

STUDIES IN THE LIFE OF SOLOMON

STUDY NUMBER ONE—2 Samuel 12:24,25

1 Chronicles 22:2-19

1 Chronicles 28:1-21

TEXT:

A. 2 Samuel 12:24,25

v. 24 Then David comforted his wife Bathsheba, and he went to her and lay with her. She gave birth to a son, and they named him Solomon. The Lord loved him;

v. 25 and because the Lord loved him, he sent word through Nathan the prophet to name him Jedidiah.

B. 1 Chronicles 22:2-19

v. 2 So David gave orders to assemble the aliens living in Israel, and from among them he appointed stonecutters to prepare dressed stone for building the house of God.

v. 3 He provided a large amount of iron to make nails for the doors of the gateways and for the fittings, and more bronze than could be weighed.

v. 4 He also provided more cedar logs than could be counted, for the Sidonians and Tyrians had brought large numbers of them to David.

v. 5 David said, "My son Solomon is young and inexperienced, and the house to be built for the Lord should be of great magnificence and fame and splendor in the sight of all the nations. Therefore I will make preparations for it." So David made extensive preparations before his death.

v. 6 Then he called for his son Solomon and charged him to build a house for the Lord, the God of Israel.

v. 7 David said to Solomon: "My son, I had it in my heart to build a house for the Name of the Lord my God.

v. 8 But this word of the Lord came to me: 'You have shed much blood and have fought many wars. You are not to build a house for my Name, because you have shed much blood on the earth in my sight.

v. 9 But you will have a son who will be a man of peace and rest, and I will give him rest from all his enemies on every side. His name will be Solomon, and I will grant Israel peace and quiet during his reign.

v. 10 He is the one who will build a house for my Name. He will be my son, and I will be his father. And I will establish the throne of his kingdom over Israel forever.'

v. 11 "Now, my son, the Lord be with you, and may you have success and build the house of the Lord your God, as he said you would.

v. 12 May the Lord give you discretion and understanding when He puts you in command over Israel, so that you may keep the law of the Lord your God.

v. 13 Then you will have success if you are careful to observe the decrees and laws that the Lord gave Moses for Israel. Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or discouraged.

v. 14 "I have taken great pains to provide for the temple of the Lord a hundred thousand talents of gold, a million talents of silver, quantities of bronze and iron too great to be weighed, and wood and stone. And you may add to them.

v. 15 You have many workmen: stonecutters, masons and carpenters, as well as men skilled in every kind of work

v. 16 in gold and silver, bronze and iron--craftsmen beyond number. Now begin the work, and the Lord be with you."

v. 17 Then David ordered all the leaders of Israel to help his son Solomon.

v. 18 He said to them, "Is not the Lord your God with you? And has he not granted you rest on every side? For he has handed the inhabitants of the land over to me, and the land is subject to the Lord and to his people.

v. 19 Now devote your heart and soul to seeking the Lord your God. Begin to build the sanctuary of the Lord God, so that you may bring the ark of the covenant of the Lord and the sacred articles belonging to God into the temple that will be built for the Name of the Lord."

C. 1 Chronicles 28:1-21

v. 1 David summoned all the officials of Israel to assemble at Jerusalem: the officers over the tribes, the commanders of the divisions in the service of the king, the commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds, and the officials in charge of all the property and livestock belonging to the king and his sons, together with the palace officials, the mighty men and all the brave warriors.

v. 2 King David rose to his feet and said: "Listen to me, my brothers and my people. I had it in my heart to build a house as a place of rest for the ark of the covenant of the Lord, for the footstool of our God, and I made plans to build it.

v. 3 But God said to me, 'You are not to build a house for my Name, because you are a warrior and have shed blood.'

v. 4 "Yet the Lord, the God of Israel, chose me from my whole family to be king over Israel forever. He chose Judah as leader, and from the house of Judah he chose my family, and from my father's sons he was pleased to make me king over all Israel.

v. 5 Of all my sons--and the Lord has given me many--he has chosen my son Solomon to sit on the throne of the kingdom of the Lord over Israel.

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

v. 7 I will establish his kingdom forever if he is unswerving in carrying out my commands and laws, as is being done at this time.'

v. 8 "So now I charge you in the sight of all Israel and of the assembly of the Lord, and in the hearing of our God: Be careful to follow all the commands of the Lord your God, that you may possess this good land and pass it on as an inheritance to your descendants forever.

v. 9 "And you, my son Solomon, acknowledge the God of your father, and serve him with wholehearted devotion and with a willing mind, for the Lord searches every heart and understands every motive behind the thoughts. If you seek him, he will be found by you; but if you forsake him, he will reject you forever.

v. 10 Consider now, for the Lord has chosen you to build a temple as a sanctuary. Be strong and do the work."

v. 11 Then David gave his son Solomon the plans for the portico of the temple, its buildings, its storerooms, its upper parts, its inner rooms and the place of atonement.

v. 12 He gave him the plans of all that the Spirit had put in his mind for the courts of the temple of the Lord and all the surrounding rooms, for the treasuries of the temple of God and for the treasuries for the dedicated things.

v. 13 He gave him instructions for the divisions of the priests and Levites, and for all the work of serving in the temple of the Lord, as well as for all the articles to be used in its service.

v. 14 He designated the weight of gold for all the gold articles to be used in various kinds of service, and the weight of silver for all the silver articles to be used in various kinds of service:

v. 15 the weight of gold for the gold lampstands and their lamps, with the weight for each lampstand and its lamps; and the weight of silver for each silver lampstand and its lamps, according to the use of each lampstand;

v. 16 the weight of gold for each table for consecrated bread; the weight of silver for the silver tables;

v. 17 the weight of pure gold for the forks, sprinkling bowls and pitchers; the weight of gold for each gold dish; the weight of silver for each silver dish;

v. 18 and the weight of the refined gold for the altar of incense. He also gave him the plan for the chariot, that is, the cherubim of gold that spread their wings and shelter the ark of the covenant of the Lord.

v. 19 "All this," David said, "I have in writing from the hand of the Lord upon me, and he gave me understanding in all the details of the plan."

v. 20 David also said to Solomon his son, "Be strong and courageous, and do the work. Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord God, my God, is with you. He will not fail you or forsake you until all the work for the service of the temple of the Lord is finished.

v. 21 The divisions of the priests and Levites are ready for all the work on the temple of God, and every willing man skilled in any craft will help you in all the work. The officials and all the people will obey your every command."

INTRODUCTION:

(Poetry: Complete Works to 1993 by Skinny Rowland)

A REAL FRIEND

by Skinny Rowland

When hard times come and things get rough, a dog won't up and leave you,
nor will he lie or cheat or steal, or endeavor to deceive you.

Between the times you go away, until again he sees you,
he waits in all anticipation, just hoping he can please you.

If he knows just what you want, if he can he'll do it for you,
and even when you choose to scold him, still he will adore you.

He doesn't question what you say, it pleases him to mind you,
and while others are forsaking, he stays right there behind you.

So if you need a loyal friend, one who will always love you,
you will find a faithful dog, will hold no one above you.

So get yourself a loving dog, and you'll always find him near you,
he won't talk back or argue, but he's always there to hear you.

p. 7

(New Cowboy Poetry: A Contemporary Gathering edited by Hal Cannon)

SOLD YOUR SADDLE

by Waddie Mitchell

Not so terribly well, I said, in answer to his question.
I'm running fast, but I wonder if it's in the wrong direction.
My wife has started gainin' weight and gray shows in her hair.
Her existence seems to be in runnin' kids from here to there.
My job has lost its challenge, seems like it never changes.
Sometimes I want to chuck it all and leave to ride new ranges.

I thought my friend would understand, he'd walked this same old road.
And made decisions in his life to drop his heavy load.
So, I laid my troubles on him and I told him how I felt.
He just stares at me all hollow, like he's hit below the belt.
He sits down close all weak-like, and he looks me in the eye;
His hands, they started tremblin'; I thinks he's gonna cry.

He swallows hard and tells me, "I know what you're up against.
It happens at this time of life, you feel like you've been fenced.
Seems like life becomes routine, it all just seems the same.
So, you go to huntin' witches, lookin' for someone to blame.
Our work and wife scapegoat real well when we are of that mind,
And little faults become big 'cuz that's what we want to find.

Don't make my same mistake and let a notion be your guide;
The grass ain't greener, I see that now I'm on the other side.
I've upturned several lives with my leavin', plus my own,
And lost my common little family and my routine little home.
I'd have never left if I'd taken time to figure out
That what I wanted out of is what life is all about.

"We're seldom taught that, though; seems it's almost out of style.
If I could just have one more chance, I'd walk that extra mile.
But that can't be, so I must lie upon the bed I've made,
While my will to carry on, like bad memories, start to fade.
And if you never take advice again, please heed these words, my friend:
The purpose to life's race is in the runnin' to the end.

"Oh, they'll be times it seems so far we feel we'll never make it.
We tire and lose sight of dreams and want to just forsake it.
It's still all in your mind right now, but thought precedes the act,
And it isn't yet too late, my friend, I know that for a fact.
You've started your race gamely; you've just been bumped against the rail.
I'm not sayin' you sold your saddle, but you've put it up for sale."

(Finishing Strong: Finding The Power To Go The Distance by Steve Farrar)

Willie and Ray, a couple of ranchers, met at the feed store one afternoon. "Had some problems with my herd," said Willie. "My prize bull was impotent. But the vet came over and gave him some special medicine and now he seems to be doing just fine."

Several weeks later Willie and Ray met again at the store. "Hey, Willie," said Ray, now *my* bull is having problems. What was that medicine the vet prescribed?"

I don't remember the name," Willie said. "But it kinda tastes like chocolate."

p. 47

THE LANDSCAPE OF SCRIPTURE IS STREWN WITH THE CORPSES OF THOSE WHO FAILED TO FINISH WELL.

It is one thing to START THE RACE with all of the enthusiasm in the world, and it is another thing to PERSEVERE through to the FINISH.

Philippians 3:12-14 (Phillips)

Yet, my brother, I do not consider myself to have "arrived", spiritually, nor do I consider myself already perfect. But I keep going on, grasping ever more firmly that purpose for which Christ grasped me. My brothers, I do not consider myself to have fully grasped it even now. But I do concentrate on this: I leave the past behind and with hands outstretched to whatever lies ahead I go straight for the goal—my reward the honour of being called by God in Christ.

1 Corinthians 9:24-27 (Phillips)

Do you remember how, on a racing-track, every competitor runs, but only one wins the prize? Well, you ought to run with your minds fixed on winning the prize! Every competitor in athletic events goes into serious training. Athletes will take tremendous pains—for a fading crown of leaves. But our contest is for an eternal crown that will never fade.

I run the race then with determination. I am no shadow-boxer, I really fight! I am my body's sternest master, for fear that when I have preached to others I should myself be disqualified.

2 Timothy 4:6-8 (Phillips)

As for me, I feel that the last drops of my life are being poured out for God. The glorious fight that God finished, and I have kept the faith. The future for me holds the crown of righteousness which God, the true judge, will give to me in that day—and not, of course, only to me but to all those who have loved what they have seen of him.

2 Corinthians 4:8,9 (Phillips)

We are handicapped on all sides, but we are never frustrated; we are puzzled, but never in despair. We are persecuted, but we never have to stand it alone: we may be knocked down but we are never knocked out!

There are a couple of QUESTIONS we need to ask ourselves at the BEGINNING of this study:

QUESTION #1

"WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO FINISH?"

QUESTION #2

"WHY DO SO MANY FAIL?"

Back in 1987 I went back to school to get a degree in Marriage and the Family. My first course was taught by Dr. Vernon Grounds, on the "Spiritual and Emotional Health of the Minister."

The first day of class, he came in with a box full of books that he put on the table and told us each to choose one. They were the biographies of great men who "blew it", and he wanted us to read the book and report on it the final day of class.

The ANSWERS to some of the reasons WHY MEN FAILED TO FINISH ARE:

SEX,

SUCCESS,

GREED,

MARRIAGE FELL APART,

FAMILY FELL APART,

ADDICTIONS,

EMOTIONAL BURNOUT,

INTERPERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS,

STRIFE, etc.

It is certainly NO FAULT OF THE LORD'S when we FAIL TO FINISH. He HAS MADE EVERY PROVISION for us to FINISH WELL

2 Corinthians 12:9

And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may dwell in me.

1 Samuel 12:20

"Do not be afraid," Samuel replied. " You have done all this evil; yet do not turn away from the Lord, but serve the Lord with all your heart."

Zephaniah 3:17

The Lord your God is with you, he is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, he will quiet you with his love, he will rejoice over you with singing."

(The Finishing Touch: Becoming God's Masterpiece: A Daily Devotional
by Charles R. Swindoll)

DETERIORATION

Solomon's life reminds me of the swing of a pendulum. Smooth and graceful . . . silent and elegant . . . yet periodically given to extremes.

Born with a silver spoon in his mouth, blessed with blue blood and an abundance of brains, he was a natural for the throne. As the heir-apparent, he was tutored at the feet of godly Nathan, groomed by the beautiful Bathsheba, shaped under the watchful eye of David, and polished by the hand of God. The stamp of excellence was upon young Solomon.

Wisdom, loyalty, diplomacy, and efficiency marked his attitude and acts during the early years of his reign. Best of all, "Solomon loved the Lord" (1 Kings 3:3). His achievements could not be listed on ten pages this size. When visited by surrounding magistrates, he was viewed with awe. And rich? Multiplied millions annually. And creative? He was an architect, songwriter, artist, author, and investor of unparalleled ability.

Things slowly began to change, however, as the pendulum began its tragic swing. Farther and farther . . . and farther.

Solomon seized the reins of wrong and drove his glistening chariot of gold onto the misty flats of licentiousness, pride, lust, profanity, and paganism. Silently, gradually, like eroding soil near the banks of a deep, angry river, he began to believe the lie that has captured many a top executive . . . or super salesperson . . . or successful physician . . . or athletic prima donna . . . or film star . . . or TV celebrity.

In the eloquent words of one biographer: "Solomon . . . drove too fast and traveled too far . . . the monarch became debauched and

effeminate; an egotist and cynic, so satiated with the sensual and material affairs of life that he became skeptical of all good.”

Materialism, polygamy, brutality, and idolatry now crippled his steps. Revolts fractured his nation and irrational decisions characterized his rule. All to him became “vanity and striving after the wind” (Eccl. 2:26). Nothing satisfied him any longer. The normal, God-given drives lost their appeal as deterioration took its final toll. And when death finally came, Solomon left in his wake a confused following and a broken, rebellious family.

Deterioration is never loud. Never obvious. Seldom even noticed. Like tiny cracks in a stucco wall, it hardly seems worth our time and attention. Never sudden.

Character threads don’t “suddenly” snap. No building “suddenly” crumbles. No church “suddenly” splits. No professional “suddenly” compromises. No husband or wife “suddenly” cheats. No nation “suddenly” dissolves. No business “suddenly” becomes mediocre. As the British expositor of yesteryear, F. B. Meyer, once put it, “No man suddenly becomes base.”

Slowly, silently, subtly, things are tolerated that once were rejected. At the outset everything appears harmless, maybe even a bit exciting. But with it comes an “insignificant” wedge, a gap that grows wider as moral erosion joins hands with spiritual decay.

Be on guard! Those of us who stand must take heed lest we fall.

The pitfalls are still present. Still real.

The stones that make us stumble are still there: silver, sex, sloth, and self.

They wait in silence. As unobtrusive as the ticking of a clock. As attractive as the swinging of a pendulum . . . until . . .
pp. 542-3

(Active Spiritually by Charles R. Swindoll)

Karl Menninger wrote with keen perception:

When a trout rising to a fly gets hooked on a line and finds himself unable to swim about freely, he begins with a fight which results in struggles and splashes and sometimes an escape. Often, of course, the situation is too tough for him.

In the same way the human being struggles with his environment and with the hooks that catch him. Sometimes he masters his difficulties; sometimes they are too much for him. His struggles are all that the world sees and it naturally misunderstands them. It is hard for a free fish to understand what is happening to a hooked one.

p. 144

James 1:13-16 (Author's Translation)

Let no one say when he is being tempted, "I am being tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted to do evil, and He Himself is tempting no one. But each one is being tempted when he is taken in tow and lured by his own desires. Then when the desire has conceived, it is giving birth to sin; and the sin, when sin has run its course, brings forth death. Stop being deceived, my brethren, beloved ones.

(Even Eagles Need a Push by David McNally)

An unknown author gave the follow perspective on life. Read it slowly and check out your response to each statement:

What is Life?

Life is a gift . . . accept it

Life is an adventure . . . dare it

Life is a mystery . . . unfold it

Life is a game . . . play it

Life is struggle . . . face it

Life is beauty . . . praise it

Life is a puzzle . . . solve it

Life is opportunity . . . take it

Life is sorrowful . . . experience it

Life is a song . . . sing it

Life is a goal . . . achieve it

Life is a mission . . . fulfill it

pp. 35-36

(Finishing Strong: Finding The Power To Go The Distance by Steve Farrar)

So we can expect to encounter at least three major ambushes as we attempt to finish strong.

They are

- the ambush of another woman
- the ambush of money
- the ambush of a neglected family

Think through some of the men in Scripture who should have finished strong but didn't. How about Solomon. David's son? Solomon got ambushed by women. He had over seven hundred wives and three hundred concubines. No wonder he didn't finish strong. He was exhausted.

He was ambushed by money (his wealth could not even be counted), and he was ambushed by family (his foreign wives turned his heart against the Lord; see 1 Kings 11:1-8). His son Rehoboam was such a poor leader that within days of his taking the throne to replace the deceased Solomon, the people revolted and ultimately split the nation. I get the feeling Solomon didn't spend a lot of time with Rehoboam.

p. 28

(Signs of Warning, Signs of Hope by J. Kerby Anderson)

Although the transition is both somber and serious, some have attempted to inject some levity into the discussion. Lawyer Ron Katz found the "yuppie" designation an inaccurate description of his friends' lifestyle, so he coined, somewhat facetiously, yet another acronym to describe boomers at this stage. "No longer rolling stones, but not yet the grateful dead, they're MOSS--middle-age, overstressed, semi-affluent, suburbanites," he said. According to Katz, "moss" (or mossy, if you prefer the adjective) is what yuppies have become in the 1990s.

p. 78

(The Solomon Syndrome: For Men Who Want More Out of Life by Bob Beltz)

Solomon is a perfect example of what happens when a man loses perspective and deviates from the divine blueprint. Alternatives to the blueprint can be incredibly appealing. A good friend of mine coined the expression "the world's menu" to capture the appeal of the multitude of choices that we face each and every day of our lives.

p. 23

(Standing Tall by Steve Farrar)

A couple of years ago I was invited to speak to a chapel service for the Cincinnati Bengals. I had my two boys with me and we had a great time meeting many of the players at chapel and then watching the Bengals play the Steelers on a crisp December afternoon with a fifteen-degree temperature. We went through a lot of hot chocolate that afternoon! We had some free time after the chapel service and before the kickoff, so I was reading the Sunday sports page.

That's when my eye caught the NFL injury list for that weekend's games around the league. The injury list contains the name of each injured player and the particular injury they are experiencing (knee, Achilles tendon, wrist, etc.). Each player is then listed as out, probable, or doubtful.

p. 178

IT IS GOING TO BE OUR PLEASURE AND JOY during these next months
to FOCUS OUR ATTENTION ON THE LIFE OF SOLOMON.

WE WILL WALK WITH HIM FROM BIRTH TO THE GRAVE
in the 24 STUDIES that are being prepared for this project.

One of the fun things to do when studying a biblical character is to try to identify the TEMPERMENT TRAITS of the biblical character.

I have identified SOLOMON as a MELANCHOLY/PHLEGMATIC.

THE STRENGTHS OF HIS TEMPERMENT TRAITS ARE:

- ANALYTICAL,
- GIFTED,
- SELF-DISCIPLINED,
- SELF-SACRIFICING,
- HUMOROUS,
- PRACTICAL,
- EFFICIENT,
- ORGANIZED,
- DIPLOMATIC,
- DEPENDABLE,
- EASY GOING,
- CALM, and
- QUIET.

THE WEAKNESSES ARE:

- TOUCHY,
- REVENGEFUL,
- SELF CENTERED,
- MOODY,
- UNSOCIABLE,
- NEGATIVE, and
- CRITICAL.

This COMBINATION of temperament traits experience deep feelings. They are:

- SENSITIVE,
- SELF CENTERED,
- EASILY OFFENDED,
- FAITHFUL FRIEND,
- SUSPICIOUS,
- HARBOURS RESENTMENT,
- INDESIDIVE,
- PESSIMISTIC,
- NON-AGRESSIVE,
- CALM & COOL,
- EASY GOING,
- WITTY,
- STINGY, and
- STUBBORN.

Throughout the study of Solomon's life, WE WILL SEE many of these temperament traits come to the surface.

Alexander Whyte says:

If ever ship set sail on a sunny morning, but all that was left of her was a board or two on the shore that night, that ship was Solomon. A board or two of rare and precious wood, indeed; and some of them richly worked and overlaid with silver and gold—it was Solomon with his sermons, and his prayers, and his proverbs, and his songs, and his temple. If ever a blazing lighthouse was set up in the sea of life to warn every man and to teach every man, it was Solomon.
pp. 278-79

J. Sidlow Baxter says:

Solomon is a figure of striking interest in three ways—historically, personally, and typically.
Viewed historically, his special interest lies in the fact that he represents the peak period of Israel's prosperity as a kingdom. His reign marks the most splendid and affluent period of Hebrew history. No doubt can be left in our minds; even by a superficial reading of chapters ix. And x., that Solomon's riches and Israel's abundance at the time were such as to become a marvel both then and now. "Solomon in all his glory" has become, indeed, the classic figure of royal opulence. But besides this, Solomon is of historical interest as being the last of the kings to reign over a united Hebrew kingdom. It was through Solomon's own disobedience that the disruption took place, as we have seen; and there never will be a king reigning over a united Hebrew kingdom again until Christ Himself returns as David's Son and Lord.
p.87

Lockyer says:

Solomon, the ardent capitalist, had fine qualities of the mind and a certain amount of spirituality, but these broke down under or were undermined by greed, success, luxury and idolatry.
p. 113

He says further:

Comparing the three great kings of the United Kingdom, Dr. F. Tuck gives us this interesting note—

Saul was self-willed; David was self-subdued; Solomon was self-contained. The religion of Saul was associational; the religion of David was personal; the religion of Solomon was official.

The story may be read in yet another light. Man is a composite being, and each man has to decide which part of himself shall rule the whole. Saul made the body rule; David made the heart rule; and Solomon made the mind rule. So these first three kings illustrate primary religious truths for all the ages.

p. 114

Gaebelein says:

Both David and Solomon are types of our Lord Jesus Christ. David typifies Him in His humiliation and suffering, Solomon in His exaltation and Glory. What Christ has done in His Grace results in the coming Glory.

p. 403

SOLOMON IS THE THIRD AND FINAL KING OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

Under SAUL, the KINGDOM was ESTABLISHED.

Under DAVID it was CONSOLIDATED and EXTENDED GREATLY,

Under SOLOMON, he enjoys THE HIGH POINT,

For FOLLOWING HIS REIGN, THE KINGDOM IS DIVIDED

Into ISRAEL in the NORTH and JUDAH in the SOUTH.

In this FIRST EPISODE we are going to look at
THREE PASSAGES OF SCRIPTURE:

- A) 2 Samuel 12:24,25.
- B) 1 Chronicles 22:2-19.
- C) 1 Chronicles 28:1-21.

PASSAGE NUMBER ONE: 2 Samuel 12:24,25

As the scene of our study opens, David and Bathsheba have experienced the judgment of God upon their relationship. This involved the death of their first born son.

2 Samuel 12:18

On the seventh day the child died. David's servants were afraid to tell him that the child was dead, for they thought, "While the child was still living, we spoke to David, but he would not listen to us. How can we tell him the child is dead? He may do something desperate."

The servants are surprised however, when David finds out about the death of the boy. verse 20 and following says:

Then David got up from the ground. After he had washed, put on lotions and changed his clothes, he went into the house of the Lord and worshipped. Then he went to his own house, and at his request, they served him food, and he ate.

The servants quizzed him about his change of spirit, and in verse 22 David answered:

"While the child was still alive I fasted and wept, I thought, 'Who knows? The Lord may be gracious and let the child live. But now that he is dead, why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I will go to him, but he will not return to me.'"

The VERSES THAT WE ARE CONSIDERING are 2 Samuel 12:24,25:

v. 24 Then David comforted his wife Bathsheba, and he went to her and lay with her. She gave birth to a son, and they named him Solomon. The Lord loved him;

v. 25 and because the Lord loved him, he sent word through Nathan the prophet to name him Jedidiah.

Isaiah 55:7 comes to mind (King James Version)

Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the Lord, and He will have mercy on him, and to our God, for He will freely pardon.

The Bible Knowledge Commentary says:

Eventually another son was born to David and Bathsheba, one who bore a double name. Called Solomon ("peace") by them, the Lord . . . through Nathan named him Jedidiah ("loved by the Lord").

p. 468

Voss observes:

A postscript to this judgment scene is a note about the second pregnancy of Bathsheba and her comforting by a replacement for the son she had lost. The child was named Solomon, meaning "peaceable" or "a man of peace."

That was not the end of the matter, however. Nathan came apparently on Yahweh's instructions, to name the child Jedediah (meaning "beloved of Yahweh") because "Yahweh loved him" (12:25 JB). When one considers all that has gone before, it is a remarkable act of divine grace that God should show such favor to Solomon and that in His sovereignty He should choose him as the next king of Israel. But then, why did God choose Jacob instead of Esau or David as the youngest of the family? His sovereign ways often are beyond human comprehension.

p.103

Lange, in his commentary says:

When we have allowed the Lord's chastening to promote our welfare and peace, and are holding still before the Lord, even if we see around us nothing but suffering and trouble, then the Lord takes us up again and blesses us and gives us twofold for all the hardness we have had to endure. The Lord blesses much more willingly than He chastens, His fatherly hands had much rather open in beneficence than in affliction.
p. 479

Patrick & Loweth says:

Such is the wonderful goodness of God to truly penitent sinners, who testify the sincerity of their repentance by humble submission to whatsoever punishments God thinks fit to inflict upon them (as David did to the death of the former child), and thereby incline the Divine goodness to show further mercy to them.
p. 238

Having experienced forgiveness, life must go on. All the tears and mourning are not going to change things.

With the birth of their son,

they "NAMED HIM SOLOMON", which means "peaceful",

"AND BECAUSE THE LORD LOVED HIM, HE SENT WORD THROUGH NATHAN THE PROPHET TO NAME HIM JEDIDIAH"

which means "the delight of Jehovah", "the beloved of Jehovah". The proud grandfather probably called him "JED" for short.

Theodore Epp says:

Surely this is an indication of God's complete forgiveness of David and a fresh evidence of God's mercy. On the one hand, we see the severity of God, and on the other we see his grace, since the lesson he taught his child has been learned.
(source unknown)

Mackintosh says:

Yet what grace shines out in this, as in every scene of David's remarkable career. Bathsheba becomes the mother of Solomon, who occupied the throne of Israel in its most glorious period, and who also stands in that privileged line through which, according to the flesh, Christ came. This is truly divine. It is altogether worthy of God. The darkest scene in David's life becomes under the hand of God the means of richest blessings. Divine grace is reflected on a dark background.
(source unknown)

In order for us to get a little bit of a feel about the family that SOLOMON has been born, we need to go back and LOOK AT THE RECORD of David's life.

We read in 1 Chronicles 3, beginning in verse 1:

These were the sons of David born to him in Hebron:

The firstborn was AMNON the son of Ahinoam of Jezreel;

the second, DANIEL the son of Abigail of Carmel;

the third, ABSALOM the son of Maacah daughter of Talmai king of Geshur;

the fourth, ADONIJAH the son of Haggith;

the fifth, SHEPHATIAH the son of Abital;

and the sixth, ITHREAM by his wife Eglah.

These SIX were born to David in Hebron, where he reigned seven years and six months.

David reigned in Jerusalem thirty-three years, and these were the children born to him there:

SHAMMUA, SHOBAB, NATHAN and SOLOMON. These FOUR were by Bathsheba daughter of Ammiel. There were also IBHAR, ELISHUA, ELPELET, NOGAH, NEPHEG, JAPHIA, ELISHAMA, ELIADA and ELIPHET—nine in all. All these were the SONS OF DAVID, besides his sons by his concubines. And TAMAR was their sister.

Tamar was born to Maacah the daughter of Talmai king of Geshur.

WHAT AN INCREDIBLE SET OF CIRCUMSTANCES FOR YOUNG SOLOMON TO BE BORN INTO!

First of all, DAVID HAS "SIX SONS" of six wives.

Then HE HAS "FOUR" sons by "BATHSHEBA".

and then "NINE MORE SONS" of unspecified wives,

and he has "SONS BY CONCUBINES."

We know ten of these concubines he left behind that were left behind that were defiled by Absalom in his uprising.

I HAVE A PERSONAL FEELING that Solomon became the man that he became, not so much because of David and Bathsheba, but because of his relationship to Nathan the prophet.

Let us turn our attention to the

REMAINING TWO PASSAGES IN OUR STUDY IN 1 Chronicles.

We will look FIRST at 1CHRONICLES 22:2-19.

TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

We have moved ahead in our story some fifteen to twenty years. David is at the end of his reign and his life. His son, Solomon is in his late teens or early twenties at the most.

1 Chronicles 22

v. 2 So David gave orders to assemble the aliens living in Israel, and from among them he appointed stonecutters to prepare dressed stone for building the house of God.

Selman observes:

From now until the end of Chronicles' account of David, everything will be directly concerned with the temple. The context also shifts from David alone to David and Solomon, since the building of the temple is really a joint project.

p. 210

Delitzsch says:

Of these preparations our chapter treats, and in it we have an account how David provided the necessary labour and materials for the building of the temple (vers.2-5), committed the execution of the work in a solemn way to his son Solomon (vers.6-16), and called upon the chiefs of the people to give him their support in the work (vers.17-19).

p. 243

David in his old age is still functioning very effectively. We see this in the verbs:

"SO DAVID GAVE ORDERS",

"HE APPOINTED",

"HE PROVIDED".

(As Iron Sharpens Iron by Howard & William Hendricks)

I'm afraid a similar thing is happening today. Statistically speaking, men are living longer than ever--an average of about 78 years for white males. But for many, while their days are lengthened, their influence is not. Instead of going out in a blaze of glory, they are dying "inch by inch playing silly little games," as one poet has so aptly described it. Is that the case for you? As you wrap up your life, are you frittering away day after day in the pursuit of silly little games? Or are you preparing your posterity to take over after you're gone?

p. 227

In this way, some of us are robbing our children's future. In fact, when I look around at the men approaching their senior years today, I have to confess that I see a lot more Hezekiahs than I do Calebs. There are a lot more guys opting for comfort and ease than there are helping the next generation conquer new territory. I say that to our shame; I wish it were otherwise.

When men get old, they start to think about what they will leave behind, and to whom they will give it. They make out a will and designate the beneficiaries. Who will get their money? What will happen to their houses? Who will inherit their personal property--their books, their collections, their tools, their trophies? If they've had a business, who will take it over? Men hire lawyers and spend countless hours putting their affairs in order.

p. 228

1 Chronicles 22

v. 3 He provided a large amount of iron to make nails for the doors of the gateways and for the fittings, and more bronze than could be weighed.

v. 4 He also provided more cedar logs than could be counted, for the Sidonians and Tyrians had brought large numbers of them to David.

What an inspirational and exhilarating scene we have here:

Of David filled with a flurry of activity, putting together a project that he will not see through to fruition, but he will clear the decks, and get everything ready for his son, Solomon.

YOU SEE DAVID IN THESE CLOSING SCENES of his life he is not only,

MAKING THE PROVISIONS FOR THE BUILDING ITSELF, but
also,

ORGANIZING THE PEOPLE,

LAYING OUT THE PLANS and

GIVING THE PROGRAM OF IMPLEMENTATION.

v. 5 David said, "My son Solomon is young and inexperienced and the house to be built for the Lord should be of great magnificence and fame and splendor in the sight of all the nations. Therefore I will make preparations for it." So David made extensive preparations before his death.

David throughout the remainder of these passages refers over and over again to Solomon as "MY SON"

In my mind it takes me back to that sad, sad time in David's life, when Absalom has been killed on the field of battle, and we read in

2 Samuel 18:33

The king was shaken. He went up to the room over the gateway and wept. As he went he said "O, my son, Absalom! My son, my son, Absalom! If only I had died instead of you—O Absalom, my son, my son!"

David REMINDS the leaders that:

"HIS SON SOLOMON IS YOUNG AND INEXPERIENCED" and

"THE HOUSE TO BE BUILT FOR THE LORD SHOULD BE"

CHARACTERIZED IN THREE WAYS:

- "A HOUSE OF GREAT MAGNIFICENCE,"
- "A HOUSE OF FAME," and
- "A HOUSE OF SPLENDOR."

Delitzsch says:

Solomon could not then be quite twenty years old, as he was born only after the Syro-Ammonite war.
p. 244

Lockyer says much the same thing:

When he succeeded his father he was “young and tender,” perhaps about 20 years of age, and reigned for 40 years.
p. 111

DAVID SAYS at the CONCLUSION of verse 5:

"THEREFORE, I WILL MAKE PREPARATIONS FOR IT. SO DAVID MADE EXTENSIVE PREPARATIONS BEFORE HIS DEATH."

What an example of a person who lives life FULL TO THE FINISH. He is still making investments that will outlive him. He is FACILITATING THE FUTURE.

Parker says:

If we cannot do all, we will do nothing; if we cannot build, we will not prepare; if we cannot have the honour of putting up the temple, we certainly will not assist any other man to erect it—This would have been peevishness, selfishness, the veriest meanness of soul. David, on the other hand, consented to the Lord's arrangement, and did all that lay in his power to facilitate the progress of his son.—We should work up to the very moment of our death.—Our last breath should, if possible, help some other man to pray better, or work more, or suffer with a firmer constancy.
p. 146

Spurgeon says:

I revere the man who, in his old age, when there is weight in every syllable that he utters, concludes his life by urging others to carry on the work of Christ. It is something to gather about your last bed young men who have years of usefulness before them, and to lay upon their conscience and their heart the duty of preaching Christ crucified, and winning the souls of men for the Lord.

p. 34

1 Chronicles 22

v.6 Then he called for his son Solomon and charged him to build a house for the Lord, the God of Israel.

After all of the preparations had been made,

"HE THEN CALLED FOR HIS SON SOLOMON AND CHARGED HIM TO BUILD A HOUSE FOR THE LORD, THE GOD OF ISRAEL."

- HE "CALLED" HIM, and
- HE "CHARGED" HIM.

I am reminded of another elder statesman who is fighting his last fight and finishing his course and is charging his young understudy:

2 Timothy 4:1,2

I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.

(Time-Out Leadership by Donald Luce)

Greatness comes wrapped in passion, in dreams, and in the unabashed willingness to do anything that needs to be done to reach your vision.
p. 186

1 Chronicles 22

v. 7 David said to Solomon: "My son, I had it in my heart to build a house for the Name of the Lord my God."

Proverbs 19:21

Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails.

Proverbs 16:9

In his heart a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps.

This reminds me of a little poetic piece that someone sent to me the other day:

I've Dreamed Many Dreams

I've dreamed many dreams that never came true
I've seen them vanish at dawn—
But I've realized enough of my dreams, thank God,
To make me want to dream on.

I've prayed many prayers when no answer came
When my hopes and my faith were almost gone—
But answers have come to enough of my prayers
To make me keep praying on.

I've trusted many a friend that failed
And left me to weep alone—
But I've found enough of my friends true-blue
To make me keep trusting on.

I've sown many seeds that fell by the way
For the birds to feed upon—
But I've held enough golden sheaves in my hand
To make me keep sowing on.

I've drained a cup of disappointment and pain,
I've gone many days without a song—
But I've sipped enough nectar from the roses of life
To make me want to live on.

—author unknown

(typed from transcription tape)

(The Complete Book of Zingers by Croft M. Pentz)

You will shrink or expand to the size of your vision.
p. 28

(The Top Ten Mistakes Leaders Make by Hans Finzel)

While I was jogging recently in Wheaton, I could not help but stop in front of a house that had a square marble stone with a brass marker in its front yard. It caught my eye as unusual--a stone marker in a front yard? The house looked a bit eccentric--not your run-of-the-mill suburban home. On the marker were these words: On This Spot in 1897 Nothing Happened. I ran off feeling foolish for being taken for a ride. It would not surprise me if someone was watching from a window to see how I reacted.

As I jogged on, the truth of that marker hit me. My greatest fear for the future of the organization I lead is that it would be said, "after their 50th anniversary--nothing happened."

p. 187

(Future Grace by John Piper)

A YEARLY REHEARSAL FOR DYING

For me, the end of a year is like the end of my life. The last hours of New Year's Eve are like the ticking away of the final minutes of my time on earth. The 365 days leading to the year's end are like a miniature lifetime. It's like a rehearsal for the real thing. I imagine meeting Christ on New Year's morning, and I ask, "Will he look back over this year's life and say, 'Well done, good and faithful servant'?"

It's a great advantage to have a trial run at my own dying every year. If you come to the end of the rehearsal and find that the year wasn't lived well, you usually have another go at it, with a brand new beginning the next morning. The great thing about rehearsals is that they show you where your weaknesses are. They leave time for you to improve before the opening night.

p. 311

1 Chronicles 22

v. 8 But this word of the Lord came to me: 'You have shed much blood and have fought many wars. You are not to build a house for my Name, because you have shed much blood on the earth in my sight.'

The LORD, in essence, SAYS THROUGH NATHAN the prophet back in 2 Samuel 7:5 (paraphrased), "You wanted to build a house for Me, but I will build a house for you." In v. 16, "Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before Me; your throne will be established forever."

WHEN GOD SAYS "NO", IT ALWAYS OBLIGATES HIM TO A BETTER PLAN.

1 Chronicles 22

v. 9 But you will have a son who will be a man of peace and rest and I will give him rest from all his enemies on every side. His name will be Solomon, and I will grant Israel peace and quiet during his reign.

David, "YOUR SON WILL BE A MAN" characterized in TWO WAYS:

"HE WILL BE A MAN OF PEACE" and,

"A MAN OF REST."

THIS REMINDS ME OF THE LORD, JESUS CHRIST.

Matthew 11:28-30

"Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart; and you shall find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my load is light."

NOT ONLY will he be

"A MAN OF PEACE AND REST", but

"I AM GOING TO GIVE HIM REST FROM ALL OF HIS ENEMIES ON EVERY SIDE," and

"HIS NAME WILL BE SOLOMON, AND I WILL GRANT ISRAEL PEACE AND QUIET DURING HIS REIGN."

Isaiah 32:17 (King James Version)

And the work of righteousness shall be peace; the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance forever.

The Lord certainly is the one who gives it.

1 Kings 8:56

"Praise be to the Lord, who has given rest to His people Israel just as He promised. Not one word has failed of all the good promises He gave through His servant, Moses."

1 Chronicles 22

v.10 He is the one who will build a house for My Name. He will be My son, and I will be his Father. And I will establish the throne of his kingdom over Israel forever.

THE LORD JESUS IS THE FINAL FULFILLMENT OF THIS.

v. 11 "Now my son, the Lord be with you and may you have success and build the house of the Lord your God, as He said you would."

David says THREE THINGS here to Solomon:

1. "THE LORD BE WITH YOU."
2. "MAY YOU HAVE SUCCESS."
3. "BUILD THE HOUSE OF THE LORD YOUR GOD,
AS HE SAID YOU WOULD."

With all of these preparations that David has taken care of I am reminded of:

John 4:38

"I sent you to reap that which you haven't labored. Others have labored and you have entered into their labor."

(Intense Moments With the Savior: Learning to Feel by Ken Gire)

Give me such a oneness with the Father that his dreams would be my dreams. That his will would be my will. That his words would be my words. And that the driving ambition in my life would be to please him.
p. 33

v. 12 May the Lord give you discretion and understanding when he puts you in command over Israel, so that you may keep the law of the Lord your God.

DAVID'S PRAYER for his son in verse 11 is "May you have success"

AND NOW his prayer for his son in verse 12 is TWOFOLD:

"MAY THE LORD GIVE YOU DISCRETION AND UNDERSTANDING"

"WHEN HE PUTS YOU IN COMMAND OVER ISRAEL."

Psalm 75:6,7

No one from the east or the west or from the desert can exalt a man.
But it is God who judges: He brings one down, He exalts another.

The REASON David prays is:

"THAT THE LORD WILL GIVE HIM DISCRETION AND UNDERSTANDING":

ALSO,

"SO THAT YOU MAY KEEP THE LAW OF THE LORD YOUR GOD."

1Chronicles 22

v. 13 Then you will have success if you are careful to observe the decrees and laws that the Lord gave Moses for Israel. Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or discouraged.

In verse 11 he is praying "May you have success", and in verse 13 he says

"THEN YOU WILL HAVE SUCCESS IF YOU ARE CAREFUL TO
OBSERVE THE DECREES AND LAWS THAT THE LORD GAVE
MOSES FOR ISRAEL."

David is passing the PASSION OF HIS HEART on to his son.

There are FOUR THINGS he says to Solomon in this next charge,
TWO POSITIVE, and TWO NEGATIVE.

TWO POSITIVE:

"BE STRONG"

"BE COURAGEOUS"

TWO NEGATIVE:

"DO NOT BE AFRAID"

"DO NOT BE DISCOURAGED."

Sounds so much like when the Lord speaks to Joshua, in

Joshua 1:9 (King James Version)

"Have I not commanded you to be strong and courageous, do not be
terrified, do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you
wherever you go."

DON'T BE A WISHY WASHY WIMP.

GET UP TO THE PLATE AND TAKE YOUR SWINGS!

Parker says:

We have read that Solomon was young and tender, young and timid; it would seem as if David, recognising the timidity of his son, specially charged him to cultivate courage, bravery, fearlessness. This was training up a child in the way he should go. We are too fond of training our strongest faculties, and thus we are tempted to neglect the weaker side of our nature. Find out the weak side of a child's character, and address yourselves assiduously to its cultivation. We should seek to fill the empty sac, not to overcrowd the full one.

p. 149

2 Timothy 1:6,7

And for this reason I remind you to kindle afresh the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline.

v. 14 "I have taken great pains to provide for the temple of the Lord a hundred thousand talents of gold, a million talents of silver, quantities of bronze and iron too great to be weighed, and wood and stone. And you may add to them."

Here David reminds Solomon of the **COST OF THE PROJECT**:

"I HAVE TAKEN GREAT PAINS TO PROVIDE FOR THE TEMPLE OF THE LORD"

Through the past number of weeks I have been taking great pains to fix the picture albums full of all of the family pictures we have taken over the years. it will be my one great contribution to the Christmas celebration of the Anderson clan. I know one thing—the kids will never appreciate fully the cost involved in such a provision.

The Bible Knowledge Commentary says:

The king had accumulated **100,000 talents of gold** (3,750 tons) and **1 million talents of silver** (37,500 tons)—together, 41,250 tons (or 82.5 million pounds) a staggering amount of weight and value!
p. 612

1 Chronicles 22

v. 15 You have many workmen: stonecutters, masons and carpenters, as well as men skilled in every kind of work.

Verse 14 says "This is the provision I've made."

NOW HERE ARE THE PEOPLE resources that you have for the project:

"YOU HAVE MANY WORKMEN". There are:

1. "STONECUTTERS,"
2. "MASONS,"
3. "CARPENTERS,"
4. "AS WELL AS MEN SKILLED IN EVERY KIND OF WORK."

v. 16 "in gold and silver, bronze and iron—craftsmen beyond number. Now begin the work, and the Lord be with you."

He CONCLUDES HIS REMARKS to his son, Solomon

with TWO STATEMENTS:

"BEGIN THE WORK" (Get busy, here is a worthy goal)

"AND THE LORD BE WITH YOU." (May the Lord be with you.)

Stop singing "Standing on the Promises" while you're sitting on the premises. Get with the program. GO FOR THE GOLD!!

v. 17 Then David ordered all the leaders of Israel to help his son Solomon.

David, the old war horse, is still functioning effectively.

Back in verse 2, "HE GAVE ORDERS" and "HE APPOINTED".

In verse 3, "HE PROVIDED".

NOW, in verse 17, HE:

"ORDERED ALL THE LEADERS OF ISRAEL
TO HELP HIS SON SOLOMON."

v. 18 He said to them, "Is not the Lord your God with you? And has He not granted you rest on every side? For He has handed the inhabitants of the land over to me, and the land is subject to the Lord and to His people."

Two QUESTIONS he asks of them:

QUESTION #1:

"IS NOT THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH YOU?" Yes.

QUESTION #2:

"HAS HE NOT GRANTED YOU REST ON EVERY SIDE?" Yes.

1 Chronicles 22

v. 19 "Now devote your heart and soul to seeking the Lord your God. Begin to build the sanctuary of the Lord God, so that you may bring the ark of the covenant of the Lord and the sacred articles belonging to God into the temple that will be built for the Name of the Lord."

DAVID IS SAYING:

"I HAVE DONE MY PART—NOW YOU DO YOUR PART."

What a PICTURE this is of OUR LORD AND SAVIOUR, JESUS CHRIST, who not only has made provision for our eternal salvation, but also for adequate strength and grace—fully equipped for the accomplishment of His will in our lives.

YES, THE LORD IS WITH YOU.

Exodus 33:14

The Lord replied, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."

Isaiah 41:10

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.

Isaiah 41:13

For I am the Lord, your God, who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you.

"NOW DEVOTE YOUR HEART AND SOUL TO SEEKING THE LORD YOUR GOD. BEGIN TO BUILD THE SANCTUARY OF THE LORD GOD, SO THAT YOU MAY BRING THE ARK OF THE COVENANT OF THE LORD AND THE SACRED ARTICLES BELONGING TO GOD INTO THE TEMPLE THAT WILL BE BUILT FOR THE NAME OF THE LORD."

"DEVOTE YOUR HEART AND SOUL"

"TO SEEKING", and

"TO BUILDING."

The Bible Knowledge Commentary says:

Seek the Lord, and also, to assist Solomon.
p. 612

LET US HASTEN ON NOW IN OUR STUDY TO THE

THIRD PASSAGE: 1 CHRONICLES 28: 1-21

These verses that we will be considering AT THE END OF STUDY 1,

I HAVE CALLED

DAVID'S FAREWELL ADDRESS

The Bible Knowledge Commentary says:

Now, with the end of his life imminent, he summoned all the leaders again to encourage them to recognize Solomon's leadership and to follow him in this magnificent enterprise.
p.616

1 Chronicles 28

v. 1 David summoned all the officials of Israel to assemble at Jerusalem: the officers over the tribes, the commanders of the divisions in the service of the king, the commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds, and the officials in charge of all the property and livestock belonging to the king and his sons, together with the palace officials, the mighty men and all the brave warriors.

WHAT A DISTINGUISHED CROWD: You've got the

HOUSE and the

SENATE,

all of the BRANCHES OF THE of the MILITARY,

all of the ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF and SUPPORT PERSONELL.

Spurgeon said:

The God who did very well without us before we were born, will do very well without us after we are dead. It is enough for us to do today's work in the day; let somebody else do tomorrow's work if we are not spared to do it.
p. 37

David recognizes that the FATHER is SOVEREIGN, and that HIS PROGRAM AND PURPOSE will go on without him in the days that are just ahead.

Delitzsch observes:

In order to give over the throne before his death to his son Solomon, and so secure to him the succession, and facilitate his accomplishment of the great work of his reign, the building of the temple, David summoned the estates of his kingdom, the court officials, and the heroes of the people in Jerusalem. In a solemn address he designated Solomon as his divinely chosen successor on the throne, and exhorted him to keep the commandments of God, to serve the Lord with devoted heart, and to build Him a house for a sanctuary (xxviii. 1-10). He then committed to Solomon the sketches and plans for the sacred buildings and sacred objects of various sorts, with the confident promise that he, by the help of God, and with the cooperation of the priests and of the people, would complete the work (vers. 11-21).
pp. 289-90

(Even Eagles Need a Push by David McNally)

Every morning I wake up saying, "I'm still alive--a miracle." And so I keep pushing.

--Jacques Cousteau

p. 166

(Over the Top by Zig Ziglar)

Bob Hope was recently asked why he did not retire and go fishing. His response was classic: "Fish don't applaud."

p. 237

(Over the Top by Zig Ziglar)

Douglas MacArthur said it magnificently well in his farewell address to the cadets at West Point:

Whatever your years there is in every being's heart the love of wonder, the undaunted challenge of events, and an unfailing childlike feel for "what next" on the job and in the game of life. You're as young as your faith, as old as your doubts; as young as your self-confidence, as old as your fear; as young as your hope, as old as your despair. In the central place of your heart, there is a recording chamber. So long as it receives messages of beauty, hope, cheer, and courage, so long are you young.

pp. 253-4

(God Isn't in a Hurry by Warren Wiersbe)

There is nothing stronger in any presentation than allowing your emotions, enthusiasm, and passion to carry the day.

p. 83

v. 2 King David rose to his feet and said: "Listen to me, my brothers and my people, I had it in my heart to build a house as a place of rest for the ark of the covenant of the Lord, for the footstool of our God, and I made plans to build it.

Back in verse 7 of Chronicles 22, David says something similar to his son Solomon when he said: "My son, I had it in my heart to build a house for the name of the Lord my God."

And HERE he says:

"I HAD IT IN MY HEART TO BUILD A HOUSE AS A PLACE OF REST FOR THE ARK OF THE COVENANT OF THE LORD"

Although David has been weakened by my age, he rises to his feet on this one final occasion to address his people.

J. Vernon McGee says:

Despite his age, he forces himself to stand as he delivers this important and final message to his people.

p. 400

(2nd Helping of Chicken Soup for the Soul, A: 101 More Stories to Open the Heart and Rekindle the Spirit by Jack Canfield & Mark Victor Hansen)

"Life is like riding a bicycle. You don't fall off unless you stop pedaling."

Claude Pepper, U.S. Congressman

p. 311

(God Isn't in a Hurry by Warren Wiersbe)

At a college reunion, thirty years after graduation, one man said to another, "See that fellow over there? He's gotten so bald and so fat, he didn't even recognize me!"

p. 190

Time-Out Leadership by Donald Luce)

"There are risks and costs to a program of action, but they are far less than the long-range risks and costs of comfortable inaction."

John F. Kennedy

p. 2

(Faith Under Fire: Standing Strong When Satan Attacks by Steven J. Lawson)

"Old men ought to be explorers," T. S. Eliot said. Getting older doesn't mean becoming obsolete. It can mean growing, maturing, serving, ministering, venturing, enjoying ourselves to the end of our days. "Have a blast while you last," as a friend of mine says.

p. 198

(Carpe Diem by Tony Campolo)

Fulfilling the four needs in an integrated way is like combining elements in chemistry. When we reach a "critical mass" of integration, we experience spontaneous combustion--an explosion of inner synergy that ignites the fire within and gives vision, passion, and a spirit of adventure to life.

The key to the fire within is our spiritual need to leave a legacy. It transforms other needs into capacities for contribution. Food, money, health, education, and love become resources to reach out and help fill the unmet needs of others.

pp. 48-49

(First Things First by Stephen R. Covey, A. Roger Merrill,
& Rebecca R. Merrill)

When we talk about "the passion of vision," we're talking about a deep, sustained energy that comes from a comprehensive, principle-based, need-based, endowment-based seeing that goes beyond chronos and even kairos. It deals with an aeon concept of time, from the Greek aion, meaning an age, a lifetime or more. It taps into the deep core of who we are and what we are about. It's fueled by the realization of the unique contribution we have the capacity to make--the legacy we can leave. It clarifies purpose, gives direction, and empowers us to perform beyond our resources.

We call it "passion" because this vision can become a motivating force so powerful it, in effect, becomes the DNA of our lives. It's so ingrained and integrated into every aspect of our being that it becomes the compelling impetus behind every decision we make. It's the fire within--the explosion of inner synergy that happens when critical mass is reached in integration of the four fundamental needs. It's the energy that makes life an adventure--the deep burning "yes!" that empowers us to say "no"--peacefully and confidently--to the less important things in our lives.

This passion can empower us to literally transcend fear, doubt, discouragement, and many other things that keep us from accomplishment and contribution.

p. 105

(First Things First by Stephen R. Covey, A. Roger Merrill,
& Rebecca R. Merrill)

Viktor Frankl said, "We don't invent our mission; we detect it. It's within us waiting to be realized."

Everyone has his own specific vocation or mission in life; everyone must carry out a concrete assignment that demands fulfillment. Therein he cannot be replaced, nor can his life be repeated. Thus, everyone's task is unique as his specific opportunity to implement it.

Nineteenth-century social reformer and writer William Ellery Channing had this to say:

"Every human being has a work to do, duties to perform, influence to exert, which are peculiarly his, and which no conscience but his own can teach."

p. 110

(The Complete Book of Zingers by Croft M. Pentz)

One of the saddest sights in life is the man who can only do nothing when he finds himself with nothing to do.

p. 176

(The Message: Psalms by Eugene H. Peterson)

Psalm 9

I'm thanking you, Yahweh, from a full heart,

I'm writing the book on your wonders.

I'm whistling, laughing, and jumping for joy;

I'm singing your song, High God.

p. 14

1Chronicles 28

v. 3 But God said to me, 'You are not to build a house for My Name, because you are a warrior and have shed blood.'

This is very similar to what He said to Solomon back in chapter 22:8.

v. 4 "Yet the Lord, the God of Israel, chose me from my whole family to be king over Israel forever. He chose Judah as leader, and from the house of Judah He chose my family, and from my father's sons He was pleased to make me king over all Israel."

Obviously the FOCUS in verse 4

IS ON THE WORD "CHOSE", and also; "HE WAS PLEASED."

Acts 9:15

But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of Mine, to bear My name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel;"

Romans 8:29,30

For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the first-born among many brethren; and whom He predestined, these He also called; and whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

1 Corinthians 1:27

but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong,

Ephesians 1:4

just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him in love

2 Thessalonians 2:13

But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth.

2 Timothy 2:4

No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier.

1 Peter 2:4

And coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected by men, but choice and precious in the sight of God,

1 Peter 2:9

But you are a CHOSEN RACE, a ROYAL PRIESTHOOD, a HOLY NATION, a PEOPLE for God's OWN POSSESSION, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

Revelations 17:14

"These will wage war against the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, because He is Lord of lords, and King of kings, and those who are with Him are the called and chosen and faithful."

John 15:16

You did not choose Me, but I chose you, and appointed you, that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain; that whatever you ask of the Father in My name, He may give to you.

(Stories for the Heart by Alice Gray)

CHOSEN

by Marie Curling

Whenever I'm disappointed with my lot in life, I stop and think about little Jamie Scott. Jamie was trying out for a part in his school play. His mother told me that he'd set his heart on being in it, though she feared he would not be chosen. On the day the parts were awarded, I went with her to collect him after school. Jamie rushed up to her, eyes shining with pride and excitement. "Guess what, Mum," he shouted, and then said those words that remain a lesson to me: "I've been chosen to clap and cheer."
p. 37

1 Chronicles 28

v. 5 Of all my sons—and the Lord has given me many—He has chosen my son Solomon to sit on the throne of the kingdom of the Lord over Israel.

ONE THING that David and Solomon HAVE IN COMMON is"

THE LORD HAS CHOSEN SOLOMON FROM ALL OF DAVID'S SONS

JUST LIKE DAVID WAS CHOSEN from all the sons of Jesse to be the one who would

"SIT ON THE THRONE OF THE KINGDOM OF THE LORD OVER ISRAEL."

1 Samuel 16:7

But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

1 Samuel 16:10

Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but Samuel said to him, "The Lord has not chosen these."

Finally, the eighth born child was the one who was tending the sheep. David was "CHOSEN" to be the king over Israel. And now the mantle is being passed on to one of his sons, Solomon.

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

v. 7 I will establish his kingdom forever if he is unswerving in carrying out my command and laws, as is being done at this time.

There is a **CONDITION** upon the **ESTABLISHMENT OF HIS KINGDOM FOREVER** in these words that were not included in the words to Solomon in our previous passage.

HERE the **CONDITION** is:

"IF HE IS UNSWERVING IN CARRYING OUT MY COMMANDS AND LAWS, AS IS BEING DONE AT THIS TIME."

v. 8 So now I charge you in the sight of all Israel and of the assembly of the Lord, and in the hearing of our God: Be careful to follow all the commands of the Lord your God, that you may possess this good land and pass it on as an inheritance to your descendants forever.

Back in the previous passage we read in 1 Chronicles 22:6:

"Then he called for his son Solomon and charged him to build a house for the Lord, the God of Israel."

Now speaking to this austere and distinguished group of leaders that represent every branch of the government, HE GIVES HIM THIS CHARGE:

"SO NOW I CHARGE YOU"

1. "IN THE SIGHT OF ALL ISRAEL,"
2. "OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE LORD,"
3. "AND IN THE HEARING OF OUR GOD:"

"BE CAREFUL TO FOLLOW ALL THE COMMANDS OF THE LORD YOUR GOD THAT YOU MAY POSSESS THIS GOOD LAND AND PASS IT ON AS AN INHERITANCE TO YOUR DESCENDANTS FOREVER."

"MY CHARGE TO YOU" AS A NATION IS TO:

BE CAREFUL TO BE OBEDIENT.

THE RESULT will be that

"YOU WILL POSSESS THIS GOOD LAND AND PASS IT ON AS AN INHERITANCE TO YOUR DESCENDANTS FOREVER."

That is THE PURPOSE for your obedience.

- v. 9 And you, my son Solomon, acknowledge the God of your father, and serve Him with the wholehearted devotion and with a willing mind, for the Lord searches every heart and understands every motive behind the thoughts. If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will reject you forever.

At this public occasion, he now turns once again to his son Solomon. He challenges him to

"ACKNOWLEDGE THE GOD OF YOUR FATHER,
AND SERVE HIM WITH"

"WHOLEHEARTED DEVOTION"

"AND WITH A WILLING MIND"

This "WHOLEHEARTED DEVOTION" is with an UNDIVIDED DEVOTION.

Matthew 6:24

No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will hold to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and Mammon.

The KEY to EFFECTIVE SERVANTHOOD is to

"SERVE HIM WITH WHOLEHEARTED DEVOTION AND WITH A WILLING MIND."

Colossians 3:23

Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men;

The REASON for this command is given in the next phrase:

"FOR THE LORD SEARCHES EVERY HEART AND UNDERSTANDS EVERY MOTIVE BEHIND THE THOUGHTS."

Yes, "HE SEARCHES EVERY HEART, AND HE UNDERSTANDS EVERY MOTIVE BEHIND THE THOUGHTS."

Delitzsch says:

To strengthen this exhortation, David reminds him of the omniscience of God. Jahve seeks, i.e. searches, all hearts and knows all the imagination of the thoughts.

pp. 291-92

2 Corinthians 4:2

but we have renounced the things hidden because of shame, not walking in craftiness or adulterating the word of God, but by the manifestation of truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.

Hebrews 4:13

And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.

Behavior that is observed always improves. This is why it is so important to have someone to whom you are ACCOUNTABLE.

ACCOUNTABLE for your SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES, of

BIBLE STUDY,

PRAYER, and

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION.

ACCOUNTABLE for your PHYSICAL DISCIPLINES of

DIET,

WEIGHT LOSS,

EXERCISE,

TIME MANAGEMENT.

ACCOUNTABLE for your PROFESSIONAL GOALS, and what you are trying to ACCOMPLISH in your life.

ACCOUNTABLE for your MARRIAGE and YOUR FAMILY.

ALL OF THESE THINGS WILL PREPARE YOU ultimately FOR THAT TIME WHEN YOU WILL STAND AS A BELIEVER AT THE JUDGEMENT SEAT OF CHRIST, TO BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE for your life since you've become a believer.

Psalm 19:14

May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.

"IF YOU SEEK HIM, HE WILL BE FOUND BY YOU: BUT IF YOU FORSAKE HIM, HE WILL FORSAKE YOU FOREVER."

Jeremiah 29:11-13

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart."

v. 10 Consider now, for the Lord has chosen you to build a temple as a sanctuary. Be strong and do the work.

The CHARGE of David to the nation is to "BE CAREFUL", and the CHARGE to Solomon is to

"CONSIDER NOW",

and the REASON:

"THE LORD HAS CHOSEN YOU TO BUILD A TEMPLE AS A SANCTUARY."

He says TWO THINGS:

1. "BE STRONG" and,
2. "DO THE WORK."

Back in verse 13 of 1 Chronicles 22, he said: "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or discouraged."

He said also in verse 16: "Begin the work and the Lord be with you."

v. 11 Then David gave his son Solomon the plans for the portico of the temple, its buildings, its storerooms, its upper parts, its inner rooms and the place of atonement.

This is a STRATEGIC part of the ceremony. David now PASSES INTO THE HANDS of his son, Solomon, the

SITE PLANS, the

BLUEPRINTS, the

ARCHITECT DRAWINGS, the

BUILDING PLANS FOR THE TEMPLE.

"THE PLACE OF ATONEMENT" is a reference to the HOLY OF HOLIES.

v. 12 He gave him the plans of all that the Spirit had put in his mind for the courts of the temple of the Lord and all the surrounding rooms, for the treasuries of the temple of God and for the treasuries for the dedicated things.

Just as the Lord had given to Moses on Mt. Sinai the plans for the tabernacle, now, David acknowledges "THAT THE SPIRIT HAD PUT IN HIS MIND" these plans for the temple.

1 Chronicles 28

v. 13 He gave him instructions for the divisions of the priests and Levites and for all the work of serving in the temple of the Lord, as well as for all the articles to be used in its service.

David has COVERED ALL THE BASES. He has MADE THE PROVISIONS for the building, he has PROVIDED THE SKILLED PEOPLE, now he GIVES HIM THE PLANS FOR THE TEMPLE itself, FOLLOWED BY THE PROGRAM of the priesthood as they function in the temple.

The PROVISIONS,

the PEOPLE,

the PLANS,

the PROGRAM,

ARE ALL PREPARED for Solomon to carry out during his reign.

1 Chronicles 28

v. 14 He designated the weight of gold for all the gold articles to be used in various kinds of service, and the weight of silver for all the silver articles to be used in various kinds of service:

v. 15 the weight of gold for the gold lampstands and their lamps, with the weight for each lampstand and its lamps; and the weight of silver for each silver lampstand and its lamps, according to the use of each lampstand;

v. 16 the weight of gold for each table for consecrated bread; the weight of silver for the silver tables;

v. 17 the weight of pure gold for the forks, sprinkling bowls and pitchers; the weight of gold for each gold dish; the weight of silver for each silver dish;

v. 18 and the weight of the refined gold for the altar of incense. He also gave him the plan for the chariot, that is the cherubim of gold that spread their wings and shelter the ark of the covenant of the Lord.

v. 19 "All this," David said, "I have in writing from the hand of the Lord upon me, and he gave me understanding in all the details of the plan."

Back in verse 12, he acknowledged the fact that the PLANS had been the WORK of the SPIRIT who had put these PLANS in his mind.

And now, he is saying here in verse 19 again that:

"THE HAND OF THE LORD WAS UPON HIM, AND GAVE HIM UNDERSTANDING IN ALL THE DETAILS OF THE PLAN."

2 Peter 1:21

for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will , but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

2 Timothy 3:16,17

All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

Spurgeon says:

Perhaps you have never had anything written on your heart, my dear hearer. Then, lay your heart before the Lord tonight with this simple prayer, "Lord, write on it!" And if He writes on it that one word "Jesus," it will be all that you can want. God bless you, every one, for Jesus Christ's sake! Amen.

p. 49

(Acts of Love: The Power of Encouragement by David Jeremiah)

In Charles Colson's book, Loving God, he tells the story of an incredible ninety-one-year-old woman, known affectionately as Grandma Howell. If anyone ever lived out the power of written encouragement, it was Myrtle Howell.

As she moved into the twilight of her life, she had more than one reason to let depression take over--to just give up and die. Her youngest son had died. Her oldest son was in declining health. Many of her friends were dying and she had begun to believe she had nothing left to live for. One day she prayed with all of her heart and told the Lord that if He didn't have anything more for her to do, she was ready to die.

According to Grandma Howell, God spoke to her in three words: Write to prisoners. After arguing with the Lord about her lack of education and her age, Myrtle wrote her first letter:

Dear Inmate,

I am a grandmother who loves and cares for you who is in a place you had not plans to be.

My love and sympathy goes out to you. I am willing to be a friend to you in correspondence. If you'd like to hear from me, write me. I will answer every letter you write.

A Christian Friend,
Grandmother Howell

When the letter was sent to the Atlanta Penitentiary, the prison chaplain sent Myrtle the names of eight prison inmates. That was the beginning of an unbelievable ministry of encouragement. Over the next months, this elderly woman carried on an extensive written ministry with hundreds of incarcerated men and women--and all of it was done from her little room in a high-rise home for the aged in Columbus, Georgia.

According to Colson, writing to the prisoners was only half of Myrtle's joy. They wrote back! And their letters were warm, rich epistles of gratitude. One inmate who signed her name "Grandmother Janice" wrote:

Dear Grandmother,

I received your letter and it made me sad when you wrote that you think you may not be alive much longer. I thought that I would wait and come to see you and then tell you all you have meant to me. But now I've changed my mind. I'm going to tell you now.

You've given me all the love and concern and care that I've missed for years and my whole outlook on life has changed. You've made me realize that life is worth living and that it's not all bad. You claim it's all God's doing, but I think you deserve the credit.

I didn't think I was capable of feeling love for anyone again, but I know I love you as my very own precious grandmother.

As I read this story, it made a deep impression on my heart. No one is ever too old to perform acts of love. Just think what would happen to the many hurting people of this world if Grandma Howell's example was emulated. And just imaging what would happen to the "Grandma Howell's" of the world. According to Myrtle, "Writing to inmates has filled my last days with joy. . . . These last years have been the most fulfilling of my whole life." pp. 159-61

v. 20 David also said to Solomon his son, "Be strong and courageous, and do the work. Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord God, my God, is with you. He will not fail you or forsake you until all the work for the service of the temple of the Lord is finished."

Back in verse 10, David said, "Be strong and do the work."

Back in verse 13 of chapter 22, he said, "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or discouraged."

HERE, in essence, he says all of this together

in these FIVE ADMONITIONS:

1. "BE STRONG,"
2. "BE COURAGEOUS,"
3. "DO THE WORK,"
4. "DO NOT BE AFRAID,"
5. "DO NOT BE DISCOURAGED."

AND THEN he gives the REASON:

"FOR THE LORD GOD, MY GOD , IS WITH YOU."

And then he TELLS WHY he does not have to worry: because his God

"WILL NOT FAIL YOU OR FORSAKE YOU UNTIL THE WORK FOR THE SERVICE OF THE TEMPLE OF THE LORD IS FINISHED."

His PRESENCE IS THERE to guide and sustain you.

Deuteronomy 31:8

The Lord Himself goes before you and will be with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.

Hebrews 13:5,6 (King James Version)

Let your way of life be free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, "I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you," so that we confidently say, "The Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid. What shall man do to me?"

Delitzsch has said:

In conclusion, David encourages his son to go forward to the work with good courage, for his God would not forsake him; and the priests and Levites, cunning workmen, and the princes, together with the whole people, would willingly support him.

p. 296

Selman calls the last couple of verses:

A public equivalent of the earlier private commissioning of Solomon. The same basic features recur, (a) encouragement (Be strong and courageous, . . . Do not be afraid or discouraged); (b) assurance of God's help (for the Lord God, my God is with you; He will not fail you or forsake you, and (c) instruction to carry out the task (*Do the work. . . until all the work for the service of the temple of the Lord is finished*). Several of these phrases are closely associated with Moses' hand over to Joshua, showing that God's assistance had not diminished from earlier days.

p. 254

(Be Myself: Memoirs of a Bridgebuilder by Warren W. Wiersbe)

Then I remembered the godly British preacher F.B. Meyer who, in the latter years of his busy life, said to a friend, "I do hope my Father will let the river of my life go flowing fully till the finish. I don't want it to end in a swamp."*

*W.Y. Fullerton, *F.B. Meyer: A Biography* (London: Marshall, Morgan and Scott, n.d.), 169.

p. 323

(Oswald Chambers: Abandoned to God by David McCasland)

Now his valued counselor, mentor, and friend had received the greatest call from God. As the train sped through the night, Oswald jotted a single verse in his diary:

I war alone, I shall not see his face
 But I shall strive more gladly in the sun,
 More bravely in the shadow for this grace,
 He fought his fight and won.

p. 161

1 Chronicles 28

v. 21 The divisions of the priests and Levites are ready for all the work on the temple of God, and every willing man skilled in any craft will help you in all the work. The officials and all the people will obey your every command.

SOLOMON, EVERYTHING IS READY AND ALL THE PEOPLE ARE WILLING.

You have the

PROVISIONS, the

PEOPLE, the

PLANS, the

PROGRAM, now ,

Get with it and BUILD THE TEMPLE!

(The Aladdin Factor by Jack Canfield and Mark Victor Hansen)

Dreaming about a thing in order to do it properly is right; but dreaming about it when we should be doing it is wrong.

--Oswald Chambers

p. 263

(God Isn't in a Hurry by Warren Wiersbe)

It's the job that's never started
that takes longest to finish.

J.R.R. Tolkien

p. 196

CONCLUSION:

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: We see a marvelous manifestation of God's grace in the birth of Solomon.

LESSON #2: David is much involved in taking care of business right up to the hour of his death.

LESSON #3: It is our responsibility, along with David, to make extensive preparations before our death.

LESSON #4: What do you have in your heart that you would like to do for the Lord?

LESSON #5: David's prayer for Solomon is that "the Lord will give him discretion and understanding."

LESSON #6: David tells his son Solomon to "Be strong and courageous, do not be afraid or discouraged."

LESSON #7: The Lord has chosen you for some purpose. Have you discovered that, and are you cooperating with that purpose at this time?

LESSON #8: David challenges Solomon to "Serve the Lord with wholehearted devotion and a willing mind."

LESSON #9: "The Lord searches every heart and understands every motive behind the thoughts."

LESSON #10: "If you seek the Lord, He will be found by you."

LESSON #11: "Be strong and courageous and do the work. Do not be afraid or discouraged; for the Lord God, my God is with you, He will not fail you or forsake you."

Matthew 12:42

The Queen of the South shall rise up with this generation at the Judgment and shall condemn it; because she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon and behold, something greater than Solomon is here.

That SOMETHING GREATER is SOMEONE, and THAT SOMEONE is the Lord Jesus Christ referring to himself. Yes, ONE GREATER than Solomon and his glory, is the KING OF KINGS AND THE LORD OF LORDS.

Romans 8:18

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

Alexander Wyte says:

There is one fatal want in them all. There is no repentance anywhere in Solomon. There is no paschal lamb, or young pigeon, or bitter herb among all the beasts, and birds, and hyssop-plants of which Solomon spoke and sang so much. There is no day of anointment, or so much as one of the many ordained sacrifices for sin, in any of Solomon's real or imputed writings.
p. 284

No; there is no real repentance, real or assumed, anywhere in Solomon. There is remorse, in plenty, and weariness of life, and discontent, and disgust, and self-contempt, bitterer to drink than blood. There is plenty of the sorrow that worketh death; but there is not one syllable of the repentance to salvation not to be repented of.
p. 284

(The Pleasures of God by John Piper)

David Brainerd was sustained by this confidence to his death. Seven days before he died he gave expression to the kind of affections this chapter of The Pleasures of God is meant to kindle. These are the last words he had the strength to write with his own hand:

Friday, October 2. My soul was this day, at turns, sweetly set on God: I longed to be "with him" that I might "behold his glory;" I felt sweetly disposed to commit all to him, even my dearest friends, my dearest flock, and my absent brother, and all my concerns for time and eternity. Oh, that his kingdom might come in the world; and they might all love and glorify him for what he is in himself; and that the blessed Redeemer might "see of the travail of his soul, and be satisfied." Oh, "come, Lord Jesus, come quickly! Amen."

p. 118

(Amazing Grace: 366 Inspiring Hymn Stories for Daily Devotions
by Kenneth W. Osbeck)

"O Jesus, I Have Promised" was written by an English clergyman on such a special day. It was penned especially for a confirmation service in which John Bode's own daughter and two sons were to make their life's vows of commitment to God and His service. He told his three children: "I have written a hymn containing all the important truths I want you to remember when you are fully confirmed."

Without doubt, the three children of John Bode never forgot that confirmation service and their father's concern for them as they sang these words throughout their lives:

O Jesus, I have promised to serve Thee to the end; be Thou forever near me, my Master and my Friend: I shall not fear the battle if Thou art by my side, nor wander from the pathway if Thou wilt be my guide.

O let me feel Thee near me--the world is ever near; I see the sights that dazzle, the tempting sounds I hear: My foes are ever near me, around me and within; but Jesus, draw Thou nearer, and shield my soul from sin.

O Jesus, Thou hast promised to all who follow Thee, that where Thou art in glory, there shall Thy servant be; and, Jesus, I have promised to serve Thee to the end; O give me grace to follow, my Master and my Friend.

p. 11

(Walking With Saints: Through the Best and Worst Times of Our Lives by Calvin Miller)

Jon Mohr wrote a verse whose words speak of the necessity of making our lives a "sacrament of the present moment":

Oh may all who come behind us find us faithful
May the fires of our devotion light the way
May the footprints that we leave
Lead them to believe
And the lives we lead inspire them to obey.⁸

8. John Mohr, "Find Us Faithful" (Birdwing Music/Jonathan Mark Music, 1987. Administered by The Sparrow Corporation).

p. 192