

STUDIES IN THE LIFE OF SOLOMON

**STUDY NUMBER ONE – 2 Samuel 12:24-25,
1 Chronicles 22:2-19, and 1 Chronicles 28:1-21**

You know the sad thing about many of the Biblical characters is that they start out like a house on fire but not very many of them finish.

And the sad, sad tale is that the Scriptures are strewn with the wreckage and the corpses of individuals who failed to finish.

I just came across this quote recently:

***“You can tell the caliber of a man
by how much opposition it takes to get him down.”***

There are some great people in Scripture who do finish but there are also a lot of them that do not.

**The Apostle Paul is an exception.
He started the race and he describes life as a race.
Philippians 3:14 (King James Version)**

**I press toward the mark for the prize
of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.**

2 Timothy 4:7

**I have fought the good fight, I have finished the
course, I have kept the faith.**

**Now if I ask every one of you sitting here today, do you
really want to finish?**

**You would say yes I want to hear,
“Well done, thou good and faithful servant.**

We all have that in common.

**We don't plan to fail.
Too many times we just fail to plan.**

**Here's a couple of questions to set the stage,
for today's study.**

- 1. Question #1: What does it take to finish?**
- 2. Question #2: Why do so many people fail to finish?**

Dr. Vernon Grounds a very distinguished professor at a Bible College was giving a class on the “Spiritual and Emotional Health of the Minister.”

On the first day, there were about 25 or 30 students in the class.

He walks in with this boxful of books.

And then he just dumps them out on the conference table.

He said, “Gentlemen, pick up a book on the way out, read it, and on Friday you’re going to give a report, on what you’ve read.”

Friday came and all those books had one thing in common, they were the stories of stars in the Christian community who failed to finish, they all had that, in common.

It was amazing hearing all those reports of some of the heroes of the Christian Faith.

- Sex,
- Success,
- Greed,
- Their marriage fell apart,
- Their family fell apart,
- They fell into addictive behavior,
- Their emotional burnout,
- Interpersonal relationships.

Now I want to tell you one thing,

You can't blame God if you don't finish well,

Because God has provided all the resources necessary.

**The problem is with us, using the resources
he has provided for us.**

You might be thinking how do you know that?

2 Corinthians 12:9 (New King James Version):

**“My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is
made perfect in your weakness.”**

So everything you need is there to finish.

Chuck Swindoll wrote a devotional book called

The Finishing Touch.

In that devotional he wrote a little section on deterioration and it was on Solomon.

Listen to what he says:

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

[Solomon was]

**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. . . .**

And rich? He multiplied millions annually.

**And creative? He was an architect, songwriter,
artist, author, and investor of unparalleled ability.**

“Solomon . . . drove too fast and traveled too far. p.

Karl Menninger wrote the book

Whatever Happened to Sin?

He was a famous psychiatrist and he wrote these words:

(Active Spiritually by Charles R. Swindoll)

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. p. 144

He just gives up.

And that's James chapter 1. James says:

James 1:13-16 (paraphrased)

Do not, when you commit sin, blame God. A man alters his course and sin, when it is given birth, brings forth death.

It's almost the picture of fishing language. Altering the course to take the lure that leads to the destruction and the devastation.

Now I'm sharing all that with you because, that's the sad story, of Solomon.

In this series we are going to study Solomon's life from birth to the grave.

Now one of the things that I like to do is to put temperament traits on the character.

Tim LeHaye and Florence Littauer have led the way in the temperament studies.

Basically everybody says you have four different temperament traits.

- 1. You have a sanguine. Otter**
- 2. You have a choleric. Lion**
- 3. You have a melancholy. Golden Retriever**
- 4. And have a phlegmatic. Beaver**

Now if you took those four temperaments and you hung them on Biblical characters:

- **Peter would be a Sanguine – his mouth always comes through the door before his feet.**
- **Choleric is a guy who can make tough decisions, also a great administrator – the Apostle Paul.**
- **Melancholy – Moses, creative artist.**
- **Phlegmatic, a good administrator, very consistent, relaxed that's Abraham**

Usually, everybody is a blend of two temperaments, you have a dominant and a recessive.

For instance my wife and I have all four of them. And that's not unusual in a marriage because you tend to marry opposites. I'm a sanguine/choleric and my wife is melancholy/phlegmatic.

Much of what irritates the heck out of us,

**about others, is the fact that we don't understand their
bent, their temperament.**

**When you do, you get a lot more patient
and understanding.**

**Now, Solomon, what he is? He is a melancholy /
phlegmatic. They are.**

- **Analytical**
- **Gifted**
- **Self-disciplined**
- **Self-sacrificing**
- **Humorous, have a great sense of humor**
- **Practical**
- **Efficient**
- **Organized**
- **Diplomatic**
- **Dependable**
- **Easy going**
- **Calm**
- **Quiet**

Your thinking, wow, that's great.

I haven't mentioned the weaknesses yet.

On the weakness side of this temperament, he is:

- **Touchy**

- **Revengeful, you're going to see that in two weeks from now.**
- **Self centered**
- **Moody, you'll have to watch him because sometimes he'll be up and sometimes he'll be down and when he's down he is really down.**
- **Unsociable, he will not normally come into the gathering with other people and he can be**
- **Negative and**
- **Critical and tough to live with**

Now when you put melancholy as the dominant and phlegmatic as the recessive, you come up with words like this.

- **The person is SENSITIVE, even though he is SELF CENTERED.**
- **He can be EASILY OFFENDED but he can also be a FAITHFUL FRIEND.**
- **He keeps a ledger of his RESENTMENTS.**

- Sometimes he can be **INDECISIVE**.
- And sometimes he can be very **PESSIMISTIC**.
- Sometimes he can be **CALM & COOL** and **EASY GOING**.
- But at other times he can be **STINGY** and **STUBBORN**.

That's the kind of person that we're going to be studying within the weeks ahead.

Now where does Solomon fit in the history?

Samuel was hurt deeply when the people said we want to belike everybody else and have a king.

So they got Saul, then following Saul came David and now following David comes Solomon.

There were only three kings in the United Kingdom.

After Solomon the Kingdom falls apart and you have Israel in the North and Judah in the South.

Saul, David and Solomon.

Solomon is heir-apparent to the greatest stage of the kingdom.

Now the kingdom is at its' very height as Solomon assumes responsibility.

Today we're going to look at three passages. We have to get him born, we have to get him here, and then secondly we have to deal with his daddy.

His Dad is getting old and he's going to be out of the picture in a couple of studies. So let me set the stage.

David has had his midlife crisis; he stayed home from battle when he should have been out there.

While he was lounging around on the roof, he saw a beautiful lady taking a bath next door.

She happened to be the wife of one of his leading military men.

He got into an affair with her and she became pregnant.

And as a result of that he tried desperately to hide it by getting the husband to come home on military leave.

However he would not do it and he would not go be with his wife.

As a result of that David sent letters to Commander Joab to see to it that he became a military fatality. On the battle field, Uriah the Hittite died.

And so David quickly marries Bathsheba and the baby is born.

David thinks he has covered it all up but the Scripture says, what he did, displeased the Lord greatly.

Nathan the prophet, a year later, confronts David with this.

And the confrontation has just taken place and Nathan says to David, “your little boy is going to die, the one that was born as a result, of this relationship.”

That little baby has just died.

Now when you’ve had a tragedy like that in your life, you can spend all your time bitter and resentful and mourning and just shut it all down, can’t you.

Life is going to go on and that’s why David is a man after God’s own heart.

Look at the first two verses, 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.

All the tears and the mourning are passed, the affair, the murder, the death of the little boy. Life goes on.

Now what do you do in that kind of a situation? For some people it's hang it up and stay in no-man's land.

Or do you go on trusting God that He is going to be faithful to forgive.

And that there is grace to carry you on to the finish line.

Bathsheba had a little boy and they named him Solomon, which means “peaceful” because David is at the epitome of peace and he reigns in a time of peace in his kingdom.

Look at the next phrase. “*And because the Lord loved him, [this new little boy] he sent word through Nathan the prophet to name him Jedidiah.*”

I think God called him Jed for short and it means “the delight of Jehovah.”

God, in grace, heals and forgives and in the face of repentance and brokenness, David and Bathsheba have a future and a little family.

Now you need to understand the kind of dysfunctional family Solomon was born into.

In those first seven years while David is a king in Hebron before he sets up his capital in Jerusalem, and for the last 33 years of his administration, he has had six kids by six different women.

So there are six boys and six wives.

When he heads up to Jerusalem, he has four kids with Bathsheba.

He has a total of 19, plus one daughter, plus a lot of other kids from concubines.

So, what a hodgepodge, what a competitive, a loveless environment.

The other thing to note is that David never functioned as a father image in the lives of his boys.

Now I'm going to give you a lot of evidence of that, when we are in the second study.

I think Nathan the prophet is the reason Solomon has any spiritual values at all and is sensitive to the Lord.

So it is Nathan and Bathsheba that do more for Solomon to make him into the man that he becomes than any kind of thing that David might have done.

Now fast forward 15, 20 years. Solomon is now between 15 and 20, it's at least late teens and maybe 20 and David is ready to die.

Let's go on to the Chronicles passage, passage number two, 1 Chronicles 22, verse 2.

I call this taking care of business.

David is doing everything he can to provide for his passion and his vision and his dream.

Even though he doesn't get to do it, he is going to prepare the way to get it done.

Now you can approach death in two ways.

Well, "I'm not going to do anything for anybody because I'm out of here soon.

And it's not going to make any difference so I'm just going to have a good old time. Plus I'm too old." That's the first option.

Or you can live life to the hilt and do everything you can to prepare the way to realize your dream through somebody else.

And that's a great way to finish.
That's David's way here watch it.

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.

He has this dream.

Now, he is old, he is getting ready to die,
but does he have control of the administration? Look at
your verbs.

- He “gave orders”
- He appointed”
- He provided

David has had a passion to build a house for God.

God says you aren't going to do it but your son is going
to do it.

And David says, the least I can do is get everything
ready for him. You talk about getting ready, look at the
stuff he does.

v. 3 He provided a large amount of iron to make nails for the doors of the gateways 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.

I mean he organizes the people, he lays out the plans and he gives 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.

He says, “*My son Solomon is young and inexperienced, and [this] house to be built*” it has to be characterized in three ways:

- 1. It is a house “of great magnificence”**
- 2. It is a house of “fame”**
- 3. It is a house of “splendor”**

It’s something very special and it needs to be.

Notice the phrase in verse 5:

“Therefore I will make preparations for it.’ So David made extensive preparations before his death.”

David says, “I am at least going to make preparations for it.

And he says “I am going to be faithful to finish by facilitating the future that is going to outlive me. I am going to do everything I can do.

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

He called Solomon in and he charges him.

Do you remember another charge in the Bible?

Paul gives young Timothy a charge.

Because he is turning it over to young Timothy to take his place.

2 Timothy 4:1-2 (paraphrased):

1. 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:

2. preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.

Don Luce in his book *Time-Out Leadership* says,
(*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

David is that.

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.”

I had this in my heart.

I wanted to do it so I’ve done everything to prepare for it.

What are you doing to prepare for your future and that which is going to outlive you?

John Piper in *Future Grace* says:

Every New Year’s Eve I prepare to die.

He says I have a rehearsal for my own death.
Because I am saying goodbye to an old year and I
pretend that I am going to be in heaven on New Year's
morning.
He says it's just a rehearsal.

Why do you have rehearsals?
So you can prepare for the real thing and you can deal
with the stuff that you need to deal with in anticipation
of the real thing.

And in rehearsals it doesn't matter if you make a few
mistakes because you're getting ready for the big one.

And you can cut the stuff out and every year I pretend
that I am hearing Him, whether He is saying, well done
thou good and faithful servant or not over the last year.

And then he says it so well,
I just prepare for the real thing.
(paraphrased from p. 311)

**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.'**

When God says “no,” it obligates Him to a better plan, every time, doesn’t it?

A promise made is a promise kept, and God does that.

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.

That’s what the Lord said to him back in 2 Samuel chapter 7 before Solomon was ever born.

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 final fulfillment is in David’s greater son, Jesus Christ, who will come and rule and reign as the King of kings and Lord of lords.

v. 11 “Now my son, [*look what he has to say to him*] the Lord be with you and may you have success and build the house of the Lord your God, as He said you would.”

Just get in there and do it. And

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.

May He give you success, but may He give you discretion and understanding at the time you are put in to the place of leadership.

Why? So you will be obedient because God is in the business of blessing the obedient heart.

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.

Four things, two positives and two negatives:

1. “Be strong”
2. Be “courageous”

Negatively,

1. Do not be “afraid” and
2. Do not be “discouraged”

Don't be a wishy-washy wimp.

Get up to the plate and take your swings.

Make something out of your life.

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.”

Now, statistically, do you realize how much that is?

First of all let's just take the gold.

That's 3,750 tons of gold.

A million talents of silver, that's;37,500 tons of silver.

Now put that together and you come up, with 41,250 tons, or 82.5 million pounds of silver and gold.

And iron and bronze that goes beyond that that cannot even be calculated with everything else.

Do you think David was serious in making adequate provision for what was going to be necessary to build this thing?

What a preparation David has made!

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

We have everybody you need all lined up he says,

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.

There's another verb. He gave orders, appointed, he provided and now he “ordered.”

He says get with it.

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

I have done my part, now you do your part.

v. 19 “Now devote your heart and soul to seeking the Lord your God. Begin to build the sanctuary [*What? Seek the Lord first before you begin to build. Keep the order in focus. Seeking Him will guide you and direct you in the building.*] 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.”

This is David's farewell address.

The king who has been bedridden rises to his feet and he speaks his final address.

David rises to his feet and in his old age and his weakness, he speaks these final words.

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.

Just like he had said earlier, David said I tried to do this, now verse 3,

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. [*Does it delight you that God chose you? Ephesians 1:4, he chose you before the foundation of the world. John 15:16, you have not chosen Me, but I chose you and ordained you that you should go. Wow.*] 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.”

Remember, all eight of the brothers lined up and it was David the youngest who was chosen.

He and Solomon have that in common because Solomon is chosen out of all of David’s sons.

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 [*all of you great leaders*] 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.

Please be careful to be obedient because God blesses the obedient heart.

v. 9 “And you, my son Solomon, acknowledge the God of your father, and serve him with [*what?*] 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.

See that phrase “wholehearted devotion.”

That means “undivided devotion.”

It means “single focus,” “single purpose.”

Serve Him with wholehearted devotion with a willing mind.

Colossians 3:23 (New King James Version)

**And whatever you do, do it with all your heart,
as to the Lord and not to men.**

It's Psalm 86:11

**Teach me your way, O Lord,
and I will walk in your truth;
give me an undivided heart,
that I may fear your Name.**

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

Be careful, be strong, then do it.

Now you think that's enough?

**Besides all the provisions and all the workmen,
Here's the site plans.**

**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.

He has covered all the bases; the Lord gave him the plans.

v. 13 He gave him instructions for the divisions of the priests and Levites, [*here is the program the priests are going to function*] 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.

And there are all the articles in verses 14 through 17.

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.

And then David says in verse 19:

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.”

Has God written anything on your heart?

Has God given you any passion for something you would really like to get done before you die?

David is doing that.

Verse 20 would be a great verse to memorize.

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.

There are five admonitions in verse 20:

- 1. “Be strong”**
- 2. Be “courageous”**
- 3. “Do the work”**
- 4. “Do not be afraid”**
- 5. Do not be “discouraged”**

Oswald Chambers said:

(*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. p. 263**

--Oswald Chambers

J R.R. Tolkien said:

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

**It's the job that's never started
that takes longest to finish. p. 196**

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.”

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

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.”

STUDY NUMBER ONE — STUDIES IN THE LIFE OF SOLOMONNotes

2 Samuel 12:24-25

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

1 Chronicles 22:2-19

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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.

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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.”

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 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."

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

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."

QUESTIONS:

1. Read 2 Samuel 12:24-25, 1 Chronicles 22:2-19, and 28:1-21 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. What project is David preparing for before he dies?

3. Why is David concerned about Solomon, according to 1 Chronicles 22:5?

4. Why was David not allowed to build the House of the Lord, according to 1 Chronicles 22:8?

5. What are David's wishes for his son, Solomon, according to 1 Chronicles 22: 11-12?

6.What are the conditions and the commands given by David to Solomon in 1 Chronicles 22:13?

7.What charge does David give to the officials of his kingdom in 1 Chronicles 28:8?

8.What charge does David give to his son, Solomon, in 1 Chronicles 28:9?

9.Which verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10.What lesson have you learned from this study?
