



Parkway Fellowship

I CHRONICLES: LOOKING BACK THROUGH THE EYES OF OBEDIENCE •
PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE • 1 CHRONICLES 23-25 • 11/22/2020

MAIN POINT

David prepared the way for Solomon to lead.

INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

Have you ever had to train someone to do a task? What did you learn through training someone else?

Who took the time to teach you what it meant to live as a Christian? Why should we train other people the same way?

God promised David that Solomon would build the temple, so David faithfully prepared the people for the fulfillment of that promise. David understood what was at stake so he made preparation for Solomon to rule well. Every detail of the temple service was important to David. This shows his heart for God and his care for future generations. David made sure that Solomon would inherit a kingdom in which order and cooperation were the norm.

UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

| HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ 1 CHRONICLES 23:1-6,24-32.

When David was “old and full of days,” he began making preparations for his son, Solomon, to rule in his place. If we read 1 Kings 1–2, it shows us the transition in leadership from David to Solomon wasn’t as peaceful as the Chronicler recorded here. The transition of power was not

without bloodshed, but by leaving all of the political intrigue out the author of Chronicles is pointing to the greater significance of this moment in the kingdom of God. The Lord promised to establish David's house forever, and that is exactly what He was doing. God stands above all the kingdoms of the world. He sets kings in place.

What does it show about David's character that he dedicated so much time to helping Solomon lead well? How is this a form of discipleship?

Who were the Levites and what function did they serve in Israel? Why would their function be changing after the completion of the temple?

The larger focus of this passage is upon David preparing Solomon to lead. David began this process by dividing the Levites into three groups of service. Previously the Levites had served mainly by carrying the tabernacle and its furnishings from place to place (Num. 2-4) and by instructing the people in the Law (Lev. 11-27). Now their duty was also to maintain the temple and its worship, with the exception of matters reserved for the priests (vv. 28-32). Because there would be one fixed location instead of a moving center of worship, it took great administrative gifting to find places of service for these 38,000 men.

| HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ 1 CHRONICLES 24:1-5, 19.

The section on priests is probably placed here because of the preceding emphasis on the Levites as their helpers "with the service of the Lord's temple" (23:28).

What function did the priests serve in the temple?

What do we learn about David's process in verse 19? How was he giving the ultimate consideration to God in this planning process?

The priests would be responsible for "service when they entered the LORD's temple, according to their regulations, which they received from their ancestor Aaron, as the LORD God of Israel had commanded him," in the Law. This would include the offerings and sacrifices at the temple. This would be a continuation of the work of the descendants of Aaron, only in the fixed setting of the temple, as opposed to the tabernacle. Verse 19 is intended to establish the activities of priests prescribed not merely by David, but by Aaron their forefather. Ultimately the choice of these priests goes back to Yahweh himself.

| HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ 1 CHRONICLES 25:18.

What does musical worship add to our experience of worship? How does it help reinforce truth (v. 3)?

What do you gain from this portion of our worship?

Why would David have sought to make provisions for this group of musicians alongside of the priests and Levites?

The musicians and their descendants were responsible for singing praises to God and leading the people in doing the same (25:1-8). Music was certainly a part of the worship of God before David's time, but he made it a regular part of everyday worship in the tabernacle and at the site of the ark and later in the temple. David, a man of war, was also a man of music. He placed the sons of Asaph, Heman, and Jeduthun (also known as Ethan) in charge of the music for the future temple. The Chronicler equated the musical ministry with prophecy.

APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

How are you preparing to leave the church better for the next generation? What practical steps are you taking?

What about in your home? How are you preparing your children to lead and be responsible adults? Why is this such a valuable stewardship from the Lord?

How does the care we take in making preparations for future generations help others see the glory of our God?

PRAYER

Thank God for preparing the way for us. Ask that He would give us the grace to leave the church better than when we found it for the next generation.

COMMENTARY

| 1 CHRONICLES 23-25

23:1–32. The Chronicler was not concerned with the political details of Solomon's accession (see 1 Kgs. 1–2). He presented the transition as peaceful and orderly.

The appointment and work of the Levites was divinely ordained through Moses (Num. 3:1–4:49). David organized the Levites into three groups by families—Gershonites, Kohathites, and

Merarites. The Levites were assigned to assist the priests' work in the service of the temple.

24:1–31. Aaron's descendants had the exclusive assignment of ministering before the ark (23:13–14; 24:19; Num. 18:1–7). The descendants of Eleazar and Ithamar were divided into twenty-four orders, which served at the temple in rotation (see Luke 1:5, 8–9). The order of service for the remaining Levites was determined by the casting of lots in the same manner for as the priests.

25:1–31. David established three musical guilds under his supervision. Asaph, Heman, and Jeduthun (Ethan) were Levites David appointed for the musical accompaniment of temple worship (see 15:16–22). The guilds were drawn from all age groups and those with differing musical skills. They were divided into twenty-four courses like the priests.

Next Week's Reading

1 Chronicles 29:10-20