

Presenting Ourselves Before God

First Chronicles 23–29

Don Ruhl • Savage Street, Grants Pass, Oregon • October 24, In the year of our Lord Christ, 2021

Scripture Reader and Reading: Nash Crisp – First Chronicles 29.14–15

Song Leader and Song Suggestions: Phil Joseph – No Suggestions

I. First Chronicles 23 • Helping Others Serve

23.1 So when David was old and full of days, he made his son Solomon king over Israel. 2 And he gathered together all the leaders of Israel, with the priests and the Levites...27 For by the last words of David the Levites were numbered from twenty years old and above; 28 because their duty was to help the sons of Aaron in the service of the house of the LORD, in the courts and in the chambers, in the purifying of all holy things and the work of the service of the house of God...

A. These four verses summarize the importance of David's life to Israel.

1. He reigned as king until he died at 70.
2. He set up the next king, his son Solomon.
3. He worked with the leaders of Israel for the sake of the nation of Israel.
4. He organized the work of the temple with the Levites and sons of Aaron.

B. He lived for Israel because he lived for the Lord.

1. Even as Jesus lived for the church and died to purchase it, and
2. even as we live for the church because it is the kingdom of heaven.

II. First Chronicles 24 • Offering to God

24.1 Now these are the divisions of the sons of Aaron. The sons of Aaron were Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar. 2 And Nadab and Abihu died before their father, and had no children; therefore Eleazar and Ithamar ministered as priests... 19 This was the schedule of their service for coming into the house of the LORD according to their ordinance by the hand of Aaron their father, as the LORD God of Israel had commanded him. ...

A. Aaron and his sons also lived for the Lord.

1. Unfortunately, the oldest two used fire in their work

2. that the Lord had not authorized.
 - a) Therefore, they died and
 - b) not having children yet,
 - (1) they did not leave any sons to serve in the temple.
 - (2) What a tragedy because they did not follow the Lord.

B. For the most part,

1. they all did not live for this world, but
2. their lives were all about serving Israel before the God of heaven.

III. First Chronicles 25 • Preaching

25.1 Moreover David and the captains of the army separated for the service some of the sons of Asaph, of Heman, and of Jeduthun, who should prophesy with harps, stringed instruments, and cymbals...

A. Often music accompanied prophesying.

1 Samuel 10.5

5 After that you shall come to the hill of God where the Philistine garrison is. And it will happen, when you have come there to the city, that you will meet a group of prophets coming down from the high place with a stringed instrument, a tambourine, a flute, and a harp before them; and they will be prophesying.

2 Kings 3.15

But now bring me a musician." Then it happened, when the musician played, that the hand of the LORD came upon him.

B. Prophesying, or even preaching, does not have to sound terrible.

C. The Lord told Ezekiel

1. that the people liked to hear him preach
2. just like listening to music (Eze 33.30–33).

IV. First Chronicles 26 • Gatekeepers

26.1 Concerning the divisions of the gatekeepers...

- A. The gatekeepers were not kings and priests, yet,
- B. they performed a valuable work because
 - 1. all that we do for the Lord has value.
 - 2. First Corinthians 12 teaches that whatever you do for the Spirit he prizes.

V. First Chronicles 27 • Serving the King, Not Serving the King

27.1 And the children of Israel, according to their number, the heads of fathers' houses, the captains of thousands and hundreds and their officers, served the king in every matter of the military divisions... 23 But David did not take the number of those twenty years old and under, because the LORD had said He would multiply Israel like the stars of the heavens. 24 Joab the son of Zeruiah began a census, but he did not finish, for wrath came upon Israel because of this census; nor was the number recorded in the account of the chronicles of King David. ...

- A. This explains further what went wrong with David's numbering of Israel.
- B. David was man of God who had great faith, but he also sinned.

VI. First Chronicles 28.1–8 • Seek Out All the Commandments of God

28.1 Now David assembled at Jerusalem all the leaders of Israel: the officers of the tribes and the captains of the divisions who served the king, the captains over thousands and captains over hundreds, and the stewards over all the substance and possessions of the king and of his sons, with the officials, the valiant men, and all the mighty men of valor. 2 Then King David rose to his feet and said, "Hear me, my brethren and my people: I had it in my heart to build a house of rest for the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and for the footstool of our God, and had made preparations to build it. 3 But God said to me, 'You shall not build a house for My name, because you have been a man of war and have shed blood.' 4 However the LORD God of Israel chose me above all the house of my father to be king over Israel forever, for He has chosen Judah to be the ruler. And of the house of Judah, the house of my father, and among the sons of my father, He was pleased with me to make me king over all Israel. 5 And of all my sons (for the LORD has given me many sons) He has chosen my son Solomon to sit on the throne of the kingdom of the LORD over Israel. 6 Now He said to me, 'It is your son Solomon who shall build My house

and My courts; for I have chosen him to be My son, and I will be his Father. 7 Moreover I will establish his kingdom forever, if he is steadfast to observe My commandments and My judgments, as it is this day.' 8 Now therefore, in the sight of all Israel, the assembly of the LORD, and in the hearing of our God, be careful to seek out all the commandments of the LORD your God, that you may possess this good land, and leave it as an inheritance for your children after you forever."

- A. The leaders in Israel needed to hear a vital message.
- B. The message was that David had plans, but
 - 1. the Lord had different plans, and
 - 2. David scraped his plans and adopted the Lord's plans.
- C. His main message was to seek out all the commandments of the Lord.
 - 1. If you were a military commander,
 - 2. would you be happy if the soldiers ignored one of your commands?

VII. First Chronicles 28.9–10, 19 • Serve God with a Loyal Heart

28.9 "As for you, my son Solomon, know the God of your father, and serve Him with a loyal heart and with a willing mind; for the LORD searches all hearts and understands all the intent of the thoughts. If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will cast you off forever. 10 Consider now, for the LORD has chosen you to build a house for the sanctuary; be strong, and do it." 19 "All this," said David, "the LORD made me understand in writing, by His hand upon me, all the works of these plans."

- A. What David said to Solomon is how we serve God:
 - 1. We serve him with the heart and with the mind.
 - 2. We serve him with a loyal mind and a willing heart.
 - a) Why? Because he searches
 - (1) the hearts and
 - (2) the intents of the thoughts.
- B. Therefore, if we want to seek the Lord,

1. he will make sure that we find him.
 2. He sought us first.
 - a) Now, he wants us to seek him.
 - b) He will make sure that we find him.
- C. However, if we forsake him,
1. he will cast us off forever.
 2. No greater tragedy awaits those who forsake him.
- D. Consider then what the Lord has chosen you to do.
1. He chose Solomon to build the temple.
 2. What has he chosen you to do?

Proverbs 16.1

**The preparations of the heart belong to man,
But the answer of the tongue is from the LORD.**

Proverbs 16.3

**Commit your works to the LORD,
And your thoughts will be established.**

Psalm 16.9

**Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoices;
My flesh also will rest in hope.**

VIII.First Chronicles 28.20 • God Will Be with You

20 And David said to his son Solomon, “Be strong and of good courage, and do it; do not fear nor be dismayed, for the LORD God—my God—will be with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you, until you have finished all the work for the service of the house of the LORD...”

- A. Whatever the Lord has chosen for you to do,
- B. do not fear or be hesitant about it.
1. He is with you.

2. You can be strong and of good courage.

C. Whatever he wants you to do,

1. he will see that you finish it,

2. providing you with what you need to complete it.

IX. First Chronicles 29.1 • Service Is for God

29.1 Furthermore King David said to all the assembly: “My son Solomon, whom alone God has chosen, is young and inexperienced; and the work is great, because the temple is not for man but for the LORD God.”

A. Just remember that ultimately whatever you do

B. it is for the Lord and not man.

22 Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God. 23 And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, 24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.

– Colossians 3.22–24

X. First Chronicles 29.2–6, 9 • Consecrating Yourself to the Lord

29.2 “Now for the house of my God I have prepared with all my might: gold for things to be made of gold, silver for things of silver, bronze for things of bronze, iron for things of iron, wood for things of wood, onyx stones, stones to be set, glistening stones of various colors, all kinds of precious stones, and marble slabs in abundance. 3 Moreover, because I have set my affection on the house of my God, I have given to the house of my God, over and above all that I have prepared for the holy house, my own special treasure of gold and silver: 4 three thousand talents of gold, of the gold of Ophir, and seven thousand talents of refined silver, to overlay the walls of the houses; 5 the gold for things of gold and the silver for things of silver, and for all kinds of work to be done by the hands of craftsmen. Who then is willing to consecrate himself this day to the LORD?” 6 Then the leaders of the fathers’ houses, leaders of the tribes of Israel, the captains of thousands and of hundreds, with the officers over the king’s work, offered willingly... 9 Then the people rejoiced, for they had offered willingly, because with a loyal heart they had offered willingly to the

LORD; and King David also rejoiced greatly.

A. Since David had set his affection on a house for God,

B. he asked others to do the same.

1. The ways of expressing that will be different for each generation or person.
2. Here giving for the building of the temple
 - a) was a way to consecrate them to the Lord.
 - b) What does he want you to do today?

XI. First Chronicles 29.10–19 • Praying Before God

29.10 Therefore David blessed the LORD before all the assembly; and David said:

**“Blessed are You, LORD God of Israel, our Father, forever and ever.
11 Yours, O LORD, is the greatness,
The power and the glory,
The victory and the majesty;
For all that is in heaven and in earth is Yours;
Yours is the kingdom, O LORD,
And You are exalted as head over all.
12 Both riches and honor come from You,
And You reign over all.
In Your hand is power and might;
In Your hand it is to make great
And to give strength to all.
13 Now therefore, our God,
We thank You
And praise Your glorious name.
14 But who am I, and who are my people,
That we should be able to offer so willingly as this?
For all things come from You,
And of Your own we have given You.
15 For we are aliens and pilgrims before You,
As were all our fathers;
Our days on earth are as a shadow,
And without hope.
16 O LORD our God, all this abundance that we have prepared to build You a
house for Your holy name is from Your hand, and is all Your own. 17 I know**

also, my God, that You test the heart and have pleasure in uprightness. As for me, in the uprightness of my heart I have willingly offered all these things; and now with joy I have seen Your people, who are present here to offer willingly to You. 18 O LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, our fathers, keep this forever in the intent of the thoughts of the heart of Your people, and fix their heart toward You. 19 And give my son Solomon a loyal heart to keep Your commandments and Your testimonies and Your statutes, to do all these things, and to build the temple for which I have made provision.”

- A. First, David blessed the Lord.
- B. Second, he explained why he blessed the Lord.
- C. Third, he thanked God and praised him.
- D. Fourth, he put his giving in perspective by acknowledging where he got it all in the first place.
- E. Fifth, that led him to confess what he was: an alien and a pilgrim.
- F. Sixth, he spoke of his the condition of his heart before the Lord.
- G. Seventh, he asked the Lord to help Israel remember all these truths.

XII. First Chronicles 29.20, 22, 26–27 • Bless the Lord

29.20 Then David said to all the assembly, “Now bless the LORD your God.” So all the assembly blessed the LORD God of their fathers, and bowed their heads and prostrated themselves before the LORD and the king...

22 So they ate and drank before the LORD with great gladness on that day...

26 Thus David the son of Jesse reigned over all Israel. 27 And the period that he reigned over Israel was forty years; seven years he reigned in Hebron, and thirty-three years he reigned in Jerusalem. 28 So he died in a good old age, full of days and riches and honor; and Solomon his son reigned in his place...

- A. Bless the Lord verbally.
- B. Bless the Lord with bodily gestures.
- C. Eat before the Lord gladly.
 - 1. Acts 2 shows

- a) that after the people repented and were baptized,
- b) they ate with one another:

46 So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart...

– Acts 2.46

2. Why is this practice fading among us?

D. Verses 26–28 – The Life of David:

- 1. He reigned over all Israel.
 - a) He reigned from Hebron for seven years.
 - b) He reigned from Jerusalem thirty-three years.
- 2. He died at 70, but it was a full life.

E. Solomon replaced him as king.