

LESSON THIRTEEN 27-29

DAVID'S MILITARY ORGANIZATION. HIS COUNSELLORS. HIS CHARGE TO SOLOMON. HIS PRAYER FOR THE TEMPLE. HIS DEATH. (27-29)

20. THE CAPTAINS OF THE ARMY (27:1-15)

INTRODUCTION

David's consuming interest late in his life was the Temple. Having furnished Solomon with the pattern, David prayed for his people and set Solomon on the throne.

TEXT

Chapter 27:1. Now the children of Israel after their number, to wit, the heads of fathers' houses and the captains of thousands and of hundreds, and their officers that served the king, in any matter of the courses which came in and went out month by month throughout all the months of the year—of every course were twenty and four thousand. 2. Over the first course for the first month was Jashobeam the son of Zabdiel: and in his course were twenty and four thousand. 3. He was of the children of Perez, the chief of all the captains of the host for the first month. 4. And over the course of the second month was Dodai the Ahohite, and his course; and Mikloth the ruler: and in his course were twenty and four thousand. 5. The third chief: and in his course were twenty and four thousand. 6. This is that Benaiah, who was the mighty man of the thirty, and over the thirty: and of his course was Ammizabad his son. 7. The fourth captain for the fourth month was Asahel the brother of Joab, and Zebadiah his son after him: and in his course were twenty and four thousand. 8. The fifth captain for the fifth month was Shamhuth the Izrahite: and in his course were twenty and four thousand. 9. The sixth captain for the sixth month was Ira the son of Ikkesh the Tekoite: and in his course were twenty and four thousand. 10. The seventh captain for the seventh month was Helez the Pelonite, of the children of Ephraim: and in his course were twenty and four thousand. 11.

The eighth captain for the eighth month was Sibbecai the Hushathite, of the Zerahites: and in his course were twenty and four thousand. 12. The ninth captain for the ninth month was Abiezer the Anathothite, of the Benjamites: and in his course were twenty and four thousand. 13. The tenth captain for the tenth month was Maharai the Netophathite, of the Zerahites: and in his course were twenty and four thousand. 14. The eleventh captain for the eleventh month was Benaiah the Pirathonite, of the children of Ephraim: and in his course were twenty and four thousand. 15. The twelfth captain for the twelfth month was Heldai the Netophathite, of Othniel: and in his course were twenty and four thousand.

PARAPHRASE

Chapter 27:1. The Israeli army was divided into twelve regiments, each with 24,000 troops, including officers and administrative staff. These units were called up for active duty one month each year. Here is the list of the units and their regimental commanders: 2, 3. The commander of the First Division was Jashobeam. He had charge of 24,000 troops who were on duty the first month of each year. 4. The commander of the Second Division was Dodai (a descendant of Ahohi). He had charge of 24,000 troops who were on duty the second month of each year. Mikloth was his executive officer. 5, 6. The commander of the Third Division was Benaiah. His 24,000 men were on duty the third month of each year. (He was the son of Jehoiada the High Priest, and was the chief of the thirty highest-ranking officers in David's army.) His son Ammizabad succeeded him as division commander. 7. The commander of the Fourth Division was Asahel (brother of Joab), who was later replaced by his son Zebadiah. He had 24,000 men on duty the fourth month of each year. 8. The commander of the Fifth Division was Shamuth from Izrah, with 24,000 men on duty the fifth month of each year. 9. The commander of the Sixth Division was Ira, the son of Ikkesh from Tekoa; he had 24,000 men on duty the sixth month of each year. 10. The commander of the Seventh Division was Helez from Pelona in Ephraim, with

24,000 men on duty the seventh month of each year. 11. The commander of the Eighth Division was Sibbecai of the Hushite subclan from Zerah, who had 24,000 men on duty the eighth month of each year. 12. The commander of the Ninth Division was Abi-ezer (from Anathoth in the tribe of Benjamin), who commanded 24,000 troops during the ninth month of each year. 13. The commander of the Tenth Division was Maharai from Netophah in Zerah, with 24,000 men on duty the tenth month of each year. 14. The commander of the Eleventh Division was Benaiah from Pirathon in Ephraim, with 24,000 men on duty during the eleventh month of each year. 15. The commander of the Twelfth Division was Heldai from Netophah in the area of Othni-el, who commanded 24,000 men on duty during the twelfth month of each year.

COMMENTARY

David was concerned to set every department of his government in order before he died and before Solomon ascended the throne. The religious considerations were of primary importance; however he did not neglect the civil or military provisions. He established a standing army of two hundred eighty eight thousand men. These men were organized into twelve sections of twenty four thousand each. Each section was under the direction of a captain who by sheer strength and courage had won the coveted position as chief of his course. Verses 1-15 recorded the detail of this military provision and the names of the twelve captains. Jashobeam, one of David's mighty warriors, was from the tribe of Judah. Benaiah, though a Levite, held the high office of captain for the third month. Asahel, Joab's brother, had been slain by Abner. His name is memorialized in this assignment as chief captain for the third month. Asahel, Joab's brother, had been slain by Abner. His name is memorialized in this assignment as chief captain for the fourth month. His son, Zebadiah, most likely stood in his heroic father's place. Since Ira was the son of a Tekoite, he was from the tribe of Judah. The great tribe of Ephraim was represented among these warriors by Helez, captain for the seventh month.

Sibbecai was of the tribe of Judah. The tribe of Benjamin had its champion in Abiezer from the village of Anathoth. Maharai represented Judah. Benaiah's charge was the eleventh month and he represented Ephraim. Heldai (or Heled) had charge of the militia over which he was captain. He was descended from Othniel, the judge and Caleb's nephew, and he represented Judah. The twelfth month was his time of special service as appointed by the king. The tribe of Judah furnished seven of the twelve captains. Benjamin and Ephraim each provided two leaders. Levi was represented by one.

21. THE PRINCES OF THE TRIBES (27:16-24)

TEXT

Chapter 27:16. Furthermore over the tribes of Israel: of the Reubenites was Eliezer the son of Zichri the ruler: of the Simeonites, Shephatiah the son of Maacah: 17. of Levi, Hashabiah the son of Kemuel: of Aaron, Zadok: 18. of Judah, Elihu, one of the brethren of David: of Issachar, Omri the son of Michael: 19. of Zebulun, Ishmaiah the son of Obadiah: of Naphtali, Jeremoth the son of Azriel: 20. of the children of Ephraim, Hoshea the son of Azaziah: of the half-tribe of Manasseh, Joel the son on Pedaiiah: 21. of the half-tribe of Manasseh in Gilead, Iddo the son of Zechariah: of Benjamin, Jaasiel the son of Abner: 22. of Dan, Azarel the son of Jeroham. These were the captains of the tribes of Israel. 23. But David took not the number of them from twenty years old and under, because Jehovah had said he would increase Israel like to the stars of heaven. 24. Joab the son of Zeruijah began to number, but finished not; and there came wrath for this upon Israel; neither was the number put into the account in the chronicles of king David.

PARAPHRASE

Chapter 27:16-22. The top political officers of the tribes of Israel were as follows: Over Reuben, Eliezer (son of Zichri); Over Simeon, Shephatiah (son of Maacah); Over Levi,

Hashabiah (son of Kemuel); Over the descendants of Aaron, Zadok; Over Judah, Elihu (a brother of King David); Over Issachar, Omri (son of Michael); Over Zebulun, Ishmaiah (son of Obadiah); Over Naphtali, Jeremoth (son of Azriel); over Ephraim, Hoshea (son of Azaziah); Over the half-tribe of Manasseh, Joel (son of of Pedaiah); Over the other half of Manasseh, in Gilead, Iddo (son of Zechariah); Over Benjamin, Ja-asiel (son of Abner); Over Dan, Azarel (son of Jeroham). 23. When David took his census he didn't include the twenty-year-olds, or those younger, for the Lord had promised a population explosion for his people. 24. Joab began the census, but he never finished it, for the anger of God broke out upon Israel; the final total was never put into the annals of King David.

COMMENTARY

Before David passed he was concerned about the political organization of each of the tribes of Israel. Among the other matters in his check list and in the sacred record of the chronicler would be the detail of the naming of the ruler or prince of each tribe. The tribes of Gad and Asher are not listed here. For this there is no satisfactory explanation. The tribe of Levi is listed and receives special attention in that Hashabiah is the ruler over the Levites while Zadok is the ruler over the priests (those of Aaron's house). When the historian turns to Joseph he names three rulers or princes for this tribe. Hoshea is prince of Ephraim. Joel rules over Manasseh in Canaan. Iddo is prince over Manasseh beyond the Jordan eastward. Elihu (verse 18) most likely was Eliah, David's brother, who is prince of Judah. Thirteen men were named here in spite of the omission of the tribes of Gad and Asher. David had taken a military census of the tribes of Israel (II Samuel 24:1-9; I Chronicles 21) contrary to Jehovah's will. That it was a military accounting is evident in this record (verse 23) which says that he would not number those under twenty years of age.¹ The military age was "twenty years old and upwards" (Numbers 1:3). Jehovah had made this wonderful promise about multiplying Israel (Genesis

¹Cook, F. C., *The Bible Commentary*, I Samuel—Esther, p. 363

15:5), but David was not considering that promise when he ordered Joab to take the census. Joab saw no need for the numbering and went about the task half-heartedly. Joab made no attempt to number the people of the tribes of Levi and Benjamin (I Chronicles 21: 6), so the census was never actually completed. Jehovah's wrath came in the form of an awful pestilence (I Chronicles 21:1-7) which killed seventy thousand Israelites. While David made remarkable provisions for all of the tribes of Israel at this time in the record, the historian called to remembrance David's sin which had disastrously reduced Israel's population.

22. THE STEWARDS OF THE TREASURIES (27:25:31)

TEXT

Chapter 27:25. And over the king's treasures was Azmaveth the son of Adiel: and over the treasures in the fields, in the cities, and in the villages, and in the castles, was Jonathan the son of Uzziah: 26. and over them that did the work of the field for tillage of the ground was Ezri the son of Chelub: 27. and over the vineyards was Shimei the Ramathite: and over the increase of the vineyards for the winecellars was Zabdi the Shiphmite: 28. and over the olive-trees and the sycamore-trees that were in the lowland was Baal-hanan the Gederite: and over the cellars of oil was Joash: 29. and over the herds that fed in Sharon was Shitrai the Sharonite: and over the herds that were in the valleys was Shaphat the son of Adlai: 30. and over the camels was Obil the Ishmaelite: and over the asses was Jehdeiah the Meronothite: and over the flocks was Jaziz the Hagrite. 31. All these were the rulers of the substance which was king David's.

PARAPHRASE

Chapter 27:25. Azmaveth (son of Adi-el) was the chief financial officer in charge of the palace treasuries, and Jonathan (son of Uzziah) was chief of the regional treasuries throughout the cities, villages, and fortresses of Israel. 26. Ezri (son of

Chelub) was manager of the laborers on the king's estates. 27. And Shime-i from Ramath had the oversight of the king's vineyards; and Zabdi from Shiphma was responsible for his wine production and storage. 28. Baal-hanan from Gedera was responsible for the king's olive yards and sycamore trees in the lowlands bordering Philistine territory, while Joash had charge of the supplies of olive oil. 29. Shitrai from Sharon was in charge of the cattle on the Plains of Sharon, and Shaphat (son of Adlai) had charge of those in the valleys. 30. Obil, from the territory of Ishmael, had charge of the camels, and Jehdeiah from Meronoth had charge of the donkeys. 31. The sheep were under the care of Jaziz the Hagrite. These men were King David's overseers.

COMMENTARY

The stewardship of the treasures of the king, himself, was assigned to Azmaveth. Jonathan was chargeable for the grain, fruit, produce of the agricultural operation. Ezri had charge of the field laborers and the actual preparation and care of the soil. Shimei was assigned to manage the production of grapes. Zabdi was a specialist in the storage of the vintage. Baal-hanan was the chief officer responsible for olive groves and sycamore trees which produced a kind of edible fig. The prophet, Amos, dressed sycamore trees (Amos 7:14). The storage of olive oil was Joash's field of service. Sharon was a beautiful plain and provided good pasture between Mt. Carmel and Joppa. Shitrai specialized in animal husbandry in that district. Other valley regions and the oversight of flocks and grazing fell to the direction of Shaphat. Obil was the camel man. The name "Obil" means camel. Jehdeiah had charge of the asses. This assignment was very important because the mule was the royal carriage. Jaziz was David's steward responsible for the king's sheep and goats. There were many departments in David's government. He was careful to see that someone was responsible for every area of concern.

23. SPECIAL COUNSELLORS (27:32-34)

TEXT

Chapter 27:32. Also Jonathan, David's uncle, was a counsellor, a man of understanding, and a scribe: and Jehiel the son of Hachmoni was with the king's sons: 33. and Ahithophel was the king's counsellor: and Hushai the Archite was the king's friend: 34. and after Ahithophel was Jehoiada the son of Benaiah, and Abiathar: and the captain of the king's host was Joab.

PARAPHRASE

Chapter 27:32. The attendant to the king's sons was Jonathan, David's uncle, a wise counsellor and an educated man. Jehiel (the son of Hachmoni) was their tutor. 33. Ahithophel was the king's official counsellor and Hushai the Archite was his personal advisor. 34. Ahithophel was assisted by Jehoiada (the son of Benaiah) and by Abiathar. Joab was commander-in-chief of the Israeli army.

COMMENTARY

Jonathan, here called David's uncle, is named in II Samuel 21:21 as David's brother Shimea's son. He would then be David's nephew. The term used here may simply refer to Jonathan as a relative. His credentials in this record are very good. He must have been intelligent, well educated, an able consultant to David. Ahithophel was a trusted counsellor of David's. He is identified as the grandfather of Bathsheba. When Absalom rebelled, Ahithophel went with him. Hushai returned to Jerusalem at the time of Absalom's rebellion so he could defeat the counsel of Ahithophel. When Ahithophel saw that he had taken second place to Hushai, he went home and hanged himself (II Samuel 17:23). David also received some valuable assistance in policy making from Jehoiada and Abiathar, both of whom were from the priestly connection. Joab certainly was one of David's closest confidants. All of these men were makers

of history. Each was very influential in his own right and carried the destiny of many people on his shoulders.

24. DAVID'S CHARGE TO SOLOMON (28:1-10)

TEXT

Chapter 28:1. And David assembled all the princes of Israel, the princes of the tribes, and the captains of the companies that served the king by course, and the captains of thousands, and the captains of hundreds, and the rulers over all the substance and possessions of the king and of his sons, with the officers, and the mighty men, even all the mighty men of valor, unto Jerusalem. 2. Then David the king stood up upon his feet, and said, "Hear me, my brethren, and my people: as for me, it was in my heart to build a house of rest for the ark of the covenant of Jehovah, and for the footstool of our God; and I had made ready for the building. 3. "But God said unto me, 'Thou shalt not build a house for my name, because thou art a man of war, and hast shed blood.' 4. "Howbeit Jehovah, the God of Israel, chose me out of all the house of my father to be king over Israel forever: for he hath chosen Judah to be prince; and in the house of my father; and among the sons of my father he took pleasure in me to make me king over all Israel; 5. "and of all my sons (for Jehovah hath given me many sons), he hath chosen Solomon my son to sit upon the throne of the kingdom of Jehovah over Israel. 6. "And he said unto me, 'Solomon thy son, he shall build my house and my courts; for I have chosen him to be my son, and I will be his father. 7. 'And I will establish his kingdom forever, if he be constant to do my commandments and mine ordinances, as at this day.' 8. "Now therefore, in the sight of all Israel, the assembly of Jehovah, and in the audience of our God, observe and seek out all the commandments of Jehovah your God; that ye may possess this good land, and leave it for an inheritance to your children after you forever.

9. "And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind; for Jehovah searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all

the imaginations of the thoughts. If thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off forever. 10. "Take heed now; for Jehovah hath chosen thee to build a house for the sanctuary: be strong, and do it."

PARAPHRASE

Chapter 28:1. David now summoned all of his officials to Jerusalem—the political leaders, the commanders of the twelve army divisions, the other army officers, those in charge of his property and livestock and all the other men of authority in his kingdom. 2. He rose and stood before them and addressed them as follows: "My brothers and my people! It was my desire to build a temple in which the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord could rest—a place for our God to live in. I have now collected everything that is necessary for the building, 3. but God has told me, 'You are not to build my temple, for you are a warrior and have shed much blood.' 4. "Nevertheless, the Lord God of Israel has chosen me from among all my father's family to begin a dynasty that will rule Israel forever; he has chosen the tribe of Judah, and from among the families of Judah, my father's family; and from among his sons, the Lord took pleasure in me and has made me king over all Israel. 5. And from among my sons—the Lord has given me many children—he has chosen Solomon to succeed me on the throne of his Kingdom of Israel. 6. He has told me, 'Your son Solomon shall build my temple; for I have chosen him as my son and I will be his father. 7. And if he continues to obey my commandments and instructions as he has until now, I will make his kingdom last forever.' " 8. Then David turned to Solomon and said: "Here before the leaders of Israel, the people of God, and in the sight of our God, I am instructing you to search out every commandment of the Lord so that you may continue to rule this good land and leave it to your children to rule forever.

9. Solomon, my son, get to know the God of your fathers. Worship and serve him with a clean heart and a willing mind, for the Lord sees every heart and understands and knows every thought. If you seek him, you will find him; but if you forsake

him, he will permanently throw you aside. 10. So be very careful, for the Lord has chosen you to build his holy temple. Be strong and do as he commands."

COMMENTARY

All that has gone before has been but prelude for this grand occasion. David's remaining days were numbered. In a formal way he must charge Solomon with the awful burden of building Jehovah's house and ruling as king of Israel. Everybody who had any responsible position in the life and government of Israel was called to the capital city for this memorable occasion. Princes, captains, rulers, officers, military heroes, along with common people assembled to hear King David. The king summoned all his energies so he could stand up and speak with enough volume to be heard. He addressed the hearers as "brethren" and as "my people". Once more he recalled his intention to build God's house. He reminded all of the leaders of Israel how Jehovah had chosen his tribe, his family, himself, and now, his son, Solomon for kingship. David clearly stated that Jehovah had named Solomon to succeed him as king and to be the one who would build Jehovah's "house and courts". Solomon's kingdom was to be established forever, provided he was obedient to the Lord. David's charge to Solomon and the entire assembly was that they should learn Jehovah's will and practice it. His charge reminds one of Joshua's word to the twelve tribes when he said "possess this good land". "Enjoy its blessings and leave it for your children after you."

Specifically, David charged Solomon to come to know God. Let God be real to you. Be intimately acquainted with Him. The perfect heart would let Jehovah lead and would think God's thoughts after Him. The willing mind is the steadfast purpose to do God's will God's way. David reminded his son that he would have to answer "the searcher of hearts". "If you seek Him, you will find Him. If you forsake Him, He will abandon you". Solomon stood alone in that moment before Jehovah as the one man charged to build and to lead.

25. TEMPLE BUILDING-PLANS (28:11-21)

TEXT

Chapter 28:11. Then David gave to Solomon his son the pattern of the porch of the temple, and of the houses thereof, and of the treasuries thereof, and of the upper rooms thereof, and of the inner chambers thereof, and of the place of the mercy-seat; 12. and the pattern of all that he had by the Spirit, for the courts of the house of Jehovah, and for all the chambers round about, for the treasuries of the house of God, and for the treasuries of the dedicated things; 13. also for the courses of the priests and the Levites, and for all the work of the service of the house of Jehovah, and for all the vessels of service in the house of Jehovah; 14. of gold by weight for the vessels of gold, for all vessels of every kind of service; of silver for all the vessels of silver by weight, for all vessels of every kind of service; 15. by weight also for the candlesticks of gold, and for the lamps thereof, of gold, by weight for every candlestick and for the lamps thereof; and for the candlesticks of silver, silver by weight for every candlestick and for the lamps thereof, according to the use of every candlestick; 16. and the gold by weight for the tables of showbread, for every table; and silver for the tables of silver; 17. and the flesh-hooks, and the basins, and the cups, of pure gold; and for the golden bowls by weight for every bowl; and for the silver bowls by weight for every bowl; 18. and for the altar of incense refined gold by weight; and gold for the pattern of the chariot, even the cherubim, that spread out their wings, and covered the ark of the covenant of Jehovah. 19. "All this," said David, "have I been made to understand in writing from the hand of Jehovah, even all the works of this pattern."

20. And David said to Solomon his son, "Be strong and of good courage, and do it: fear not, nor be dismayed; for Jehovah God, even my God, is with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee, until all the work for the service of the house of Jehovah be finished. 21. "And, behold, there are the courses of the priests and the Levites, for all the service of the house of God: and there shall be with thee in all manner of work every

willing man that hath skill, for any manner of service: also the captains and all the people will be wholly at thy commandment."

PARAPHRASE

Chapter 28:11. Then David gave Solomon the blueprint of the Temple and its surroundings—the treasuries, the upstairs rooms, the inside rooms, and the sanctuary for the place of mercy. 12. He also gave Solomon his plans for the outer court, the outside rooms, the Temple storage areas, and the treasuries for the gifts dedicated by famous persons. For the Holy Spirit had given David all these plans. 13. The king also passed on to Solomon the instructions concerning the work of the various groups of priests and Levites; and he gave specifications for each item in the Temple which was to be used for worship and sacrifice. 14. David weighed out enough gold and silver to make these various items, 15. as well as the specific amount of gold needed for the lampstands and lamps. He also weighed out enough silver for the silver candlesticks and lamps, each according to its use. 16. He weighed out the gold for the table on which the Bread of the Presence would be placed and for the other gold tables. and he weighed the silver for the silver tables. 17. Then he weighed out the gold for the solid gold hooks used in handling the sacrificial meat and for the basins, cups, and bowls of gold and silver. 18. Finally, he weighed out the refined gold for the altar of incense and for the gold angels whose wings were stretched over the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord.

19. "Every part of this blueprint," David told Solomon, "was given to me in writing from the hand of the Lord."

20. Then he continued, "Be strong and courageous and get to work. Don't be frightened by the size of the task, for the Lord my God is with you; he will not forsake you. He will see to it that everything is finished correctly. 21. And these various groups of priests and Levites will serve in the Temple. Others with skills of every kind will volunteer, and the army and the entire nation are at your command."

COMMENTARY

A building so elaborate as the Temple would require an extensive set of blueprints. When Jehovah was ready to set His Tabernacle in the center of Israel's camp He provided a complete pattern for the structure. David planned this rather formal presentation of the design for the building to Solomon. One can imagine how David turned the respective pages of the blueprint. The pattern for the porch at the entrance on the east, the plans for the "houses" (the Holy Place and the Oracle), the diagrams for the "treasuries" (storerooms built in the walls of the Temple), the blueprints for the "inner chambers" (the ground level rooms in the Temple walls), the plans for the place of the mercy seat (the Oracle) were all delivered directly to Solomon. The complete pattern in all of its details was given to David "by the Spirit". The Spirit of God communicated very clearly with the spirit of David. The design for the courts and store rooms were also submitted to Solomon. The schedule of the courses of priests and Levites was formally presented. The specific dimensions and details of the vessels of gold and silver, of the candlesticks, of the tables of shewbread (of which there were ten—II Chronicles 4:8), of the tools, bowls, flasks, altar of incense, of the cherubim were placed in Solomon's hands on this occasion. The laws of Jehovah given at Mt. Sinai were written with the fingers of God. Jehovah spoke to Moses "face to face". David said with regard to the Temple plans, "all of this have I received in writing from Jehovah's hand". He had no misgivings as to the origin of the total design. David once again charges Solomon to be firm in his commitment to begin and complete the Temple. Jehovah would be with Solomon. The priests, the Levites, master craftsmen, willing workmen, and all the people would provide the human resources to build Jehovah's House.

26. GIFTS AND THANKSGIVING (29:1-25)

TEXT

Chapter 29:1. And David the king said unto all the

assembly, "Solomon my son, whom alone God hath chosen, is yet young and tender, and the work is great; for the palace is not for man, but for Jehovah God. 2. "Now I have prepared with all my might for the house of my God the gold for the things of gold, and the silver for the things of silver, and the brass for the things of brass, the iron for the things of iron, and wood for the things of wood; onyx stones, and stones to be set, stones for inlaid work, and of divers colors, and all manner of precious stones, and marble stones in abundance. 3. "Moreover also, because I have set my affection on the house of my God, seeing that I have a treasure of mine own of gold and silver, I give it unto the house of my God, over and above all that I have prepared for the holy house, 4. even three thousand talents of gold, of the gold of Ophir, and seven thousand talents of refined silver, wherewith to overlay the walls of the houses; 5. of gold for the things of gold, and of silver for the things of silver, and for all manner of work to be made by the hands of artificers. Who then offereth willingly to consecrate himself this day unto Jehovah?"

6. Then the princes of the fathers' houses, and the princes of the tribes of Israel, and the captains of thousands and of hundreds, with the rulers over the king's work, offered willingly; 7. and they gave for the service of the house of God of gold five thousand talents and ten thousand darics, and of silver ten thousand talents, and of brass eighteen thousand talents, and of iron a hundred thousand talents. 8. And they with whom precious stones were found gave them to the treasure of the house of Jehovah, under the hand of Jehiel the Gershonite. 9. Then the people rejoiced, for that they offered willingly, because with a perfect heart they offered willingly to Jehovah: and David the king also rejoiced with great joy.

10. Wherefore David blessed Jehovah before all the assembly; and David said, "Blessed be thou, O Jehovah, the God of Israel our father, forever and ever. 11. "Thine, O Jehovah, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O Jehovah, and thou art exalted as

head above all. 12. "Both riches and honor come of thee, and thou rulest over all; and in thy hand is power and might; and in thy hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all. 13. "Now therefore, our God, we thank thee, and praise thy glorious name. 14. "But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly after this sort? for all the things come of thee, and of thine own have we given thee. 15. "For we are strangers before thee, and sojourners, as all our fathers were: our days on the earth are as a shadow, and there is no abiding. 16. "O Jehovah our God, all this store that we have prepared to build thee a house for thy holy name cometh of thy hand, and is all thine own. 17. "I know also, my God, that thou triest the heart, and hast pleasure in uprightness. As for me, in the uprightness of my heart I have willingly offered all these things: and now have I seen with joy thy people, that are present here, offer willingly unto thee. 18. "O Jehovah, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Israel, our fathers, keep this forever in the imagination of the thoughts of the heart of thy people, and prepare their heart unto thee; 19. "and give unto Solomon my son a perfect heart, to keep thy commandments, thy testimonies, and thy statutes, and to do all these things, and to build the palace, for which I have made provision.

20. And David said to all the assembly, "Now bless Jehovah your God." And all the assembly blessed Jehovah, the God of their fathers, and bowed down their heads, and worshipped Jehovah, and the king. 21. And they sacrificed sacrifices unto Jehovah, and offered burnt-offerings unto Jehovah, on the morrow after that day, even a thousand bullocks, a thousand rams, and a thousand lambs, with their drink-offerings, and sacrifices in abundance for all Israel, 22. and did eat and drink before Jehovah on that day with great gladness. And they made Solomon the son of David king the second time, and anointed him unto Jehovah to be prince, and Zadok to be priest. 23. Then Solomon sat on the throne of Jehovah as king instead of David his father, and prospered; and all Israel obeyed him. 24. And all the princes, and the mighty men, and all the sons likewise of king David, submitted themselves unto Solomon the

king. 25. And Jehovah magnified Solomon exceedingly in the sight of all Israel, and bestowed upon him such royal majesty as had not been on any king before him in Israel.

PARAPHRASE

Chapter 29:1. Then King David turned to the entire assembly and said: "My son Solomon, whom God has chosen to be the next king of Israel, is still young and inexperienced, and the work ahead of him is enormous; for the temple he will build is not just another building—it is for the Lord God himself! 2. Using every resource at my command, I have gathered as much as I could for building it—enough gold, silver, bronze, iron, wood, and great quantities of onyx, other precious stones, costly jewels, and marble. 3. And now, because of my devotion to the Temple of God, I am giving all of my own private treasures to aid in the construction. This is in addition to the building materials I have already collected. 4, 5. These personal contributions consist of \$85,000,000 worth of gold from Ophir and \$20,000,000 worth used for the articles made of gold and silver and for the artistic decorations. Now then, who will follow my example? Who will give himself and all that he has to the Lord?"

6, 7. Then the clan leaders, the heads of the tribes, the army officers, and the administrative officers of the king pledged \$145,000,000 in gold; \$50,000 in foreign currency; \$30,000,000 in silver; 800 tons of bronze; and 4,600 tons of iron. 8. They also contributed great amounts of jewelry, which were deposited at the Temple treasury with Jehiel (a descendant of Gershom). 9. Everyone was excited and happy for this opportunity of service, and King David was moved with deep joy.

10. While still in the presence of the whole assembly, David expressed his praises to the Lord: "O Lord God of our father Israel, praise your name forever and ever! 11. Yours is the mighty power and glory and victory and majesty. Everything in the heavens and earth is yours, O Lord, and this is your kingdom. We adore you as being in control of everything. 12.

Riches and honor come from you alone, and you are the Ruler of all mankind; your hand controls power and might, and it is at your discretion that men are made great and given strength. 13. O our God, we thank you and praise your glorious name, 14. but who am I and who are my people that we should be permitted to give anything to you? Everything we have has come from you, and we only give you what is yours already! 15. For we are here for but a moment, strangers in the land as our fathers were before us; our days on earth are like a shadow, gone so soon, without a trace. 16. O Lord our God, all of this material that we have gathered to build a temple for your holy name comes from you! It all belongs to you! 17. I know, my God, that you test men to see if they are good; for you enjoy good men. I have done all this with good motives, and I have watched your people offer their gifts willingly and joyously.

18. "O Lord God of our fathers: Abraham, Isaac, and Israel! Make your people always want to obey you, and see to it that their love for you never changes. 19. Give my son Solomon a good heart toward God, so that he will want to obey you in the smallest detail, and will look forward eagerly to finishing the building of your temple, for which I have made all of these preparations."

20. Then David said to all the people, "Give praise to the Lord your God!" And they did, bowing low before the Lord and the king. 21. The next day they brought a thousand young bulls, a thousand rams, and a thousand lambs as burnt offerings to the Lord; they also offered drink offerings and many other sacrifices on behalf of all Israel. 22. Then they feasted and drank before the Lord with great joy. And again they crowned King David's son Solomon as their king. They anointed him before the Lord as their leader, and they anointed Zadok as their priest. 23. So God appointed Solomon to take the throne of his father David; and he prospered greatly, and all Israel obeyed him. 24. The national leaders, the army officers, and his brothers all pledged their allegiance to King Solomon. 25. And the Lord gave him great popularity with all the people of Israel,

and he amassed even greater wealth and honor than his father.

COMMENTARY

While David had all of the dignitaries and leaders of Israel gathered before him, he charged them with the work at hand. In verses 1-5 the principal question was, "who will consecrate himself to Jehovah to build the Temple?"¹ David feared what might happen after his death. Solomon was young. As king he could become interested in many things besides Jehovah's house. Solomon and all Israel needed to be impressed with the fact that the "palace" (the Temple) is not for man, but for Jehovah-God. Once more David summarized the provisions he had made.² In addition to the precious metals and expensive wood, all kinds of precious stones had been laid by for use in decorating the Temple. The onyx stone had been used in the ephod of the High Priest. This was a beautiful green stone. There were stones of variegated colors. Some of the precious stones were marble-like or white. Considering the provisions made by David, every kind of precious gem in abundance would be in the stock-pile of goods for the Temple. In addition to all other preparations, David gave a "treasure of his own gold and silver". The value of this cannot accurately be estimated. When the name "Ophir" is associated with gold it describes gold of highest quality. Ophir may have been located in India, but most likely was in the region of Sheba in southwestern Arabia.

The manner in which all of the Israelites "offered willingly" for their work reminds us of the similar situation when Moses called for materials and workmen for the Tabernacle (Exodus 36:2-7). Every person with authority pledged himself and those associated with him to the work. A reference is made in verse 7 to the daric which was a Persian coin. There is no evidence of the use of coined money by the Hebrews in David's time. Princes and rulers brought gold, silver, brass, and precious stones to add to the stock-pile of materials. There was great joy in Israel that day.

¹Elmslie, W. A. L., *The Interpreter's Bible*, Vol. III, pp. 438, 439.

²Spence, H. D. M., *The Pulpit Commentary*, I Chronicles, pp. 434, 435.

David took time to speak directly to Jehovah in the presence of the entire assembly. Jehovah was the only existent God and He was Israel's God. He hailed Jehovah as king and confessed Him to be owner of all things. To Jehovah belonged the kingdom, power, and glory. In all of the presentations made by king and people for the Temple, David admitted that they had only returned to Jehovah a part of that which He had given them. The brevity of man's time on earth was contrasted with the eternity of God. Just as a refiner of precious metals burns away the impurities, so Jehovah "triest the heart". David specifically addressed "the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Israel." Once, even "the imaginations of men's hearts were evil" and Jehovah sent the Flood. Now, David prayed that the wonderful spirit moving in Israel would always motivate God's people. Commandments, testimonies, and statutes have to do with the total law of Jehovah. David prayed that Solomon would be blessed with perfect understanding of God's will. The whole congregation shared on this memorable worship experience.

All that remained to be done was the sacrificing of the animals and the enthronement of Solomon. Verses 21-25 refer to the super-abundance of the burnt offerings. "A thousand bullocks, a thousand rams, a thousand lambs, plus the drink offerings" were given in Jehovah's name. The burnt offerings always symbolized the complete devotion of the offerer to his God. The eating and drinking most likely was associated with the peace offerings in which the offerer and his family shared. They were in happy covenant relationship with Jehovah. A previous public statement had been made (I Chronicles 23:1) about Solomon as king. On this occasion the holy oil was poured on his head. This symbolized his reception of the Holy Spirit. He received the crown and Jehovah's law. Zadok was there as High Priest. Solomon was Jehovah's choice for this high office. The Hebrew people, the leaders and princes (except Adonijah, Joab and Abiathar) all gladly accepted Solomon. The kingly office in Israel was to be magnified as never before.

27. THE CLOSE OF DAVID'S REIGN (29:26-30)

TEXT

Chapter 29:26. Now David the son of Jesse reigned over all Israel. 27. And the time that he reigned over Israel was forty years; seven years reigned he in Hebron, and thirty and three years reigned he in Jerusalem. 28. And he died in a good old age, full of days, riches, and honor: and Solomon his son reigned in his stead. 29. Now the acts of David the king, first and last, behold, they are written in the history of Samuel the seer, and in the history of Nathan the prophet, and in the history of Gad the seer, 30. with all his reign and his might, and the times that went over him, and over Israel, and over all the kingdoms of the countries.

PARAPHRASE

Chapter 29:26, 27. David was king of the land of Israel for forty years; seven of them during his reign in Hebron and thirty-three in Jerusalem. 28. He died at an old age, wealthy and honored; and his son Solomon reigned in his place. 29. Detailed biographies of King David have been written in the history of Samuel the prophet, the history written by Nathan the prophet, and in the history written by the prophet Gad. 30. These accounts tell of his reign and of his might and all that happened to him and to Israel and to the kings of the nearby nations.

COMMENTARY

The concluding words in I Chronicles refer to the life and death of David. A son of Jesse, the Bethlehemite, had ruled as king of Israel. His reign spanned forty years (that perfect Biblical number). "And he died", a phrase necessarily a part of every biography since Adam, had to be a part of this history. He was about seventy years of age, "a good old age", though not nearly as old as Abraham or Moses when they died. Those who shared in writing the history of David were Samuel, Nathan, and Gad. These men were seers and prophets and were personally acquainted with David. We have the Biblical books of Samuel;

but we have no books which are attributed to Nathan and Gad. These men were aware that very important events were transpiring in their day. Under the direction of the Holy Spirit they recorded this sacred history. With regard to David's death, Adam Clarke said that David had attained "a good old age; having lived as long as living could be desirable, and having in the main enjoyed good health. Full of days; having lived till he saw everything that he lived for either accomplished or in a state of forwardness. Full of riches; witness the immense sums left for the Temple. Full of honour; having gained more renown than any crowned head ever did, either before his time or since—laurels that are fresh to the present hour." Adam Clarke quotes Dr. Delaney's evaluation of David's life:

"To sum up all, David was a true believer. A zealous adorer of God, teacher of his law and worship, and inspirer of his praise. A glorious example. A perpetual and inexhaustible fountain of true piety. A consummate and unequalled hero; a skillful and fortunate captain; a steady patriot; a wise ruler; a faithful, generous, and magnanimous friend; and what is yet rarer, a no less generous and magnanimous enemy. A true penitent, a divine musician. A sublime poet, and an inspired prophet. By birth, a peasant; by merit, a prince; in youth, a hero; in manhood, a monarch; and in age, a saint".¹

SUMMARY QUESTIONS

LESSON THIRTEEN 27-29

405. How many special officials were appointed each month to serve David in Jerusalem?
406. Name the person responsible for each course of special officials.
407. Who was the Benaiah of 27:5?
408. What additional information outside of Chronicles is provided concerning Asahel?

¹Clarke, Adam, *A Commentary and Critical Notes*, Vol. II, p. 634.

409. Name the princes of each of the twelve tribes of Israel.
410. Who specifically represented the house of Aaron?
411. To whom did Jehovah promise increasing Israel like the stars of heaven?
412. Twelve rulers of David's substance are named. List the names and responsibilities of each.
413. Name David's counsellors.
414. For what purpose did David call a meeting of all his princes, captains, and mighty men?
415. Which of all the tribes of Israel did Jehovah choose for the kingly tribe?
416. What did Jehovah intend to do for Solomon?
417. What did David mean when he charged his people to possess the land of Israel?
418. How should Solomon serve Jehovah?
419. How does the Word account for the origin of the pattern of the Temple?
420. How would the fashion and weight of the candle-stick, basins, and bowls be determined?
421. Concerning the work, what promise did David make to Solomon?
422. What would Solomon do about skilled workmen for the Temple?
423. Explain David's word, "the palace is not for man". (29:1)
424. List the various kinds of materials David had prepared for the building of the Temple.
425. What did David do with his personal fortune?
426. Carefully locate Ophir.
427. In addressing the people what challenge did David propose?
428. Describe the response of the princes, captains, and rulers.
429. According to 29:11-12 what was David's concept of Jehovah?
430. What did David mean in the last part of 29:14?

431. Historically, who were the fathers of the Hebrew people?
432. What request did David make of Jehovah for Solomon?
433. How can an assembly of people bless Jehovah?
434. Why was Solomon made king a second time?
435. How did Solomon's kingdom compare with other kingdoms?
436. What was the total length of David's reign over God's people?
437. Name three men who wrote accounts of David's reign. Carefully identify each man.