

THROUGH THE BIBLE STUDY

1 CHRONICLES 17-22

During David's fugitive years – while on the run from Saul – he slept in caves and under the stars... Now he's living in a palatial mansion built with timber from the great cedars of Lebanon.... *And he's starting to feel guilty.* Hey, King David is enjoying the lifestyle of the rich and famous while God's Ark rests in a tent.

He wants to do something about this inequity, and build God a Temple.

“Now it came to pass, when David was dwelling in his house, that David said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of the covenant of the LORD is under tent curtains." Then Nathan said to David, "Do all that is in your heart, for God is with you." But Nathan spoke too soon.

Evidently, the prophet had gotten caught up in the king's fervor for God.

“But it happened that night that the word of God came to Nathan, saying, "Go and tell My servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: "You shall not build Me a house to dwell in. For I have not dwelt in a house since the time that I brought up Israel, even to this day, but have gone from tent to tent, and from one tabernacle to another.” God's presence and glory rested over the Ark of the Covenant.

And the Ark had occupied a tent since the days of Moses – 600 years.

“Wherever I have moved about with all Israel, have I ever spoken a word to any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd My people, saying, 'Why have you not built Me a house of cedar?'" The God who is always on the move never complained about His accommodations. God was *content* with a *tent*.

"Now therefore, thus shall you say to My servant David, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts: "I took you from the sheepfold, from following the sheep, to be ruler over My people Israel." God was the one responsible for David's rise to prominence.

“And I have been with you wherever you have gone, and have cut off all your enemies from before you, and have made you a name like the name of the great men who are on the earth. Moreover I will appoint a place for My people Israel, and will plant them, that they may dwell in a place of their own and move no more; nor shall the sons of wickedness oppress them anymore, as previously, since the time that I commanded judges to be over My people Israel. Also I will subdue all your enemies. Furthermore I tell you that the LORD will build you a house.”

David starts out wanting to build God a house - but instead God promises to build David a house – in essence, a household of rulers – a Davidic dynasty...

“And it shall be, when your days are fulfilled, when you must go to be with your fathers, that I will set up your seed after you, who will be of your sons; and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build Me a house...” David's son and immediate

successor, Solomon, fulfilled this part of the covenant. Solomon built a Temple.

“And I will establish his throne forever. I will be his Father, and he shall be My son; and I will not take My mercy away from him, as I took it from him who was before you.” The right to rule was stripped from Saul and given to David... but not so with David’s heir. His throne and authority will be established forever.

David’s son, Solomon, became heir to David’s throne, but only partially fulfilled God’s promises to David. Yes, Solomon built a temple. But his throne didn’t last forever. Babylon dethroned Solomon’s final successor, Zedekiah, in 586 BC.

God is promising David a descendent who will establish an eternal kingdom... *and there’s more...* “I will establish him in My house and in My kingdom forever; and his throne shall be established forever.” He will be established forever.

This is the part of God’s promise that has ignited hope in the hearts of Jewish people throughout their history... A king will sit on the throne for all eternity.

Here’s the entire promise, “A forever king will sit on a forever throne and rule over a forever kingdom.” Obviously, the scope of this prophecy looked beyond Solomon to a future ruler – a Jewish king who came to be called “**Messiah.**”

The rabbis have always seen in God’s covenant with David a dual-prophecy - partially fulfilled by Solomon, but ultimately pointing to the King of kings.

In fact, much of the rest of the Old Testament is dedicated to identifying this king. Isaiah tells us *how He’ll be born* – of a

virgin. Daniel communicates *when He'll be born* – after 69 weeks. Micah says *where He'll be born* – in Bethlehem.

The rest of the Old Testament points out the heir to the **Davidic Covenant**.

And this is why the New Testament writers, Matthew and Luke, go to such extremes to trace the genealogy of Jesus all the way back to King David.

Jesus was this promised son of David.

Anyone who claims to be a “Savior”, or a “Messiah”, and cannot trace his lineage back to David is an imposter. It's interesting, that shortly after Jesus ascended to Heaven the temple was burned by the Romans. The Jewish genealogical records were turned the ashes. God cut down the family trees because they were no longer needed. Messiah had already come.

Jesus proved his Davidic ancestry as Israel's Messiah.

Verse 15, “According to all these words and according to all this vision, so Nathan spoke to David.” David replies, “Then King David went in and sat before the LORD; and he said: “Who am I, O LORD God? And what is my house, that You have brought me this far?” How often have I said the same... and marveled at God's mercies toward me and my house - “that You have brought us this far?”

At times we get down about our spiritual progress, but look at **where you are** compared to **where you use to be!** God has brought us all so far, and He's not through with us yet. He has a wonderful plan for you and your family... Let's be

thankful, both for how far you've come, *AND* for how far God wants to take us.

“Yet this was a small thing in Your sight, O God; and You have also spoken of Your servant's house for a great while to come... David understood the long term implications of the covenant God had made with him... “And have regarded me according to the rank of a man of high degree, O LORD God. What more can David say to You for the honor of Your servant? For You know Your servant.

O LORD, for Your servant's sake, and according to Your own heart, You have done all this greatness, in making known all these great things. O LORD, there is none like You, nor is there any God besides You, according to all that we have heard with our ears.” David is overwhelmed at God's mercies toward him.

“And who is like Your people Israel, the one nation on the earth whom God went to redeem for Himself as a people - to make for Yourself a name by great and awesome deeds, by driving out nations from before Your people whom You redeemed from Egypt? For You have made Your people Israel Your very own people forever; and You, LORD, have become their God.” Notice, Israel is not God's people for a time - then discarded. They're God's people “forever”.

Verse 23, “And now, O LORD, the word which You have spoken concerning Your servant and concerning his house, let it be established forever, and do as You have said. So let it be established, that Your name may be magnified forever,

saying, 'The LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, is Israel's God.'

I love the phrase, “the God of Israel, is Israel’s God”... It’s like saying, “You’re not just our God in name, but we treat you as God. You really are our God!”

“And let the house of Your servant David be established before You.

For You, O my God, have revealed to Your servant that You will build him a house. Therefore Your servant has found it in his heart to pray before You. And now, LORD, You are God, and have promised this goodness to Your servant.

Now You have been pleased to bless the house of Your servant, that it may continue before You forever; for You have blessed it, O LORD, and it shall be blessed forever." David praises God for His everlasting covenant with Him.

Chapter 18, “After this it came to pass that David attacked the Philistines, subdued them, and took Gath and its towns from the hand of the Philistines.”

It was as if God’s promise to David emboldened him to fight for God.

“Then he defeated Moab, and the Moabites became David's servants, and brought tribute. And David defeated Hadadezer king of Zobah as far as Hamath, as he went to establish his power by the River Euphrates.” David is on a roll.

“David took from him 1000 chariots, 7000 horsemen, and 20,000 foot soldiers.

And David also hamstrung all the chariot horses, except that he spared enough of them for 100 chariots.” Horses were implements of war. You hamstrung horses so the enemy wouldn’t mount up a cavalry that would attack you a second time.

Verse 5 “When the Syrians of Damascus came to help Hadadezer king of Zobah, David killed 22,000 of the Syrians. Then David put garrisons in Syria of Damascus; and the Syrians became David's servants, and brought tribute.

So the LORD preserved David wherever he went.

And David took the shields of gold that were on the servants of Hadadezer, and brought them to Jerusalem. Also from Tibhath and from Chun, cities of Hadadezer, David brought a large amount of bronze, with which Solomon made the bronze Sea, the pillars, and the articles of bronze.” The spoils from David’s military victories were used by Solomon as materials for the building of the Temple.

Now when Tou king of Hamath heard that David had defeated all the army of Hadadezer king of Zobah, he sent Hadoram his son to King David, to greet him and bless him, because he had fought against Hadadezer and defeated him (for Hadadezer had been at war with Tou); and Hadoram brought with him all kinds of articles of gold, silver, and bronze. King David also dedicated these to the LORD, along with the silver and gold that he had brought from all these nations - from Edom, from Moab, from the people of Ammon, from the Philistines, and from Amalek. Edom was southeast - Moab east-southeast - Ammon was east - the Syrians were

north - the Philistines were west - Amalek was southwest. Hey, David conquered his enemies all around him - opened a fast food joint (pic).

“Moreover Abishai the son of Zeruiah killed 18,000 Edomites in the Valley of Salt.” (The Valley of the Dead Sea.) “He also put garrisons in Edom, and all the Edomites became David's servants.” And verse 13 sums up David's military conquests... “And the LORD preserved David wherever he went.”

“So David reigned over all Israel, and administered judgment and justice to all his people.” He did so largely through his cabinet members who are listed next...

Joab the son of Zeruiah was over the army; Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud was recorder (State Historian); Zadok the son of Ahitub and Abimelech the son of Abiathar were the priests; Shavsha was the scribe (or Secretary of State);

Benaiah the son of Jehoiada was over the Cherethites and the Pelethites (the king's secret service – his personal bodyguards); and David's sons were chief ministers at the king's side.” This list also appears in 2 Samuel 8.

Chapter 19 “It happened after this that Nahash the king of the people of Ammon died, and his son reigned in his place. Then David said, "I will show kindness to Hanun the son of Nahash, because his father showed kindness to me." So David sent messengers to comfort him concerning his father.

And David's servants came to Hanun in the land of the people of Ammon to comfort him. And the princes of the people of Ammon said to Hanun, "Do you think that David really honors your father because he has sent comforters to

you? Did his servants not come to you to search and to overthrow and to spy out the land?"

Tragically, Hanun believes in his counselors more than in the good intentions of David. "Therefore Hanun took David's servants, shaved them, and cut off their garments in the middle, at their buttocks, and sent them away." He outflanks David's army... attacks from the rear... he fights in the light of the moon.

Hanun exposes their derrieres... It's an insult to the king who sent them.

Verse 5, "Then some went and told David about the men; and he sent to meet them, because the men were greatly ashamed. And the king said, "Wait at Jericho until your beards have grown, and then return." In ancient Israel to shave a man's beard was to strip him of his masculinity. These guys were too ashamed to be seen in public. Before they can return their beards have to grow back.

"When the people of Ammon saw that they had made themselves repulsive to David, Hanun and the people of Ammon sent a thousand talents of silver to hire for themselves chariots and horsemen from Mesopotamia, from Syrian Maachah, and from Zobah." Hanun realized he'd made a mistake and infuriated David, and he's anticipating retaliation, so he goes out and hires an army of mercenaries.

Verse 7 "So they hired for themselves 32,000 chariots, with the king of Maachah and his people, who came and encamped before Medeba. Also the people of Ammon gathered together from their cities, and came to battle.

Now when David heard of it, he sent Joab and all the army of the mighty men.

Then the people of Ammon came out and put themselves in battle array before the gate of the city, and the kings who had come were by themselves in the field.

When Joab saw that the battle line was against him before and behind, he chose some of Israel's best and put them in battle array against the Syrians.”

Joab is prepared to fight against Ammon, but his intelligence tells him Hanun has hired the Syrians... he’s going to fight on two fronts instead of just one. He splits his army, and puts a second division under his brother, Abishai.

“And the rest of the people he put under the command of Abishai his brother, and they set themselves in battle array against the people of Ammon.

Then he said, "If the Syrians are too strong for me, then you shall help me; but if the people of Ammon are too strong for you, then I will help you. Be of good courage, and let us be strong for our people and for the cities of our God.

And may the LORD do what is good in His sight."

This should be the attitude of all brothers and sisters. If you’re fighting a battle that appears too strong for you I should rush to help. If I’m fighting a battle that appears to strong for me you should come to my aid. We’re stronger together.

So Joab and the people who were with him drew near for the battle against the Syrians, and they fled before him. When

the people of Ammon saw that the Syrians were fleeing, they also fled before Abishai his brother, and entered the city.

So Joab went to Jerusalem.” God gave Israel victory without firing a shot.

Now when the Syrians saw that they had been defeated by Israel, they sent messengers and brought the Syrians who were beyond the River, and Shophach the commander of Hadadezer's army went before them. When it was told David, he gathered all Israel, crossed over the Jordan and came upon them, and set up in battle array against them. So when David had set up in battle array against the Syrians **(pic)**, they fought with him. Then the Syrians fled before Israel; and David killed 7000 charioteers and 40,000 foot soldiers of the Syrians, and killed Shophach the commander of the army. And when the servants of Hadadezer saw that they were defeated by Israel, they made peace with David and became his servants. So the Syrians were not willing to help the people of Ammon anymore.

Chapter 20 “It happened in the spring of the year, at the time kings go out to battle, that Joab led out the armed forces and ravaged the country of the people of Ammon, and came and besieged Rabbah. But David stayed at Jerusalem.

And Joab defeated Rabbah and overthrew it.” One of David’s mighty men died in the siege of Rabbah – a man who lived in Jerusalem – not too far from David.

In fact, David could see this man’s rooftop from his bedroom balcony. David’s neighbor was a man named *Uriah the Hittite*. His wife’s name was *Bathsheba*.

For the rest of the story read 2 Samuel 11... It begins the same way as 1 Chronicles 20... “It happened in the spring of the year, at the time when kings go out to battle... David arose from his bed and walked on the roof... And from the roof he saw a woman bathing, and the woman was very beautiful to behold...”

The fling that followed spawned a sad tail of adultery and murder - eventually leading to the royal family’s moral decline, and chaos throughout his kingdom.

It’s interesting though that such an important piece of the puzzle – a story that’s given a whole chapter in 2 Samuel - gets completely overlooked in Chronicles...

And we’ve talked about why... Remember Ezra penned Chronicles not to point out Israel’s failures. They’d just spent 70 years in exile in a foreign land. The Jews were well aware of their sin. What they needed was encouragement to start over.

That’s why Ezra dwells on David’s successes and minimizes his failures.

Verse 2 “Then David took their king's crown from his head, and found it to weigh a talent of gold (a talent is 100 pounds – obviously, the king didn’t wear his crown for long periods of time), and there were precious stones in it. And it was set on David's head. Also he brought out the spoil of the city in great abundance.

And he brought out the people who were in it, and put them to work with saws, with iron picks, and with axes. So David

did to all the cities of the people of Ammon. Then David and all the people returned to Jerusalem.

Now it happened afterward that war broke out at Gezer with the Philistines, at which time Sibbechai the Hushathite killed Sippai, who was one of the sons of the giant. And they were subdued.” Notice Goliath wasn’t the only giant David fought.

2 Samuel 21 is the parallel passage to 1 Chronicles 20. And Samuel mentions an incident Ezra excludes. In verses 16-17 a giant named “*Ishbi-Benob*” wanted to kill David, and almost did. Abishai came to David’s last second defense.

Ezra leaves this encounter out of his Chronicles for the same reason he excludes David’s adultery with Bathsheba. His purpose is to encourage the Jews - not frighten them. He’s recalling decisive victories, not near-misses.

“Again there was war with the Philistines, and Elhanan the son of Jair killed Lahmi the brother of Goliath the Gittite, the shaft of whose spear was like a weaver’s beam.” Notice, Goliath had a brother. He actually had 4 brothers.

That’s why David took 5 smooth stones from the brook when he faced off with Goliath. He was prepared to tackle the other 4 brothers once he’d killed Goliath.

“Yet again there was war at Gath, where there was a man of great stature, with 24 fingers and toes, 6 on each hand and 6 on each foot; and he also was born to the giant.” This guy was a freak of nature. *Imagine trying to buy gloves or shoes...*

When the guy was a kid his daddy had to have a special baseball glove made for him – a glove with 6 fingers. And of course you know what Little League team he played for... **the Giants**. Hey, with 24 digits the kid may've been on steroids.

Imagine a Giant on steroids... after 3000 years some things remain the same.

Actually, these giants may've been on spiritual steroids – demonic enhancers.

We talked in Joshua about the possibility of these giants being the byproduct of occult Canaanite practices. Sex with demons is a part of the occult even today.

It could be that demons took on human bodies, had sex with women, and sired a family or two of giants. It probably was no coincidence that these giants appear at this point in history where God's people are trying to take the land God had given them. They become the leading opposition to the Israelite takeover.

We're still talking about the 6-fingered, 6-toed giant... verse 7... **“So when he defied Israel, Jonathan the son of Shimea, David's brother, killed him.”**

Remember David's brothers were among the Israelites who cowered away at the taunts of Goliath. Before David stepped up – and trusted God – and went out to kill Goliath, there were no giant-killers in Israel – everyone feared the giants.

But David set an example even his brothers followed. His faith was contagious. David's trusted God and created a whole battalion of giant-killers in Israel.

Verse 8 sums it up, “These were born to the giant in Gath, and they fell by the hand of David and by the hand of his servants.” Even servants got into the action.

Chapter 21, “Now Satan stood up against Israel, and moved David to number Israel.” Some folks point to an apparent contradiction. 2 Samuel 24:1 explains, “Again the anger of the LORD was aroused against Israel, and He moved David against them to say, “Go, number Israel and Judah.”

2 Samuel 24 says God “moved David.” 1 Chronicles 21 says Satan “moved David.” Which is it? The answer is both. God is sovereign. Ultimately, God either causes or allows all that happens in the universe. And God at times uses Satan. Don’t be surprised to learn that God at times uses the forces of darkness to accomplish His will. Martin Luther once referred to Satan as “God’s ape.”

God is the organ grinder and Satan at times must dance to His tune.

Apparently, God saw in David’s heart a sin that needed to be addressed. Pride could destroy a good man. So God allowed David to be tempted by the devil.

“So David said to Joab and to the leaders of the people, “Go, number Israel from Beersheba to Dan, and bring the number of them to me that I may know it.”

David ordered a census. He counted the population of Israel... which was not evil in and of itself... Moses numbered the nation so he could organize and serve the people. The problem with David’s census was its motivation. David wanted a nose count so he could boast in the extent of his

kingdom – the vastness of his realm. David wanted to number the nation for *his benefit - not their benefit*.

Remember too, in Bible times *counting* implied ownership. Normally, you don't number someone else's stuff. It's not my place to count your money or vice versa.

David's desire to number the people of Israel sprang from his desire to flaunt the vastness of *His* kingdom. Satan stirred his ego, and God judged David.

There have been times when we've needed to count our attendance out of love and respect for people. Courtesy requires we know how many parking spots or seats to provide. All counting isn't evil. It depends on your motive.

Here's the rule we apply in taking attendance, "There is nothing wrong with counting people as long as it's the people that count." Not someone's ego!

Verse 3 "And Joab answered..." Joab was brave enough to question the king's motive. He knew something was wrong... "May the LORD make His people a hundred times more than they are. But, my lord the king, are they not all my lord's servants? Why then does my lord require this thing? Why should he be a cause of guilt in Israel?" Nevertheless the king's word prevailed against Joab.

Therefore Joab departed and went throughout all Israel and came to Jerusalem.

Then Joab gave the sum of the number of the people to David. All Israel had 1,100,000 men who drew the sword, and Judah had 470,000 men who drew the sword. But he did not count Levi and Benjamin among them, for the king's word

was abominable to Joab.” Joab went along until he could stomach it no longer.

While we're here let me clear up another apparent discrepancy - the count in 2 Samuel 24:9 is different than the numbers here. 2 Samuel says Israel numbered 800,000, while Judah equaled 500,000. Let me suggest a possible resolution...

The writer of Samuel chose not to record the free-standing army.

2 Samuel 6:1 says David gathered 30,000 choice troops. Add those choice troops to Judah's 470,000 in verse 5, and you get the 500,000 of 2 Samuel 24.

1 Chronicles 27 describes 12 divisions of 24,000 men, or 288,000 – round off to 300,000 – add 2 Samuel's 800,000 – and you get the 1.1 million in verse 5.

Study it for yourself... I think this is an easy solution to the problem - as there are with all the Bible's "*apparent discrepancies*". The Bible is an inerrant book.

Verse 7 tells us God's reaction to David's census. **"God was displeased with this thing; therefore He struck Israel."** The nation gets judged for the leader's sin.

This is why it's important for us to elect godly leaders. It's not just the leader himself – but the citizens who elected him – who are held accountable for his actions. That's a scary thought in America today... *and a motivation to vote.*

"So David said to God, "I have sinned greatly, because I have done this thing; but now, I pray, take away the iniquity of

Your servant, for I have done very foolishly." David immediately confesses his sin, and repents.

“And the LORD spoke to Gad, David's seer (a seer was a person who saw into the spiritual realm), saying, (Gad was God's messenger to David) He says to Gad, "Go and tell David, saying, 'Thus says the LORD: "I offer you three things; choose one of them for yourself, that I may do it to you." God is going to give David an opportunity to choose his punishment. David gets to pick his poison.

Notice, David's repentance gained God's forgiveness – but it didn't remove sin's consequences. God still punishes him as an example to future kings.

“So Gad came to David and said to him, "Thus says the LORD: 'Choose for yourself, either 3 years of famine, or 3 months to be defeated by your foes with the sword of your enemies overtaking you, or else for 3 days the sword of the LORD - the plague in the land, with the angel of the LORD destroying throughout all the territory of Israel.' Now consider what answer I should take back to Him who sent me." David opts to get it over with as quickly as possible... he takes the 3 days.

“And David said to Gad, "I am in great distress. Please let me fall into the hand of the LORD, for His mercies are very great; but do not let me fall into the hand of man." David takes God's plague for God will be merciful even in judgment.

“So the LORD sent a plague upon Israel, and 70,000 men of Israel fell.”

It's sad how one man's pride and stubbornness can produce devastating effect on the people around him. Author FB Meyer writes of David, "How deeply humbled must he have been as he saw how easily the numbers of his people, which had caused him so much vain-glory, could melt away before the blight of pestilence!"

"And God sent an angel to Jerusalem to destroy it.

As he was destroying, the LORD looked and relented of the disaster, and said to the angel who was destroying, "It is enough; now restrain your hand."

And the angel of the LORD stood by the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite.

Then David lifted his eyes and saw the angel of the LORD standing between earth and heaven, having in his hand a drawn sword stretched out over Jerusalem.

So David and the elders, clothed in sackcloth, fell on their faces.

And David said to God, "Was it not I who commanded the people to be numbered? I am the one who has sinned and done evil indeed; but these sheep, what have they done? Let Your hand, I pray, O LORD my God, be against me and my father's house, but not against Your people that they should be plagued." This is the heart of a godly leader. He asks God not to punish others for his mistakes.

Verse 18 "Therefore, the angel of the LORD commanded Gad to say to David that David should go and erect an altar to

the LORD on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite.” This spot becomes a very important piece of real estate.

“So David went up at the word of Gad, which he had spoken in the name of the LORD. Now Ornan turned and saw the angel; and his four sons who were with him hid themselves, but Ornan continued threshing wheat.” Ornan stays at his post!

“Then David came to Ornan, and Ornan looked and saw David. And he went out from the threshing floor, and bowed before David with his face to the ground.

Then David said to Ornan, "Grant me the place of this threshing floor, that I may build an altar on it to the LORD. You shall grant it to me at the full price, that the plague may be withdrawn from the people." David intends to pay top dollar.

“And Ornan said to David, "Take it to yourself, and let my lord the king do what is good in his eyes. Look, I also give you the oxen for burnt offerings, the threshing implements for wood, and the wheat for the grain offering; I give it all."

Verse 24, “Then King David said to Ornan, "No, but I will surely buy it for the full price, for I will not take what is yours for the LORD, nor offer burnt offerings with that which costs me nothing." So David gave Ornan 600 shekels of gold by weight for the place.” Today, the 35 acres David purchased are incalculable.

Today, Ornan’s threshing floor is the third holiest site in Islam – the place where the Jewish Temple stood for over

1000 years – and the spot where Christians believe Jesus will return, set up His throne, and rule the world.

Ornan's threshing floor is otherwise known as Jerusalem's Temple Mount. For a mere 600 shekels David purchased the most priceless parcel on the Earth.

Notice, when David first asks Ornan to sell him the property, Ornan tries to give it to the king - but David tells him in verse 24, **"No, but I will surely buy it for the full price, for I will not take what is yours for the LORD, nor offer burnt offerings with that which costs me nothing."** David wants God to know his love for Him isn't stingy - it's sacrificial. Love doesn't hold back. Love doesn't seek a bargain.

Love pays the highest price possible - whatever it costs - to show itself.

Let's say you get a Christmas gift you didn't like. You put it away and give it to me the following Christmas. I'm sure you've never done that... *but what if...*

And what if I found out the gift I received from you was something that you didn't want - you considered worthless – how would that make me feel?

This is what we do to God when we worship and serve Him with our scraps and spares – we love Him **"with that which costs me nothing."** It's a cheap love.

Love is not content with tipping God. The concern is not, *how little can I get by with giving.* Real love asks, *how much can I sacrifice?* Love gives God its best.

When you serve God do you do so “with that which costs me nothing?”

We sign up, but slop through. We do our bit, but not our best. Any time you give to God – money or service – we should be willing to give him top dollar.

And this is why I question the love of a man and woman who refuse to get married and prefer to live together. If you really love someone you’ll want to express it by paying the highest price possible – pledging the strongest commitment you can muster – and in our society that’s marriage...

Cohabiting couples express their love “with that which costs me nothing.”

Back on the threshing floor, “David built there an altar to the LORD, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings, and called on the LORD; and He answered him from heaven by fire on the altar of burnt offering. Then the LORD commanded the angel, and he returned his sword to its sheath.” God’s judgment ceased.

At that time, when David saw that the LORD had answered him on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite, he sacrificed there. For the tabernacle of the LORD and the altar of the burnt offering, which Moses had made in the wilderness, were at that time at the high place in Gibeon. But David could not go before it to inquire of God, for he was afraid of the sword of the angel of the LORD.”

Chapter 22, “Then David said, “This is the house of the LORD God, and this is the altar of burnt offering for Israel.”

David sensed he was standing on holy ground. And his statement was prophetic. Solomon built the Temple on this exact location.

“So David commanded to gather the aliens who were in the land of Israel; and he appointed masons to cut hewn stones to build the house of God. And David prepared iron in abundance for the nails of the doors of the gates and for the joints, and bronze in abundance beyond measure, and cedar trees in abundance; for the Sidonians and those from Tyre brought much cedar wood to David.” David knew it was not for him to build the Temple, but he is stockpiling materials for his son.

“Now David said, "Solomon my son is young and inexperienced, and the house to be built for the LORD must be exceedingly magnificent, famous and glorious throughout all countries. I will now make preparation for it."

So David made abundant preparations before his death.”

Don't forget, Jesus, David's Son, is building a Temple in the world today - it's the Church. The same should be said of the Church that was said of the Temple – it's “magnificent... and glorious”. Jesus left it to his successor, the Holy Spirit, to build a glorious church. We're a witness to the world of the beauty of Jesus.

And the Church, like the Temple, should be built with materials Jesus provides. On the cross our King Jesus purchased the love and forgiveness and power and grace and gifts that we need. Everything was provided to build the Temple.

David also encourages Solomon. Verse 6 “Then he called for his son Solomon, and charged him to build a house for the LORD God of Israel. And David said to Solomon: "My son, as for me, it was in my mind to build a house to the name of the LORD my God; but the word of the LORD came to me, saying, 'You have shed much blood and have made great wars; you shall not build a house for My name, because you have shed much blood on the earth in My sight.'”

For the first time we're told why God refused to let David build the Temple. It wouldn't have been improper for *a man of war* to construct *a house of peace*...

It's interesting “Solomon” means “peaceable”.

The remainder of the chapter is David's advice to Solomon...

David recounts God's word to him, “Behold, a son shall be born to you, who shall be a man of rest; and I will give him rest from all his enemies all around. His name shall be Solomon, for I will give peace and quietness to Israel in his days.

He shall build a house for My name, and he shall be My son, and I will be his Father; and I will establish the throne of his kingdom over Israel forever.'

"Now, my son, may the LORD be with you; and may you prosper, and build the house of the LORD your God, as He has said to you. Only may the LORD give you wisdom and understanding, and give you charge concerning Israel, that you may keep the law of the LORD your God. Then you will prosper, if you take care to fulfill the statutes and judgments

with which the LORD charged Moses concerning Israel. Be strong and of good courage; do not fear nor be dismayed.

Indeed I have taken much trouble to prepare for the house of the LORD 100,000 talents of gold and 1,000,000 talents of silver (a talent was a weighted measure of nearly 100 pounds), and bronze and iron beyond measure, for it is so abundant. I have prepared timber and stone also, and you may add to them.

Moreover there are workmen with you in abundance: woodsmen and stonecutters, and all types of skillful men for every kind of work.

Of gold and silver and bronze and iron there is no limit.” 100,000 talents of gold and 1,000,000 talents of silver alone – at today’s market prices – would make the ticket for the Temple - \$125 billion. *David tells his son the money is in the bank!*

“Arise and begin working, and the LORD be with you.”

And I can’t help but to think this is what Jesus is saying to us tonight.

All that we need to build a glorious Temple – personally and corporately has been prepare for us – so “arise, and begin working, and the LORD be with you.”

“David also commanded all the leaders of Israel to help Solomon his son, saying, “Is not the LORD your God with you? And has He not given you rest on every side? For He has given the inhabitants of the land into my hand, and the land is subdued before the LORD and before His people.” Israel was at peace.

Solomon would not be distracted by war. "Now set your heart and your soul to seek the LORD your God. Therefore arise and build the sanctuary of the LORD God, to bring the ark of the covenant of the LORD and the holy articles of God into the house that is to be built for the name of the LORD."

I wish I had time to go into all the parallels between Jesus and David and the contributions each of them made toward building the Church and the Temple...

Both provide a successor, rest from their enemies (peace), materials, wisdom, encouragement, workmen, a diversity of gifts and talents among the workers, the support of the elders... *but Solomon still has to rise and build... and so do we!*