

## ***Session 21 David’s Tabernacle: Extravagant Worship (1 Chr. 15-16)***

### **I. REVIEW: DAVID’S SACRED VOW (PS. 132:1-5)**

- A. The quality that best defines David as a man after God’s heart is his extravagant *commitment to worship*. After he conquered Jerusalem, his first act recorded in the Scripture was epic—he brought the ark to Jerusalem and set singers and musicians before it to minister to the Lord (1 Chr. 15-16).
- B. 1 Chronicles 15-16 describes the historic day in Jerusalem when David brought the ark to Jerusalem and established a new worship order on earth that reflected the Lord’s worship order in heaven. The Chronicler gives us far more details about this epic event than 2 Samuel 6. It gives insight into the leadership, heart, mind, and zeal behind David’s vow in Psalm 132 and gives context to Psalm 27:4.
- C. David vowed to dedicate his life to finding a “*dwelling place*” for God. His vow included living in extravagant devotion to seek God with all his strength or resources (time, talents, treasures). I refer to this vow as “the vow that changed history”—it included his time (Ps. 27:4), fasting (Ps. 69:7-12), and money (1 Chr. 22:14). This vow is at the heart of the end-time worship movement.

<sup>1</sup>***LORD, remember David...<sup>2</sup>How he...vowed to the Mighty One of Jacob: <sup>3</sup>“Surely I will not... go up to the comfort of my bed; <sup>4</sup>I will not give sleep to my eyes...<sup>5</sup>until I find a place [a temple to house the ark] for the LORD, a dwelling place for the Mighty One of Jacob.” (Ps. 132:1-5)***

- D. David set his desire and affection on establishing and seeking the Lord in His house (Ps. 27:4; cf. 1 Chr. 29:2-3). David gave over ***\$100 billion*** (at modern prices) to God’s house. One talent is 75 lbs. or 1200 ounces (16 oz/pound). One talent of gold at \$850/ounce would be worth about one million dollars. Thus, 100,000 talents of gold at that price would be worth about ***\$100 billion***. One talent of silver at \$12/ounce would be worth about \$15,000, so 1,000,000 talents at that price would be worth about ***\$15 billion***. The total of the gold and silver would be well over \$100 billion.

<sup>4</sup>***One thing I have desired of the LORD ...that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in His temple. (Ps. 27:4)***

<sup>2</sup>***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...<sup>3</sup>I have set my affection on the house of God...*** (1 Chr. 29:2-3)

<sup>14</sup>***Indeed I have taken much trouble to prepare for the house of the LORD one hundred thousand [100,000] talents of gold and one million [1,000,000] talents of silver... (1 Chr. 22:14)***

- E. David’s vow positioned his heart to receive insight into worship as it is in God’s sanctuary.

<sup>11</sup>***David gave his son Solomon the plans...<sup>12</sup>for all that he had by the Spirit, of the courts of the house of the LORD ...<sup>13</sup>also for the division of the priests and the Levites, for all the work of the service of the house of the LORD ...<sup>19</sup>“All this,” said David, “the LORD made me understand in writing, by His hand upon me, all the works of these plans.” (1 Chr. 28:11-19)***

- F. Revelation 4-5 describes the worship order around God’s throne as continual and musical.

<sup>8</sup>***The four living creatures...do not rest day or night, saying: “Holy, holy, holy...” (Rev. 4:8)***

<sup>8</sup>***The four living creatures and the twenty-four elders...<sup>9</sup>sang a new song... (Rev. 5:8-9)***

## II. OVERVIEW OF THE TABERNACLE THAT DAVID ESTABLISHED FOR THE ARK

- A. After David became king, he set up a worship tabernacle as part of his commitment to his vow. David put singers and musicians before the ark to worship God as their full-time vocation.
- <sup>1</sup>*They brought the ark...and set it in the midst of the tabernacle that David erected for it.*  
<sup>4</sup>*He appointed Levites [singers/musicians] to minister before the ark...to praise the Lord...  
<sup>37</sup>to minister before the ark regularly, as every day’s work required... (1 Chr. 16:1, 4, 37)*
- B. *As every day’s work required*: David provided financial support as measured by “a day’s work” so that singers and musicians could minister before the Lord as a full-time occupation (1 Chr. 16:37) and they would be free from other duties, being daily employed in that work (1 Chr. 9:33).
- <sup>33</sup>*These are the singers...who lodged in the chambers, and were free from other duties; for they were employed in that work day and night. (1 Chr. 9:33)*
- C. David established 4,000 musicians, 288 singers (12 x 24 = 288) and 4,000 gatekeepers. Thus, he financed about 10,000 people on his “full-time staff” to facilitate worship and offerings to God.
- <sup>7</sup>*So the number of them, with their brethren who were instructed in the songs of the LORD, all who were skillful, was two hundred and eighty-eight [288]. (1 Chr. 25:7)*
- <sup>5</sup>*...four thousand [4,000] were gatekeepers, and four thousand [4,000] praised the LORD with musical instruments, “which I made,” said David, “for giving praise.” (1 Chr. 23:5)*

## III. GOD’S COMMAND FOR KINGS TO EMBRACE DAVID’S REVELATION OF WORSHIP

- A. David commanded God’s people to honor the heavenly order of worship that he received by revelation because it was God’s command (2 Chr. 29:25; 35:4, 15; Ezra 3:10; Neh. 12:45).
- <sup>25</sup>*Hezekiah...stationed Levites in the house of the Lord with stringed instruments... according to the commandment of David...for thus was the commandment of the Lord. (2 Chr. 29:25)*
- B. Solomon established singers (about 970 BC) according to the command that God gave David.
- <sup>14</sup>*According to the order of David his father, he [Solomon] appointed...Levites for their duties to praise...as the duty of each day required...for so David...commanded. (2 Chr. 8:14)*
- C. When Israel went astray, God raised up spiritual reformers with a vision to restore worship as David commanded it. All seven “revivals” in Old Testament times restored Davidic worship.
- D. Jehoshaphat’s reform (about 870 BC) included establishing singers and musicians.
- <sup>19</sup>*The Levites...stood up to praise the Lord...<sup>21</sup>He appointed those who should sing to the Lord...  
<sup>28</sup>They came...with stringed instruments...to the house of the Lord. (2 Chr. 20:19-28)*

- E. Jehoiada the high priest restored temple worship with singers and musicians in the order of David (about 835 BC) and enthroned King Jehoash (Joash) when he was only seven years old.  
<sup>18</sup>*Jehoiada appointed...the Levites...with singing, as it was established by David. (2 Chr. 23:18)*
- F. Hezekiah's revival (about 725 BC) included restoring singers and musicians as David commanded.  
<sup>25</sup>*He stationed the Levites in the house of the Lord with...stringed instruments...according to the commandment of David...<sup>27</sup>The song of the LORD began... (2 Chr. 29:25-27)*
- G. Josiah's revival (about 625 BC) restored full-time singers and musicians as David commanded.  
<sup>3</sup>*He said to the Levites...<sup>4</sup>“Prepare yourselves...following the instruction of David...”  
<sup>15</sup>The singers...were in their places, according to the command of David... (2 Chr. 35:3-15)*
- H. Zerubbabel (about 536 BC) established full-time singers and musicians as commanded by David.  
<sup>10</sup>*The Levites...to praise the LORD, according to the ordinance of David. (Ezra 3:10-11)*
- I. Ezra and Nehemiah (445 BC) established full-time singers and musicians as David commanded.  
<sup>24</sup>*The Levites...give thanks...according to the command of David...<sup>45</sup>The singers and the gatekeepers kept the charge of God...according to the command of David... (Neh. 12:24, 45)*

#### IV. A SIMPLE OVERVIEW OF THE LEVITES

- A. 1 Chronicles emphasizes the role of the Levites related to worshipping the Lord before the ark. The Levites were the descendants of Levi and served as assistants to the priests (sons of Aaron). Aaron and his offspring were also descendants of Levi and had the responsibility of the priesthood. Thus all Levites who were not descended directly from Aaron served as assistants to the priests, helping with the tabernacle or temple and/or engaged in ministering to God with song and music.
- B. Abraham is the father of our faith (Rom. 4:16-18). Abraham's son Isaac had a son named Jacob. Jacob had twelve sons, whose names are Reuben, Simeon, *Levi*, Judah, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Issachar, Zebulun, Joseph (Manasseh and Ephraim), and Benjamin. These twelve sons became the fathers of the twelve tribes of Israel, the name of each tribe being the name of the father. The descendants of Levi are referred to as the Levites.
1. Levi had three sons: *Gershon*, *Kohath*, and *Merari*. About 400 years after Kohath's death, his most famous descendants—Moses and his brother Aaron—led Israel out of Egypt into the wilderness. During the years of Israel's wandering in the wilderness, the Lord appointed Aaron and his descendants to serve Him as priests. Hence we speak of the Aaronic priesthood. Although all the priests were descended from the family line of Levi, Scripture often portrays them as distinct from the Levites who were called to assist and serve the priests.
  2. Jacob's son Joseph was allotted two tribes—one for each of his sons, Ephraim and Manasseh—and so there were technically thirteen tribes of Israel. However, since the tribe of Levi served the other tribes in their priestly duties and were spread out to live among the twelve tribes, the Bible does not always include them when it refers to the twelve tribes.

## V. DAVID PREPARED A TENT FOR THE ARK (1 CHR. 15)

- A. David prepared a tent for the ark, appointing singers and musicians to minister to the Lord before it (15:1-3). The first thing he did after bringing the ark to Jerusalem was to establish a new worship order led by singers and musicians who ministered to God as their full time vocation (1 Chr. 15-16).

*<sup>1</sup>David...prepared a place for the ark of God, and pitched a tent for it. <sup>2</sup>Then David said, "No one may carry the ark of God but the Levites, for the LORD has chosen them to carry the ark of God and to minister before Him forever." <sup>3</sup>And David gathered all Israel together at Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the LORD to its place, which he had prepared for it. (1 Chr. 15:1-3)*

*<sup>17</sup>So they...set it [the ark] in its place in the midst of the tabernacle that David had erected for it. (2 Sam. 6:17)*

- B. **Practical:** David prepared a tent (facility) and organized the logistics for night-and-day worship (15:1). There are many practical issues in sustaining the vision for night and day worship.
- C. **Biblical:** They were careful to honor the biblical way of transporting the ark on this second attempt (15:2). Scripture gave specific commands related to the ark—that it be *covered*, carried by *poles* on the *shoulders* of *Levites* and *never touched* directly (Ex. 25:14-15; Deut. 10:8; Num. 4:5-6, 15; 7:9). Because the ark was holy, it was to be kept from the gaze and touch of unconsecrated men.
- D. **Mobilized:** David assembled a great work force to bring the ark to Jerusalem (15:4). There were almost 900 (15:4) Levites under eight main leaders (15:11). This required considerable planning, effort, and finances, with much work. Some join a vision without embracing the work related to it.
- E. **Spiritual life:** David called the top national leaders to sanctify themselves and to call the leaders under them also to do this (15:11-15).

*<sup>11</sup>David called for Zadok and Abiathar the priests, and for the Levites...<sup>12</sup>He said to them, "You are the heads of the fathers' houses of the Levites; sanctify yourselves, you and your brethren, that you may bring up the ark...to the place I have prepared for it. <sup>13</sup>For because you did not do it the first time...our God broke out against us, because we did not consult Him about the proper order." <sup>14</sup>So the priests and the Levites sanctified themselves to bring up the ark... (1 Chr. 15:11-15)*

1. **Sanctify yourselves:** David appointed those who were diligent about consecration to the Lord.  
*<sup>21</sup>Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work. (2 Tim. 2:21)*
2. **Proper order:** David was careful to search the Word for the established order that honored God's presence and leadership. When David consulted the Scripture, he found that the ark was to be carried with poles on the shoulders of the Levites instead of on a cart.

- F. David called the Levites to appoint singers with the accompaniment of music (15:16-24). He established a symphony including 4,000 musicians (23:5) with a range of instruments: cymbals (15:19), strings (15:20), harps (15:21) and trumpets (15:24). This had never been done before.

***<sup>16</sup>Then David spoke to the leaders of the Levites to appoint their brethren to be the singers accompanied by instruments of music, stringed instruments, harps, and cymbals... (1 Chr. 15:16)***

- G. David, the elders, and top military leaders brought the ark from the house of Obed-Edom (15:25).

***<sup>25</sup>So David, the elders of Israel, and the captains over thousands went to bring up the ark of the covenant of the LORD from the house of Obed-Edom with joy. (1 Chr. 15:25)***

## VI. DAVID ERECTED A TABERNACLE (1 CHR. 16)

- A. David set the ark in a tent—the tabernacle—in Jerusalem he had raised for it, then blessed the people and celebrated (16:1-3). David did not bring the ark into his residence like Obed-Edom did. David blessed the people and provided a meal (foreshadowing the marriage supper of the Lamb).

***<sup>1</sup>So they brought the ark of God, and set it in the midst of the tabernacle that David had erected for it...<sup>2</sup>he blessed the people in the name of the LORD. <sup>3</sup>Then he distributed to everyone of Israel, both man and woman, to everyone a loaf of bread, a piece of meat, and a cake of raisins. (1 Chr. 16:1-3)***

- B. David appointed Levites to minister to God by remembering, thanking, and praising (16:4-6). In worship we *remember God* (His past deeds), *thank God* (His present activities and promises) and *praise God* (adore and exalt Him for who He is).

***<sup>4</sup>And he appointed some of the Levites to minister before the ark of the LORD, to commemorate [remember], to thank, and to praise the LORD... (1 Chr. 16:4)***

- C. David wrote a psalm to dedicate the ark being established in Jerusalem (16:7-36). He gave the song to Asaph. This psalm draws from three other psalms: *Psalm 105:1-15* (1 Chr. 16:8-22), *Psalm 96:1-13* (1 Chr. 16:23-33) and *Psalm 106:1, 47-48* (1 Chr. 16:34-36).

***<sup>7</sup>On that day David first delivered this psalm into the hand of Asaph and his brethren... (1 Chr. 16:7)***

- D. This song is a model for worship as taught by David. It expresses three activities that David wanted emphasized in worship as defined in verse 4—to *remember*, *thank*, and *praise* the Lord.

***<sup>25</sup>For the LORD is great and greatly to be praised... <sup>27</sup>Honor and majesty are before Him; strength and gladness are in His place... <sup>29</sup>Give to the LORD the glory due His name... Oh, worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness... <sup>34</sup>for His mercy endures forever. (1 Chr. 16:25-34)***

1. This psalm expresses David's passion for a God-centered worship order in which the Lord is greatly praised (16:25) for His honor, majesty, strength, and gladness (16:27).
2. David longed that the Lord might receive the glory due His name according to the beauty of His transcendence (holiness, 16:29) and enduring mercy (16:34).

- E. David left the Levites to minister to the Lord before the ark as their full-time occupation (16:37-43).  
<sup>37</sup>*So he left Asaph and his brothers there...to minister before the ark regularly, as every day's work required;*<sup>38</sup> *and Obed-Edom with his sixty-eight brethren...to be gatekeepers... (1 Chr. 16:37-38)*
- F. **He left Asaph:** David was the first one in the Scripture to institute a full-time vocation related to ministering to the Lord with song and music (1 Chr. 9:33; 16:37; 23:5, 30; 25:7; 2 Chr. 8:12-14; 31:4-6, 16; 34:9, 12; Neh. 10:37-39; 11:22-23; 12:44-47; 13:5-12).
- G. The work was *regular* (consistent) and had *requirements* (duties with standards) as they were freed from other duties and employed in the work of day and night worship (9:33; 16:37; 2 Chr. 8:14).  
<sup>14</sup>*And according to the order of David his father, he appointed...Levites for their duties (to praise and serve before the priests) as the duty of each day required... (2 Chr. 8:14)*  
<sup>33</sup>*...the singers...free from other duties; for they were employed in that work day and night. (1 Chr. 9:33)*
- H. God's desire to be worshipped on earth as He is in heaven has not changed. The Spirit has not emphasized this through history, but *is now in many nations*. The order of worship that God commanded David to embrace is both timeless and valid today, such as establishing singers and musicians in God's house. The application of this will greatly differ in each nation and culture.

## VII. THE PROMISE OF THE RESTORATION OF THE TABERNACLE OF DAVID

- A. The Lord promised to raise up the tabernacle of David (Amos 9:11). This includes many things as *God's government is released on earth in context to worship and prayer*. It speaks of the *fact* of the existence of David's throne (government) and the *way* it was manifested (in context to worship).  
<sup>11</sup>*"I will raise up the tabernacle of David...I will raise up its ruins, and rebuild it...<sup>12</sup> that they may possess the remnant of Edom [Islam] and all the Gentiles [harvest in the nations]...<sup>14</sup>I will bring back the captives of My people Israel; they shall build the waste cities...<sup>15</sup>I will plant them in their land, and no longer shall they be pulled up from the land..." (Amos 9:11-15)*
- B. David's tabernacle links the restoration of *prayer, worship, the spirit of prophecy*, and the *missions movement* with the *Messianic remnant* in the restored land of the State of Israel. It connects three dimensions—the praying Church, the Messianic movement, and the State of Israel (as it pursues righteous government and recognizes the authority of Jesus as the son of David).
- C. In summary, it speaks of God's government on earth flowing from prayer with worship (Rev. 4:8). It is manifested *in part* in this age (as it continually increases) and *in fullness* in the Millennium. The *fullness* of the restoration of the tabernacle of David occurs only after Jesus returns to rule all nations from the *throne of David* in Jerusalem in the context of worship with intercession.

- D. The tabernacle of David has at least *seven expressions* that are deeply connected:
1. *Spiritual* expression—prophetic intercessory worship based on intimacy with God (1 Chr. 25)
  2. *Political* expression—contending for justice and righteousness in government (Isa. 16:5)
  3. *Messianic* expression—establishing a believing remnant in the state of Israel (Amos 9:14-15)
  4. *Missional* expression—impacting all nations with the gospel of the kingdom (Amos 9:12)
  5. *Supernatural* expression—releasing God's power, glory, and miracles (Ps. 145:11-12)
  6. *Transformational* expression—restoring cities, agriculture, economics, etc. (Amos 9:13-14)
  7. *Eschatological* expression—receiving Jesus *as king over all nations* reigning from Jerusalem