may know *it*" (1 Chronicles 21:2). Even though Joab disagreed with King David, he obeyed his king. "4. Nevertheless the king's word prevailed against Joab. Wherefore Joab departed, and went throughout all Israel, and came to Jerusalem. 5a. And Joab gave the sum of the number of the people unto David ..." (1 Chronicles 21:4-5a). See what we read after the count was taken and given to King David. "And God was displeased with this thing; therefore he smote Israel" (1 Chronicles 21:7). God was displeased. What was David's response to God's anger? "And David said unto God, I have sinned greatly, because I have done this thing: but now, I beseech thee, do away the iniquity of thy servant; for I have done very foolishly" (1 Chronicles 21:8). David immediately recognized his sin and repented. Although David repented, there would still be punishment for his sin. In this matter, God sent David a message. "9. And the LORD spake unto Gad, David's seer, saying, 10. Go and tell David, saying, Thus saith the LORD, I offer thee three *things*: choose thee one of them, that I may do *it* unto thee" (1 Chronicles 21:9-10). Remember that a seer is a prophet, or one who speaks for God. In this instance, God sent word by his prophet, Gad. God would allow David to choose his punishment:

- "Either three years' famine;

- or three months to be destroyed before thy foes, while that the sword of thine enemies overtaketh *thee*;
- or else three days the sword of the LORD, even the pestilence, in the land, and the angel of the LORD destroying throughout all the coasts of Israel ...” (1 Chronicles 21:12).

David made a very tough, but wise, decision. (Read how we can understand that it was a wise decision: “He that handleth a matter wisely shall find good: and whoso trusteth in the LORD, happy *is* he” Proverbs 16:20.) “And David said unto Gad, I am in a great strait: let me fall now into the hand of the LORD; for very great *are* his mercies: but let me not fall into the hand of man” (1 Chronicles 21:13). David understood that the Lord would have mercy upon him before any man.

“So the LORD sent pestilence upon Israel: and there fell of Israel seventy thousand men” (1 Chronicles 21:14). God then sent an angel to Jerusalem to destroy it. “... And as he was destroying, the LORD beheld, and he repented him of the evil, and said to the angel that destroyed, It is enough, stay now thine hand. And the angel of the LORD stood by the threshingfloor of Ornan the Jebusite” (1 Chronicles 21:15b). When God said it was enough, the hand of the angel was stayed (ending the punishment). Read what God allowed David to see: “And David lifted up his eyes, and saw the angel of the LORD stand between the earth and the heaven, having a drawn sword in his hand stretched out over Jerusalem. Then David and the elders *of Israel, who were* clothed in sackcloth, fell upon their faces” (1 Chronicles 21:16). Immediately, David prayed. He acknowledged that it was his sin, not the sin of the people in Jerusalem, which had caused this death – so David asked for the punishment to fall upon his house, not the innocent people of Jerusalem. What did God want David to do? “Then the angel of the LORD commanded Gad to say to David, that David should go up, and set up an altar unto the LORD in the threshingfloor of Ornan the Jebusite” (1 Chronicles 21:18).

At this point, it will help us to take a minute to understand where God was sending David. Know that the threshing floor of Ornan was on Mount Moriah, the same mount where God sent Abraham to offer his son, Isaac, to God (see Genesis 22:1-14). This is the same place, Mount Moriah, that we *will* learn that Solomon, David’s son, built the temple (“Then Solomon began to build the house of the LORD at Jerusalem in mount Moriah, where *the LORD* appeared unto David his father, in the place that David had prepared in the threshingfloor of Ornan the Jebusite”

2 Chronicles 3:1). The event that takes place here in First Chronicles chapter twenty-one is pivotal to the future home of the Temple of the Lord. Knowing these things, see what we can learn.

David obeyed the command given by the angel of the Lord. “*And David went up at the saying of Gad, which he spake in the name of the LORD*” (1 Chronicles 21:19). Read Ornan’s reaction when he saw the angel. “*And Ornan turned back, and saw the angel; and his four sons with him hid themselves. Now Ornan was threshing wheat*” (1 Chronicles 21:20). If you remember, any time we read that man saw an angel of the Lord, they were afraid, they fell upon their face, or they hid. Ornan and his four sons hid. However, when King David came to the threshing floor, Ornan came out, bowing before King David. Read the conversation that took place.

22. Then David said to Ornan, Grant me the place of *this* threshingfloor, that I may build an altar therein unto the LORD: thou shalt grant it me for the full price: that the plague may be stayed from the people. 23. And Ornan said unto David, Take *it* to thee, and let my lord the king do *that which is* good in his eyes: lo, I give *thee* the oxen *also* for burnt offerings, and the threshing instruments for wood, and the wheat for the meat offering; I give it all. 24. And king David said to Ornan, Nay; but I will verily buy it for the full price: for I will not take *that which is* thine for the LORD, nor offer burnt offerings without cost. 25. So David gave to Ornan for the place six hundred shekels of gold by weight. (1 Chronicles 21:22-25)

Although Ornan was willing to give the piece of property to the king, David insisted he pay the full price. Therefore, David bought the threshing floor of Ornan, Mount Moriah, for the Lord. He proceeded to build an altar with offerings and called upon the Lord: “... *and he answered him from heaven by fire upon the altar of burnt offering*” (1 Chronicles 21:26b). God answered David’s prayer by consuming his offering with fire that fell from heaven. “*And the LORD commanded the angel; and he put up his sword again into the sheath thereof*” (1 Chronicles 21:27).

“Then David said, *This is the house of the LORD God, and this is the altar of the burnt offering for Israel*” (1 Chronicles 22:1). David recognized this as the “house of the LORD,” and he treated it as such.

A Deeper Path: Just as David placed the fate of his life and the life of all of Israel in God’s hands, not the hand of the enemy, read what Jeremiah recorded to also help us learn to trust God, not man. “5. *Thus saith the LORD; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD. 7. Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is*” (Jeremiah 17:5, 7).

After reading where Satan provoked David, and David sinned, read Psalm chapter thirty. Does this sound like a Psalm remembering the occasion of God’s forgiveness, His anger enduring but for a moment, and His mercy?

2. David’s Preparation for the Future (1 Chronicles 22-27)

David’s desire was to have God’s presence, represented by the Ark of the Covenant, in Jerusalem in the midst of God’s people. Once it was placed in the tent prepared for it (see 1 Chronicles 15), David had a burden to build a permanent house where the Ark could rest. Although building that house for the Lord was his heart’s desire, God had other plans: David’s son would build that permanent house, the Temple, and God would build David a house - an everlasting lineage of kings, ushering in the King of Kings, Jesus (remember 1 Chronicles 17). See the change that took place once God told David to purchase the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite, the mount where his son would build the Temple.

David began to diligently prepare for and gather supplies for the Temple:

- “2b. ... and he set masons to hew wrought stones to build the house of God.
- 3. And David prepared iron in abundance for the nails for the doors of the gates, and for the joinings;
- and brass in abundance without weight;
- 4. Also cedar trees in abundance: for the Zidonians and they of Tyre brought much cedar wood to David” (1 Chronicles 22:2-4).

But notice something important David emphasized: “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” (1 Chronicles 22:5). David knew the importance of the house of the Lord, and he wanted it to be magnificent, known throughout all of the countries for its glory. Therefore, he began to prepare for it.

Once David began preparations for the building of the house of the Lord, the Temple, he gave direction and instructions to his son, Solomon:

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. 11. Now, my son, the LORD be with thee; and prosper thou, and build the house of the LORD thy God, as he hath said of thee. (1 Chronicles 22:6-11)

David shared with his son, Solomon, what God had done in his life. He wanted Solomon, the next king of Israel, to understand what God had promised: Solomon’s kingdom would be one of peace; Solomon would build the house of the Lord, and God promised the kingdom would remain with this family, forever. David ended his instructions with the task that was upon David’s heart – to build the house of the Lord.

Notice the following important words, words with promise, which David gave to Solomon: “12. *Only the LORD give thee wisdom and understanding, and give thee charge*

concerning Israel, that thou mayest keep the law of the LORD thy God. 13. Then shalt thou prosper, if thou takest heed to fulfill the statutes and judgments which the LORD charged Moses with concerning Israel: be strong, and of good courage; dread not, nor be dismayed” (1 Chronicles 22:12-13).

“17. David also commanded all the princes of Israel to help Solomon his son, *saying*, 18. *Is not the LORD your God with you? and hath he not given you rest on every side? for he hath given the inhabitants of the land into mine hand; and the land is subdued before the LORD, and before his people.* 19. Now set your heart and your soul to seek the LORD your God; arise therefore, and build ye the sanctuary of the LORD God, to bring the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and the holy vessels of God, into the house that is to be built to the name of the LORD” (1 Chronicles 22:17-19). The leaders were to help Solomon complete the house of the Lord.

“So when David was old and full of days, he made Solomon his son king over Israel” (1Chronicles 23:1).

The rest of First Chronicles chapter twenty-three tells the organization David made of the Levites (including numbering them and listing them according to lineage), listing their duties before the Lord in the house of the Lord.

First Chronicles chapter twenty-four tells the organization David made of the priests (including numbering them and listing them according to lineage), listing their duties before the Lord in the house of the Lord.

First Chronicles chapter twenty-five tells of the organization of the servants who were to minister before the Lord in song; musicians and singers.

First Chronicles chapters twenty-six through twenty-seven finishes the numbering and organization of the workers: porters, treasurers and men over the dedicated things, the officers and judges, the captains of the military, the rulers over each tribe, the men who were in charge of the king’s treasures, storehouses, and workers, and the kings counselors.

David organized every aspect of his kingdom, preparing it for his successor, Solomon.

A Deeper Path: We have already learned the importance of a parent teaching their child of the ways of God. “*And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up*” (Deuteronomy 6:7). See also, “*And, ye fathers ... bring them up*

in the nurture and admonition of the Lord” (Ephesians 6:4). Notice that David shared things of God with his son, Solomon. It would be a great encouragement and blessing in families if the parents would share the things of God with their children.

3. David’s Final Charges to Israel (1 Chronicles 28-29)

We read in First Chronicles chapter twenty-two how David called his son Solomon to him and told him about what God had promised (that Solomon would build the house of the Lord and the kingdom would remain with David’s family). Now that all of the people in the kingdom were listed, organized, and prepared to work, David called each of the leaders together. “*Then David the king stood up upon his feet, and said, Hear me, my brethren, and my people ...*” (1 Chronicles 28:2). He proceeded to tell them what God had revealed to him about Solomon becoming the next king, the kingdom remaining with David’s household, and Solomon’s task of building the house of the Lord (read I Chronicles 28:2-8). Notice the following important words: “*Now therefore in the sight of all Israel the congregation of the LORD, and in the audience of our God, keep and seek for all the commandments of the LORD your God: that ye may possess this good land, and leave it for an inheritance for your children after you for ever*” (1 Chronicles 28:8). David once again called for the people to keep and seek the commandments of the Lord. He wanted his people to be able to remain in, and possess, the land God had given to them. David then turned his attention to his son, Solomon, addressing him before all of the people:

9. And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the LORD searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: if thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever. 10. Take heed now; for the LORD hath chosen thee to build an house for the sanctuary: be strong, and do *it*.
(1 Chronicles 28:9-10)

This was a very important warning for Solomon.

After this very public charge, David gave Solomon the plans for the Temple (1 Chronicles 28:11-19). Along with those plans was a listing of the priests and Levites, including their service in the house of the Lord.

Read the final charge David gave Solomon before the leaders:

20. And David said to Solomon his son, Be strong and of good courage, and do *it*: fear not, nor be dismayed: for the LORD God, *even* my God, *will be* with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee, until thou hast finished all the work for the service of the house of the LORD. 21. And, behold, the courses of the priests and the Levites, *even they shall be with thee* for all the service of the house of God: and *there shall be* with thee for all manner of workmanship every willing skilful man, for any manner of service: also the princes and all the people *will be* wholly at thy commandment. (1 Chronicles 28:20-21)

David wanted to be sure that Solomon finished the house of God and did not quit before it was completed. The people were to be sure that they did whatever their king, Solomon, demanded until it was finished.

As David continued to address the people in First Chronicles chapter twenty-nine, he wanted them to understand the importance of completing the house of the Lord. “Furthermore David the king said unto all the congregation, Solomon my son, whom alone God hath chosen, *is yet* young and tender, and the work *is* great: for the palace *is* not for man, but for the LORD God” (1 Chronicles 29:1). David told of the great provisions the people had already gathered in preparation for the building of the house of the Lord. David led the people by example. “Moreover, because I have set my affection to the house of my God, I have of mine own proper good, of gold and silver, *which* I have given to the house of my God, over and above all that I have prepared for the holy house” (1 Chronicles 29:3). **Set my affection** means, “to be pleased with; take pleasure in; delight in.” David revealed that the plans and preparation of the building of the house of the Lord had given him great pleasure; for he knew that the day was getting closer when the Ark of the Covenant would have a permanent resting place. We can read many of the great things David had given towards the building of the Temple (1 Chronicles 29:3-5). What was

the people's response? "6. Then the chief of the fathers and princes of the tribes of Israel, and the captains of thousands and of hundreds, with the rulers of the king's work, offered willingly, 7. And gave for the service of the house of God ..." (1 Chronicles 29:6-7). In addition, we read the list of the things the leaders of Israel brought. Afterward: "Then the people rejoiced, for that they offered willingly, because with perfect heart they offered willingly to the LORD: and David the king also rejoiced with great joy" (1 Chronicles 29:9). If you remember, this is how God told Moses to instruct the people in preparation for the tabernacle in the wilderness. "1. And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, 2. Speak unto the children of Israel, that they bring me an offering: of every man that giveth it willingly with his heart ye shall take my offering. 3. And this is the offering which ye shall take of them; gold, and silver, and brass ..." (Exodus 25:1-3). Even today, we are to bring our offering into the house of the Lord, willingly, from the heart.

David ends with a praise to God before all of the people. Especially note:

14. But who *am* I, and what *is* my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly after this sort? for all things *come* of thee, and of thine own have we given thee. 15. For we *are* strangers before thee, and sojourners, as *were* all our fathers: our days on the earth *are* as a shadow, and *there is* none abiding. 16. O LORD our God, all this store that we have prepared to build thee an house for thine holy name *cometh* of thine hand, and *is* all thine own. 17. I know also, my God, that thou triest the heart, and hast pleasure in uprightness. As for me, in the uprightness of mine heart I have willingly offered all these things: and now have I seen with joy thy people, which are present here, to offer willingly unto thee. (1 Chronicles 29:14-17)

Recognize the humble heart that David brought before the Lord – one that gave God the glory for his ability to give back to God that which God had so graciously bestowed upon him. He understood that God saw the *intent* of the heart. David's prayer was that the people, and especially his son, Solomon, would understand this as well (see 1 Chronicles 29:18-19).

Read what happened after this time of prayer and worship. "22b. ... And they made Solomon the son of David king the second time, and anointed *him* unto the LORD *to be* the chief

governor, and Zadok *to be* priest. 23. Then Solomon sat on the throne of the LORD as king instead of David his father, and prospered; and all Israel obeyed him” (1 Chronicles 29:22b-23). Reading further, we see what God did. “And the LORD magnified Solomon exceedingly in the sight of all Israel, and bestowed upon him *such* royal majesty as had not been on any king before him in Israel” (1 Chronicles 29:25).

A Deeper Path: As David was addressing the people before Solomon became king, notice that he was able to proclaim that he had lived a life that was pleasing to God. As we have learned, David was not perfect, but when he sinned, he repented and God forgave. Because of that, he was in a position to be an encourager to all of Israel to seek God and obey His commands. We can read of many throughout the Bible who lived a life to the end that was pleasing to God. Read what Paul wrote to Timothy. “*I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith*” (2 Timothy 4:7). Just as David’s words were an encouragement to all of Israel as he addressed them, Paul’s words were an encouragement to a young preacher named Timothy. Our goal as Christians is to be able to make the same claim: to fight a good fight, to finish the course God has for our life, and to keep the faith until the end. By living a life pleasing to God, from beginning to end, we can be an encouragement to others that they, too, can live a life pleasing to God.

Remember today’s key verse: “*Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver*” (2 Corinthians 9:7). Did you notice that this is how David gave, and how he encouraged all of Israel to give to prepare for the house of the Lord?

David understood that God saw the intent of man’s heart. See what David recorded that can be an encouragement to us today: “23. *Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: 24. And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting*” (Psalm 139:23-24) and “*Shall not God search this out? for he knoweth the secrets of the heart*” (Psalm 44:21). Also see what Jeremiah recorded about God knowing man’s heart: “*I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings*” (Jeremiah 17:10).

1 Chronicles 21-29 at a Glance:

Chapter 21: “**And Satan stood up against Israel, and provoked David to number Israel.**” David numbered the people; God was displeased; God sent the angel of the Lord; David prayed for mercy; God sent him to purchase land for an altar

Chapter 22: David prepared for the building of the house of the Lord & charged Solomon to build it and told him God’s words

Chapter 23: David made Solomon king; Levites numbered; beginning of the duties of the Levites

Chapter 24: The order of the priests, according to their offices in their service

Chapter 25: David appointed the musicians according to their service; an orderly division of the musicians

Chapter 26: An accounting of the duties of the Levites – porters, those over the treasures, officers & judges over Israel

Chapter 27: Officers of the kingdom; rulers of the tribes of Israel; listing of the king’s counselors

Chapter 28: David addressed all of his leaders and rulers, introduced Solomon as king, telling them God’s words for Israel & gave Solomon the plans for the Temple

Chapter 29: Many gifts for the Temple; David’s prayer; Solomon made king & David’s death

Reinforcement: We were reminded today that God is a forgiving God. David knew that God saw the intent of the heart, and he trusted God. David taught his son, Solomon, to never forget God, but complete God’s work.

Closing: It would be good to close with a short prayer reinforcing today’s lesson. Always include any prayer requests you may have. *Today, pray that we will serve God with all of our hearts, seeking to please Him.*