

## FINAL STUDY NOTES – 1 Chronicles Chapters 20-23 6/29-30/2026

### CLASSROOM LOCATION AND ZOOM – SIGN IN INFORMATION:

Phil Twente: <https://www.ptwente.com> - Previous Audio/notes ptwente@gmail.com cell 714 425 9221

NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE ONLINE (ZOOM) STUDY!

**MONDAY 7 PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM PACIFIC DAYLIGHT SAVINGS Time (US and Canada)**  
**THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY WILL BE MEETING ON ZOOM ONLY UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!**

**MEETING ID - 878 5864 4763 Passcode: 087484**

Join Zoom Meeting -

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87858644763?pwd=b25tUzhkaTE0UzIrSnpkVmZEWGJVQT09>**

**Meeting ID: 878 5864 4763 - Passcode: 087484**

One tap mobile: +16699006833,87858644763# US (San Jose) +13462487799,87858644763# US (Houston)

Dial by your location: +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose); +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston); +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma); +1

301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C); +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago); +1 929 436 2866 US (New York). Meeting ID: 878 5864

4763 Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87858644763?pwd=b25tUzhkaTE0UzIrSnpkVmZEWGJVQT09>

**TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM PACIFIC DAYLIGHT SAVINGS Time (US and Canada).**

TUES MORNING MTG PLACE: 1201 KEY WEST, CORONA DEL MAR (shown as 1201 KW, Corona del Mar, CA 92625) on Global Positioning System (GPS) in automobiles. For driving directions, suggest using

(waze.com/live map) or MapQuest (mapquest.com), **AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!**

**MEETING ID# - 853 0915 0746 - Passcode: 715340**

Join Zoom Meeting -

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85309150746?pwd=Tk5oVjN0TzdpWjE3UC9Oam05a21uQT09>**

**Meeting ID: 853 0915 0746 - Passcode: 715340**

One tap mobile; +16699006833,85309150746# US (San Jose) +12532158782,85309150746# US

Dial by your location: +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose); +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma); +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston); +1

301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C); +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago); +1 929 436 2866 US (New York). Meeting ID: 853 0915

0746 Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85309150746?pwd=Tk5oVjN0TzdpWjE3UC9Oam05a21uQT09>

### OPENING PRAYER

LAST WEEK: *1 Chronicles Chapter 17 – God’s Covenant with David; David’s prayer. Chapter 18 – David’s Further Conquests; David’s Administration. Chapter 19 – The Ammonites and the Syrians Defeated.*

**THIS WEEK: 1 Chronicles Chapter 20 – Rabbah is Conquered – (vs. 1-3); Philistine Giants Destroyed – (vs. 4-8). Chapter 21 – The Census of Israel and Judah – (vs. 1-17); David Builds an Altar. (vs. 18-30); Chapter 22 – David Prepares to Build the Temple – (vs. 1-19). Chapter 23 – David Organizes of the Levites – (vs. 1-32).**

### CHAPTER 20 - Rabbah is Conquered; Philistine Giants Destroyed.

**1Ch 20:1 It happened in the spring of the year, at the time kings go out to battle, that Joab led out the armed forces and ravaged the country of the people of Ammon, and came and besieged Rabbah. But David stayed at Jerusalem. And Joab defeated Rabbah and overthrew it.**

- **The people of Ammon had disgraced David’s men when** he sent them to comfort Hanun at the death of his father. Because the princes misjudged David’s motive and his intent of the visit, causing the Ammonites to respond completely wrongly, they ending up in going to war. The Ammonites called for the Syrians to come and help them, and how that in two separate battles, the combined forces of the Ammonites, and the Syrians, were defeated by Joab, and the army, but the city of Rabbah was not taken.
- **It happened in the spring of the year, at the time kings go out to battle. There were times more conducive to battle.** You don’t want to fight when you have crops to plant and harvest. The women can tend the crops; the weather is favorable, so you can go to war. So, in the springtime Joab led the David’s army and captured the capital of Ammon.

**1Ch 20:2-3 Then David took their king’s crown** (probably a ceremonial crown weighing 75 pounds) **from his head, and found it to weigh a talent of gold, and there were precious stones in it. And it was set on David’s head. Also he brought out the spoil of the city in great abundance. [3] And he brought out the people who were in it, and put them**

to work with saws, with iron picks, and with axes. So David did to all the cities of the people of Ammon. Then David and all the people returned to Jerusalem.

- In chapter 17 we were told that because of David being such a bloody man in wars, not a man of peace, God refused David the desire of his heart, to build the temple for God. Here we see some cruelty. (2Sa 12:31a) And he brought out the people who were in it, and put them to work with saws and iron picks and iron axes, and made them cross over to the brick works.

*1Ch 20:4-8 Now it happened afterward that war broke out at Gezer with the Philistines, at which time Sibbechai the Hushathite killed Sippai, who was one of the sons of the giant. And they were subdued. [5] Again there was war with the Philistines, and Elhanan the son of Jair killed Lahmi the brother of Goliath the Gittite, the shaft of whose spear was like a weaver's beam. [6] Yet again there was war at Gath, where there was a man of great stature, with twenty-four fingers and toes, six on each hand and six on each foot; and he also was born to the giant. [7] So when he defied Israel, Jonathan the son of Shimea, David's brother, killed him. [8] These were born to the giant in Gath, and they fell by the hand of David and by the hand of his servants.*

- Goliath's family was a family of big fellows, of giants! A very formidable foe in hand-to-hand combat. We see here that David and his men slew all of the giants in Goliath's family!

## CHAPTER 21 - David's Census Brings Pestilence

*1Ch 21:1 Now Satan (first use of Satan in the Bible) stood up against Israel, and moved David to number Israel.*

- (2Sa 24:1) Again the anger of the LORD was aroused against Israel, and He moved David against them to say, "Go, number Israel and Judah."
- Satan put a desire in David's heart to number the men of war. Now, behind the desire to number them is probably a thing of pride. There was really no need to know the number of men that you have available for battle. Though Joab, and his other counselors advised him against it, David was determined in his intention of taking this census. But the scripture points out, (2Sa 24:1) Again the anger of the LORD was aroused against Israel, and He moved David against them to say, "Go, number Israel and Judah." Satan was standing up against Israel, and he was the one that provoked David to number Israel.
- Also, we see this move of this military census indicated that David, rather than relying on the LORD for protection and victory as he had done for so many years, now wants to look more to the size of his army, than to God!
- We have all experienced the pressure of being tempted by Satan, to do things that are not pleasing to the LORD, often in the area of pride. David king of Israel becomes really the prey to Satan's guises, as Satan "enticed" David, to number Israel. But if we are harsh against David, how many of us have succumbed to the enticements of Satan, somewhere along the line?
- It is amazing how good judgement can go out the window, under the heavy enticements, or temptations of Satan. Here, though he has good counsel, David forsakes their counsel, he holds to the intent, and orders it to be done.
- **How aware am I of my pride? Do I realize that my pride actually blinds me to my pride? What I must do is to be in His word daily, turning my pridefulness over to Him, walking circumspectly, trusting, and praying for Him to take care of it!**

*1Ch 21:2 So David said to Joab and to the leaders of the people, "Go, number (men who drew the sword) Israel from Beersheba to Dan, and bring the number of them to me that I may know it."*

- This is an abuse of power.

*1Ch 21:3 And Joab answered, "May the LORD make His people a hundred times more than they are. But, my lord the king, are they not all my lord's servants? Why then does my lord require this thing? Why should he be a cause of guilt in Israel?"*

- Why would you put this sin upon the nation of Israel, by numbering them? The LORD had promised Abraham, that He would make his seed like the sands of the sea, which could not be numbered. They took this as an edict from God, as to not take a census. "May God just multiply the seed, so they just really can't be counted." Yet in his pride David now wants to know, "How many men do I have available?"

*1Ch 21:4 Nevertheless the king's word prevailed against Joab. Therefore Joab departed and went throughout all Israel and came to Jerusalem.*

- That was a tragic day for Israel. (2Sa 24:8) *So when they had gone through all the land, they came to Jerusalem at the end of nine months and twenty days.*

*1Ch 21:5 Then Joab gave the sum of the number of the people to David. All Israel had one million one hundred thousand men who drew the sword, and Judah had four hundred and seventy thousand men who drew the sword.*

- The number was one million, one hundred thousand men, of all of Israel.

*1Ch 21:6 But he did not count Levi and Benjamin among them, for the king's word was abominable to Joab.*

- Joab did not number the tribe of Benjamin, nor did he count the tribe of Levi. He was dragging his heels all the way.

*1Ch 21:7 And God was displeased with this thing; therefore He struck Israel* (not David).

*1Ch 21:8 So David said to God, "I have sinned greatly, because I have done this thing; but now, I pray, take away the iniquity of Your servant, for I have done very foolishly."*

- God began to plague Israel, and David prayed, LORD, I am the guilty one. I have sinned, in that I have done this. Now take away the iniquity of your servant because I have done very foolishly. How many times have we come to God with the same kind of a prayer? "LORD I have sinned; I have done foolishly. Take away my guilt." How thankful we are, for Jesus Christ, and His blood that cleanses us from all sin!
- David willfully sinned. "LORD, I have sinned," confessing "I have done very foolishly." How often I look at myself and say, "Phil, that was very foolish."

*1Ch 21:9-13 Then the LORD spoke to Gad, David's seer (prophet), saying, [10] "Go and tell David, saying, 'Thus says the LORD: "I offer you three things; choose one of them for yourself, that I may do it to you." [11] So Gad came to David and said to him, "Thus says the LORD: 'Choose for yourself, [12] either three years of famine, or three months to be defeated by your foes with the sword of your enemies overtaking you, or else for three days the sword of the LORD—the plague in the land, with the angel of the LORD destroying throughout all the territory of Israel.' Now consider what answer I should take back to Him who sent me." [13] And David said to Gad, "I am in great distress. Please let me fall into the hand of the LORD, for His mercies are very great; but do not let me fall into the hand of man."*

- Gad came to David, and said, "David, the LORD has given you three choices for your punishment, for your sin." Now remember, David is under the law, we are under grace. Thank God, Jesus took our guilt, our sin, the punishment for our sin upon Himself. But the LORD gave David three choices.
  - ✓ You can have three years of famine. That is stretching it out a long time.
  - ✓ You can have three months of being defeated by your enemies, or
  - ✓ You can have three days, the angel of the LORD, and pestilence against the land."
- David in his response, said to Gad, "I am in great distress. Please let me fall into the hand of the LORD, for His mercies are very great; but do not let me fall into the hand of man." God is more merciful, more gracious than man. When I have made a mistake, or when I have sinned, God is far more gracious than man. David chose to receive the punishment directly from God. "I do not want man. I know that God is merciful, so I will submit myself to God's judgement."
- **May we with thanksgiving always remember God's mercies! They are new every morning! David indeed makes a very wise choice.**

*1Ch 21:14 So the LORD sent a plague upon Israel, and seventy thousand men of Israel fell.*

- The pestilence could have been in the form of a Bubonic plague, or some other viral infection that wiped out seventy thousand men. Here he had numbered, to boast in the army, and God is going to start cutting it down to size.

*1Ch 21:15 And God sent an angel to Jerusalem to destroy it. As he was destroying, the LORD looked and relented of the disaster, and said to the angel who was destroying, "It is enough; now restrain your hand." And the angel of the LORD stood by the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite.*

- David has repented of his sin, (1Ch 21:8) So David said to God, "I have sinned greatly, because I have done this thing; but now, I pray, take away the iniquity of Your servant, for I have done very foolishly."
- The LORD looked and relented of the disaster. God can relent in this context, especially in the Old Testament time. If His people sin and rebel, He has to respond to them one way. If they turn from their sin, repent and turn back to Him, He then changes because He is unchanging and relates to them another way. From the earthly view, it looks like he changed, but it really is because He is unchanging! He can only relate a certain way, particularly at this point under the law, to how His people responded. There was some repentance, and because He is unchanging, He changes!
- Now He demonstrates His mercy, that looked like a change from the earthly position. (1Jn 1:9) If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
- And the angel of the LORD was by the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite (Araunah, 2 Samuel Chapter 24 account). Ornan is a Jebusite who has become loyal to David. His threshing floor is there.

*1Ch 21:16 Then David lifted his eyes and saw the angel of the LORD standing between earth and heaven, having in his hand a drawn sword stretched out over Jerusalem. So David and the elders, clothed in sackcloth, fell on their faces.*

- **That must have been something awesome!** They know that the pestilence is going through the land. They know that people are dropping like flies all over Israel. David puts on sackcloth, ashes on his head. It was a sign of affliction, afflicting himself, wearing that rough camel's skin backwards. David and the elders are there before the LORD repenting. *1Ch 21:17 And David said to God, "Was it not I who commanded the people to be numbered? I am the one who has sinned and done evil indeed; but these sheep, what have they done? Let Your hand, I pray, O LORD my God, be against me and my father's house, but not against Your people that they should be plagued."*
- Here is this *angel of the LORD standing, between earth and heaven, with his sword stretched out over Jerusalem.* How heavy that must have come upon David. "My sin has caused such grief!" That is the price of leadership, but that is also the cost of sin. Many say, "Well, my sin only hurts me. Sin touches and hurts all of those around you."
- David's sin caused hurt to so many, and David said, "O LORD, I am the guilty one! I was the one that did this! These poor sheep, do not take it out on them!" David is now willing to give himself, "LORD, take it out on me, I am the guilty party. These people are not guilty. They were not the ones that were wrong, that they should be plagued."
- **How sensitive am I to the fact that my sin does indeed affect others? Do I have a shepherd's heart at all like David's?**

### David Builds an Altar

*1Ch 21:18 Therefore, the angel of the LORD commanded Gad to say to David that David should go and erect an altar to the LORD on the threshing floor of Ornan (Arunah in 2 Samuel account) the Jebusite.*

- Now, Gad no doubt, was with David. The elders were with him, they all saw the angel. But the LORD spoke to Gad, and said, "Tell David to go and to make an altar there on the threshing floor, below where the angel is standing."
- 1Ch 21:19-20 So David went up at the word of Gad, which he had spoken in the name of the LORD. [20] Now Ornan turned and saw the angel; and his four sons who were with him hid themselves, but Ornan continued threshing wheat.*
- This was not something that just David and his elders saw. Ornan and his four sons also saw him. The sons hid themselves.
- Ornan continued threshing wheat. 70,000 are dead! The judgment is about to come to Jerusalem and what do we find Ornan doing? He is out threshing his wheat. He is just doing that day what he would do on any other day! Whenever we face problems that are just way bigger than any of us have a voice in or a solution for. What do we do? We should do what we would normally do every day. That is to be led by His Spirit in doing the right thing that should be done!
- **Again an important reminder for me! To do my best, for the kingdom of God, and to commit the rest to Him!**

*1Ch 21:21-22 So David came to Ornan, and Ornan looked and saw David. And he went out from the threshing floor, and bowed before David with his face to the ground. [22] Then David said to Ornan, "Grant me the place of this threshing floor, that I may build an altar on it to the LORD. You shall grant it to me at the full price, that the plague may be withdrawn from the people."*

- David makes his request here. He makes known to Ornan that he has come under the direction of the LORD to buy his threshing floor, in order to build an altar to the LORD to bring an end to this plague. David says, "Sell it to me for the full price, that this plague might be stopped."
- 1Ch 21:23 But Ornan said to David, "Take it to yourself, and let my lord the king do what is good in his eyes. Look, I also give you the oxen for burnt offerings, the threshing implements for wood, and the wheat for the grain offering; I give it all."*

*1Ch 21:24 Then King David said to Ornan, "No, but I will surely buy it for the full price, for I will not take what is yours for the LORD, nor offer burnt offerings with that which costs me nothing."*

- I will not give to the LORD that which cost me nothing. David respectfully declined the offer, knowing that it would not be right for him to offer something to the LORD that cost him nothing! A sacrifice is not a sacrifice unless it represents sacrifice. David wanted this to be something that was a sacrifice to him to offer to the LORD.
- **Is my heart so inclined to never give anything to the LORD that costs me nothing? For example how casual are my prayers? Am I praying like I really mean it?**

*1Ch 21:25 So David gave Ornan six hundred shekels of gold by weight for the place.*

- David gave Ornan six hundred shekels of gold (about 400 oz) by weight for the place ("maqom" (maw-kome); Mount Moriah, the whole Temple Mount on which Solomon's temple stood!
- *In (2Sa 24:24) Then the king said to Araunah, "No, but I will surely buy it from you for a price; nor will I offer burnt offerings to the LORD my God with that which costs me nothing." So David bought the threshing floor (goren) and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver.*

- So, a total price of six hundred and fifty shekels, but divided, one speaks of the property itself, the other speaks of the things that were on the property.

*1Ch 21:26-28 And David built there an altar to the LORD, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings, and called on the LORD; and He answered him from heaven by fire on the altar of burnt offering. [27] So the LORD commanded the angel, and he returned his sword to its sheath. [28] At that time, when David saw that the LORD had answered him on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite, he sacrificed there.*

- David bought this threshing floor, and it says that the fire of God, eternal fire, fell from heaven and consumed the sacrifice, and that the LORD was entreated, the plague was withdrawn! David understood what had taken place, This may have been the high point of his life! I wonder what else he saw there on Mount Moriah, where Abraham had offered Isaac. I wonder if David saw his greater Son there on the cross. I wonder what he saw as the fire fell from heaven.

*1Ch 21:29 For the tabernacle of the LORD and the altar of the burnt offering, which Moses had made in the wilderness, were at that time at the high place in Gibeon.*

- The ark of the covenant resided at Jerusalem in a tent, awaiting the building of the temple on Ornan's threshing floor, while the Mosaic tabernacle and altar remained in Gibeon until the temple was completed.

*1Ch 21:30 But David could not go before it to inquire of God, for he was afraid of the sword of the angel of the LORD.*

- David continued to remain at the threshing floor and offer sacrifices because the LORD had appeared to him there, and because he feared the angel of the LORD with the sword at Gibeon, the center of worship.

## CHAPTER 22 - David is Told the Place of the Temple! He Prepares to Build It!

*1Ch 22:1 Then David said, "This is the house of the LORD God, and this is the altar of burnt offering for Israel." David Prepares for Temple Building*

- This is the place for the temple! Up to this point the location of the temple was not known. God had ordered that on this spot, the altar was to be built, and the sacrifice made. They had been doing that only in Gibeon, up to this point, but God is signifying, by the building of the altar, and the offering of the sacrifice here, that this is where the house of the LORD is to be built!
- Now, God's hand was behind the scenes all the way. It is this place, on Mount Moriah, about a thousand years earlier, Abraham had come with Isaac, to offer a sacrifice to God. As Abraham and Isaac were coming to this Mount Moriah, at this very place, Isaac said, "Dad, we have the fire and the wood, but where is the sacrifice?" Abraham said, "Son, the LORD will provide Himself a sacrifice." "In the Mount of the LORD," he said, "it shall be seen." Abraham bound Isaac, placed him on the altar, raised the knife, and the LORD said, "That is enough Abraham. Behold, there is a ram caught by its horns in the thicket, take and offer it." Abraham called the place, "Jehovah-Jireh, the LORD will provide." He responded, "For in the Mount of the LORD, it shall be provided."
- This is the place where the sacrifices are to be made. This is the place that God had chosen for the temple, back at the time of Abraham, and he makes the prophecy of it then. It does not end there. About a thousand years after David, Jesus was led to the top of Mount Moriah, a place called Golgotha, and there He was crucified. This holy mount that God chose, as a place of sacrifice. He directed Abraham to it; Abraham prophesied over it. God stopped the angel above the threshing floor, there on Mount Moriah, "Offer the sacrifice there," and David recognized that, "This is the place God has chosen, for the house of God to be built." The prophecy was then completely fulfilled, when Jesus made the sacrifice for sin, and God offered His Only Begotten Son, for our sins, on the Mount of Sacrifice!

*1Ch 22:2 So David commanded to gather the aliens who were in the land of Israel; and he appointed masons to cut hewn stones to build the house of God.*

- David cannot build a house for the LORD, but He did not say he could not prepare for the building of the house. So, he got the stone masons to work. They started carving out the stones for the temple.

*1Ch 22:3-5 And David prepared iron in abundance for the nails of the doors of the gates and for the joints, and bronze in abundance beyond measure, [4] and cedar trees in abundance; for the Sidonians and those from Tyre brought much cedar wood to David. [5] Now David said, "Solomon my son is young and inexperienced, and the house to be built for the LORD must be exceedingly magnificent, famous and glorious throughout all countries. I will now make preparation for it." So David made abundant preparations before his death.*

- David, you cannot build it! David, says, "I can surely provide and make preparations for it!"

*Solomon Charged to Build the Temple - 1Ch 22:6-8 Then he called for his son Solomon, and charged him to build a 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*

*a house to the name of the LORD my God; [8] but the word of the LORD came to me, saying, 'You have shed much blood and have made great wars; you shall not build a house for My name, because you have shed much blood on the earth in My sight.*

- “David, you have been too bloody a man.” *You have shed much blood and have made great wars.*”

*1Ch 22:9-10 Behold, a son shall be born to you, who shall be a man of rest (peace); 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. [10] He shall build a 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 forever.'*

- Solomon, it was in my mind to build this house for God. God rejected my desire because of my bloody past. But He promised to give me you, as a son. Reign in my stead. You are to build the house.”

*1Ch 22:11 Now, my son, may the LORD be with you; and may you prosper, and build the house of the LORD your God, as He has said to you.*

- So now, my son, (He gives to Solomon the charge), *the LORD be with you*; This is the key to the whole thing. “God has called you to a great task. It is to be a magnificent temple; it is to be noted throughout the world. So, my son, the LORD be with you.” How we need the presence of God for every endeavor that we do for God. It is not enough to just know what God wants done, and then to take it upon ourselves to do it. We must be directed by God, strengthened by God, guided by God, in every work that we seek to do for God! **Do I always do that?**

- God has ordained that you do it, but may God be with you, prosper you with wisdom, understanding in doing it. *1Ch 22:12-13 Only may the LORD give you wisdom and understanding, and give you charge concerning Israel, that you may keep the law of the LORD your God. [13] Then you will prosper, if you take care to fulfill the statutes and judgments with which the LORD charged Moses concerning Israel. Be strong and of good courage; do not fear nor be dismayed.*

- (1Ch 28:7) Moreover I will establish his kingdom forever, if he is steadfast to observe My commandments and My judgments, as it is this day.' (Jos 1:7) Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go.

- **Am I recognizing the importance in my life of asking the LORD for wisdom and understanding? The importance of obedience to His word? To be strong and of good courage, not being fearful nor dismayed?**

*1Ch 22:14-16 Indeed I have taken much trouble to prepare for the house of the LORD one hundred thousand talents of gold and one million talents of silver, and bronze and iron beyond measure, for it is so abundant. I have prepared timber and stone also, and you may add to them. [15] Moreover there are workmen with you in abundance: woodsmen and stonecutters, and all types of skillful men for every kind of work. [16] Of gold and silver and bronze and iron there is no limit. Arise and begin working, and the LORD be with you."*

- Only may the LORD give to you that wisdom and understanding, to help you to give charge. Solomon is to be giving the orders in Israel. “May God give you the wisdom and understanding, to give you the charge concerning Israel.”
- The story of Solomon is a story of tragedy because he started out so well. As we get into II Chronicles, the first part is devoted unto Solomon, to the building and completion of the temple. As the temple is completed, and we read Solomon, and the prayer of dedication of the temple, that prayer of Solomon shows great wisdom, great understanding, and a great commitment to the things of God. It is an extremely powerful, beautiful prayer that was answered by God in a very powerful way. God responded to the prayer of Solomon.
- But, as the years went by, Solomon turned away from the statutes of the LORD. He did not follow his father’s advice, but as the years went by, he began to multiply wives, trading horses, silver, and gold, which the scriptures said he should not do. As he began to take wives of the daughters of the foreign kings, he built temples to the pagan deities, there in the sight of Israel, for his wives’ sake. It became a great stumbling block to Solomon and to the people of Israel. David is giving him good advice, and a good counsel here. Too bad Solomon did not keep it!
- David laid up much provision for the building of the temple. “Son, I have gone as far as I can. I have prepared it all. Now, get to it. Get going, do it, and the LORD be with you.”

*1Ch 22:17-19 David also commanded all the leaders of Israel to help Solomon his son, saying, [18] "Is not the LORD your God with you? And has He not given you rest on every side? For He has given the inhabitants of the land into my 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. Therefore arise and build the sanctuary of the LORD God, to bring the ark of the covenant of the LORD and the holy articles of God into the house that is to be built for the name of the LORD."*

- **Set your heart and your soul to seek the LORD! May we take this tremendous advice! May our heart and soul be set to seek the LORD our God! Just to set it in your heart. To set it in your mind. "I'm going to seek the LORD." You will find no better path for life. No wiser move could you ever make than that of just seeking the LORD.**

## CHAPTER 23 - David Organizes the Levites

*1Ch 23:1 So when David was old and full of days, he made his son Solomon king over Israel.*

- David, in his older years, had a tremendous urge to make his life count for something more than just being known as a warrior, just being known as a psalmist. He wanted to do something for God to make his life count for God.
- David was still obsessed with the idea of the temple. In his later years, he drew up the plans for the temple; all of the details. He gathered together the materials for the building of the temple. He designed it, he ordered the stones to be cut, he gathered together the materials for the building. He organized the priests how they would come in and serve their turn in the temple and then return to their various villages.
- Chronicles does not tell us how the other sons were vying for power, and there was a power struggle.

*1Ch 23:2-3 And he gathered together all the leaders of Israel, with the priests and the Levites. [3] Now the Levites were numbered from the age of thirty years and above; and the number of individual males was thirty-eight thousand.*

- They had to be thirty years old before they could begin their ministry to the LORD. Jesus was thirty years old when he began His public ministry. The priests spent the first thirty years in training for the ministry. At thirty years, they began their active ministry, and at fifty years they retired from their ministry.

*1Ch 23:4-6 Of these, twenty-four thousand were to look after the work of the house of the LORD, six thousand were officers and judges, [5] four thousand were gatekeepers, and four thousand (10% of Levites) praised the LORD with musical instruments, "which I made," said David, "for giving praise." [6] Also David separated them into divisions among the sons of Levi: Gershon, Kohath, and Merari.*

- These were the three family heads from Levi. They were divided in their courses by David. Twenty-four thousand to serve in the house of the LORD, six thousand were to be officers over the land, and judges. Then, four thousand to take care of the janitorial work, upkeep of the temple. Four thousand to spend their time singing and praising the LORD, with musical instruments David had made, for this task. **What percent of my time do I give in praise to Him?**

*1Ch 23:7-12 Of the Gershonites: Laadan and Shimei. [8] The sons of Laadan: the first Jehiel, then Zetham and Joel—three in all. [9] The sons of Shimei: Shelomith, Hazei, and Haran—three in all. These were the heads of the fathers' houses of Laadan. [10] And the sons of Shimei: Jahath, Zina, Jeush, and Beriah. These were the four sons of Shimei. [11] Jahath was the first and Zizah the second. But Jeush and Beriah did not have many sons; therefore they were assigned as one father's house. [12] The sons of Kohath: Amram, Izhar, Hebron, and Uzziel—four in all.*

- First we get the listing of the families of the Gershonites, and then in verse twelve, the families of Kohath, from which came Aaron and Moses.

*1Ch 23:13 The sons of Amram: Aaron and Moses; and Aaron was set apart, he and his sons forever, that he should sanctify the most holy things, to burn incense before the LORD, to minister to Him, and to give the blessing in His name forever.*

- **To minister to Him and to give the blessing in His name forever! How am I doing in ministering to the LORD? Lord, I pray You would help me to minister to You as I should! Also help me to give blessings in Your name forever, as You would have me to do!**

*1Ch 23:14-21 Now the sons of Moses the man of God were reckoned to the tribe of Levi. [15] The sons of Moses were Gershon and Eliezer. [16] Of the sons of Gershon, Shebuel was the first. [17] Of the descendants of Eliezer, Rehabiah was the first. And Eliezer had no other sons, but the sons of Rehabiah were very many. [18] Of the sons of Izhar, Shelomith was the first. [19] Of the sons of Hebron, Jeriah was the first, Amariah the second, Jahaziel the third, and Jekameam the fourth. [20] Of the sons of Uzziel, Michah was the first and Jesshiah the second. [21] The sons of Merari were Mahli and Mushi. The sons of Mahli were Eleazar and Kish.*

- Then the family of Merari, beginning with verse twenty-one.

*1Ch 23:22-26 And Eleazar died, and had no sons, but only daughters; and their brethren, the sons of Kish, took them as wives. [23] The sons of Mushi were Mahli, Eder, and Jeremoth—three in all. [24] These were the sons of Levi by their fathers' houses—the heads of the fathers' houses as they were counted individually by the number of their names, who did the work for the service of the house of the LORD, from the age of twenty years and above.*

*[25] For David said, "The LORD God of Israel has given rest to His people, that they may dwell in Jerusalem forever"; [26] and also to the Levites, "They shall no longer carry the tabernacle, or any of the articles for its service."*

- Originally, when Moses divided the families, there was one family that were the porters, who had to carry the tabernacle through the wilderness. Now, David said, "We are going to build this temple. Jerusalem is the place. It is going to be here, and we are not going to need these fellows anymore from the tribe of Levi, who were the porters. Therefore, they were given the task of keeping the place up, keeping it maintained and all.

*1Ch 23:27-30 For by the last words of David the Levites were numbered from twenty years old and above; [28] because their duty was to help the sons of Aaron in the service of the house of the LORD, in the courts and in the chambers, in the purifying of all holy things and the work of the service of the house of God, [29] both with the showbread and the fine flour for the grain offering, with the unleavened cakes and what is baked in the pan, with what is mixed and with all kinds of measures and sizes; [30] to stand every morning to thank and praise the LORD, and likewise at evening;*

- They were the ones that made the shewbread for the meal offerings, the unleavened cakes, and they took care of the behind the scenes kind of work.

*1Ch 23:31-32 and at every presentation of a burnt offering to the LORD on the Sabbaths and on the New Moons and on the set feasts, by number according to the ordinance governing them, regularly before the LORD; [32] and that they should attend to the needs of the tabernacle of meeting, the needs of the holy place, and the needs of the sons of Aaron their brethren in the work of the house of the LORD.*

#### SUMMARY:

- *1Ch 21:1 How aware am I of my pride? Do I realize that my pride actually blinds me to my pride? What I must do is to be in His word daily, turning my pridefulness over to Him, walking circumspectly, trusting, and praying for Him to take care of it!*
- *1Ch 21:13 May we with thanksgiving always remember God's mercies! They are new every morning! David indeed makes a very wise choice.*
- *1Ch 21:20 Again an important reminder for me! To do my best, for the kingdom of God! To commit the rest to Him!*
- *1Ch 21:24 Is my heart so inclined to never give anything to the LORD that costs me nothing? For example how casual are my prayers? Am I praying like I really mean it?*
- *1Ch 22:13 Am I recognizing the importance in my life of asking the LORD for wisdom and understanding? The importance of obedience to His word? To be strong and of good courage, not being fearful nor dismayed?*
- *1Ch 22:19 Set your heart and your soul to seek the LORD! May we take this tremendous advice! May our heart and soul be set to seek the LORD our God! Just to set it in your heart. To set it in your mind. "I'm going to seek the LORD." You will find no better path for life. No wiser move could you ever make than that of just seeking the LORD.*
- *1Ch 23:13 To minister to Him and to give the blessing in His name forever! How am I doing in ministering to the LORD? Lord, I pray You would help me to minister to You as I should! Also help me to give blessings in Your name forever, as You would have me to do!*

*1Ch 23:5 four thousand were gatekeepers, and four thousand (10% of Levites) praised the LORD with musical instruments, "which I made," said David, "for giving praise."*

**PRAISE!** Brandon Lake – Elevation Music (2:00/2:02)

*I'll praise in the valley Praise on the mountain I'll praise when I'm sure Praise when I'm doubting I'll praise when outnumbered Praise when surrounded 'Cause praise is the water My enemies drown in. As long as I'm breathing I've got a reason to Praise the Lord Oh, my soul Praise the Lord Oh, my soul I'll praise when I feel it And I'll praise when I don't I'll praise 'cause I know You're still in control Because my praise is a weapon It's more than a sound Oh, my praise is the shout That brings Jericho down (oh) As long as I'm breathing I've got a reason to Praise the Lord Oh, my soul. Praise the Lord Oh, my soul I won't be quiet, my God is alive So how could I keep it inside? I'm gonna Praise the Lord Oh, my soul (Praise the Lord)*

#### CLOSING PRAYER

NEXT WEEK: Study 1 Chronicles, Chapters 24-29