

I Chronicles 21-22 –9 October 2025

“Preparing What We’ll Never Use”

Introduction

- *I Chr begins with King David’s reign
- *In Chap 13-15 David learned to *refine his life* matching godly faith with godly action
- *In Chap 16-17, we saw David’s heart for God and the *establishment of his religious life* and service
- *In Chap 18-20, instead of plateauing, David *uses the material prosperity to press into ALL the God had*
- *Now in Chap 21-22, David provides for the future of Israel so that they many continue to glorify God
- *Each step of our present faith walk, effects the future
 - *How we live determines the fruit of tomorrow
 - *How we live adds or subtracts from other’s success

Today, we’ll see 3 ways we could be preparing our successors to serve the Lord

#1 – The Wrong Way: Role-model self-dependence (Chap 21:1-13)

Read Vs 1-2

1. “Why would God allow something bad”?
 - a. There’re many more moving parts behind the scenes that we can’t see (OT Joseph)
2. Likely that God was angry w/ Israel at this time for the rebellion of Sheba & Israel following him
3. He didn’t need to number to feed or house the people correctly, he just wanted to know the #
 - a. This is pride & trusting in self-strength, rather than humbly trusting in God’s power

Read Vs 3

1. Joab tries talking David out of this sin

Read Vs 4-6

1. II Sam 24 says this census circuit took 9 months
 - a. In this time, he should have stopped this sin
2. Rabbis teach Joab didn’t number Levi & Ben so that if God judged the numbered tribes, some would still remain (maybe true)

Read Vs 7-8

1. David doesn't dig in his heels, he doesn't ignore that situation, but he turns and repents
2. See, David taking ownership – "I've done this"

Read Vs 9-13

1. David didn't choose based on himself being protected, nor choose based on a short difficulty
2. David chose based on which would put them in God's hands and not man's hands
 - a. Famine – they'd be at the mercy of foreign nations for food & the poor would die
 - b. Enemies – be at mercy of foreigners & soldiers would die
 - c. Plague – at God's mercy & ANY could die
3. In "falling into God's hands and not man's", he's asking for the plague option
 - a. Famine or war would have insulated him from the consequences, but he chose different
 - b. Plague leaves them totally dependent on God

4. David knew God is much better at deciding punishment than man is
 - a. Man seeks vengeance, God seeks correction

#2 – The Unplanned Way: Always repenting toward God's plan (Chap 21:14-22:1)

Read Vs 14-15

1. We see the validation that God is merciful

Read Vs 16-17

1. David asks for more mercy in sparing the people (sheep), but God has a special plan

Read Vs 18-22

1. Vs 18 makes it clear God Himself chose this future temple mount for the place of this sacrifice
2. What mercy that God turns this sin into acquiring the Temple Mount
 - a. Idea is this: 'Don't worry about the number of people, when you have the ONE true God

3. II Chr 3:1 tells us this is at Mt Moriah
 - a. Place where Abraham offered Isaac
 - b. Place where God will offer His Son Jesus
 - c. All this points to God Himself being the true way to stop the plague of sin

Read Vs 23-25

1. I will not offer to God what costs me nothing
2. True repentance & worship comes at a price
 - a. Read Luke 9:23 – We expend this world’s goods for the benefit of spiritual gains
 - b. J. Elliott “He is no fool, who gives up what he cannot keep, to gain what he cannot lose”

Read Vs 26-27

1. What mercy to have the ability to come back into peace after this great sin
2. Repentance brings restoration into God’s grace
3. Read Matthew 3:8 – Repentance isn’t a one-time act, it’s a lifestyle of ripening fruit

Read Vs 21:28-22:1

1. Having seen his prayers answered & his sacrifices accepted, this place has already become a house of prayer & a temple of sacrifice

#3 – The Right Way: Teaching others to depend on God (Chap 22:2-19)

Read Vs 2-4

1. I Kings 5 says 70,000 people served as masons
2. The abundance of iron reminds us that Israel finally has gotten dominance over the Philistines
3. Cedar came from alliance with Hiram in Tyre
4. Neat how God uses ALL sources & resources
 - a. Willing servants, conquered enemies, & friends
 - b. All of these associations are in God's will

Read Vs 5

1. So David has two extraordinary qualities here
 - a. He's content w/ God's direction to not build
 - b. He's got great vision & drive to do all he can

Read Vs 6-10

1. David doesn't suggest or recommend Solomon built the Temple, he straightly charges him
 - a. Why? B/c God told him Solomon's to do it
2. What peace this should bring to Solomon to know his reign will be marked with peace
 - a. But only if he believes it & acts accordingly

Read Vs 11-13

1. So if vss 6-10 was instruction to obey the specific calling of God, now vss 11-13 is instruction to obey the general calling of the Lord
 - a. Read Deut 17:18-20 - Staying in the Word keeps us humble focused on God
 - b. Many preachers today have abandoned teaching, reading or even using the OT (shame)

Read Vs 14-16

1. David's ministry and mission have fruit that he's passing on to Solomon

2. All our earthly gains are to be spent on God's work, one way or the other

Read Vs 17-18

1. David has discipled & cared for men that are now available to support the calling
2. This is for us all, as we follow God's Word, we bear fruit
 - a. Fruit of a pure life, resources, & disciples around us

Read Vs 19

1. All that's left for Solomon to do is to choose it
 - a. We each must choose to set our life to pursue God
 - b. You can lead a man to God, but can't make him drink
2. David did everything he could to complete his part of the relay race for God's glory
 - a. We train others to faithfully take the baton
 - b. God's workmen get buried, but the devil himself cannot bury the work

Conclusion

So, it's worth preparing things that we'll personally never use, but how do we go about preparing?

1. **Don't do it the Wrong Way by role-modelling self-dependence**
 - a. We default to what we know, or what worked last time = this isn't a life of faith
2. **We often enter the Unplanned Way by our sin, but we can repent & still find God's plan**
 - a. We'll never stop needing to repent
 - b. We can always choose to come back to God
3. **Let's do it the Right Way by teaching others to depend on the Lord**
 - a. Pass on a legacy of faith
 - b. If we don't teach those around us, the world and the devil will
 - c. The world won't find eternal life unless we show it to them
 - i. Christians grow by other Christians leading them to the Word and Spirit of God