

The Book of FIRST CHRONICLES

Chapters 22 - 25

“Set Your Heart and Soul to Seek the LORD!”

Chapter 22- “The Plan” (What is your plan with God?)

(v1-5) **King David Prepares** - His desire - *The house of the LORD must be exceedingly magnificent, famous and glorious throughout all countries.* (New Testament: 1 Peter 2:4-10)

(v6-16) **God Prospers: (six ways)**

#1 - When we confess His name! Romans 10:9-10 (Salvation!)

#2 - When we pray in His name! (John 15:16- *You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.*)

#3 - When we proclaim His name! (Acts ch. 4)

#4 - When we ask for wisdom & understanding! (James 1:5-8 - *If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.*)

#5 - When we keep the law of the LORD! (Psalm 1)

#6 - When we fulfill His statutes & judgments! (Joshua ch. 1)

(v17-19) **A United People seeking God: Deut 4:29** - *But from there you will seek the LORD your God, and you will find Him if you seek Him with all your heart and with all your soul.* **Jer 29:11-13** - *For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.* **Hos 10:12** - *Sow for yourselves righteousness; Reap in mercy; Break up your fallow ground, For it is time to seek the LORD, Till He comes and rains righteousness on you.* **Luke 11:10-14** - *For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!"* **Matt 6:33-34** - *But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.*

Chapter 23- “The Progress” (How are you progressing?)

(v1-23) **The Organization** - Gather the leaders of Israel, with the priests & Levites; Levites numbered, 30 years and up. **Jobs:** To look after the work of the house of the LORD: (1) Officers & judges; (2) Gatekeepers; (3) Worshipers to praise the Lord with instruments

(v24-32) **The Dedication** – Levites numbered 20 years and up for the work and service of the house of the LORD. **Jobs:** (1) To purify the holy things; (2) To stand every morning & evening to thank and praise the LORD; also at various offerings, events; and to meet a list of needs.

> **New Testament organization & dedication - 1 Timothy ch. 3**

Chapter 24- “The Priestly Service” (Are you serving?)

(v1-6) **Organized divisions for priestly service**

(v7-19) **The appointment and schedule of their priestly service (SCRIBES** - Members of a learned class in ancient Israel through New Testament times who studied the Scriptures and served as copyists, editors, and teachers.)

(v20-31) **The division of the Kohathites and the Merarites (PRIEST** - The office of priest in Israel was of supreme importance and of high rank. The high priest stood next the monarch in influence and dignity. Aaron, the head of the priestly order, was closely associated with the great lawgiver, Moses, and shared with him in the government and guidance of the nation. It was in virtue of the priestly functions that the

chosen people were brought into near relations with God and kept therein. Through the ministrations of the priesthood the people of Israel were instructed in the doctrine of sin and its expiation, in forgiveness and worship. In short, the priest was the indispensable source of religious knowledge for the people, and the channel through which spiritual life was communicated. (from International Standard Bible Encyclopaedia)) These divisions each served for either: (1) two week periods annually or, more likely, (2) a one month period every two years (cf. 27:1–15). These divisions appear again in Neh. 10:2–8; 12:1–7; 12:12–21. These divisions extended even into the time of Christ (cf. Luke 1:5–9). The rest of the time they ministered to people in their own hometowns.¹ (**New Testament example of priestly service: Luke 1:5-25, 57-80**)

Chapter 25- “The Service of Worship” (Are you maintaining your worship?)

(v1-6) The people, purpose & duties for Worship: The Purpose for music & worship:

-To Prophecy- This is not necessarily to be taken in a revelatory sense, but rather in the sense of proclamation and exhortation through the lyrics of their music (cf. 25:2, 3). Prophesying is not necessarily predicting the future or even speaking direct revelation. It is proclaiming truth (v. 5) to people (cf. 1 Cor. 14:3- *to edify, encourage & to comfort*), and music is a vehicle for such proclamation in praise (v. 3).

> Observe four keys to worship: (1) To give thanks; (2) To praise the LORD; (3) For music in the house of the LORD; (4) For the service in the house of God.

(v7) Discipleship - To instruct their brethren in the songs of the LORD, to gather all those who are skillful.

> Let's be instructed from: Psalm 95 (An exhortation to worship!) Psalm 96 (A psalm of praise!) Psalm 100 (A psalm of thanksgiving!)

(v8-31) Their division into twenty-four orders – Discipleship - the teacher with the student.

Matt 28:16-20- *Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had appointed for them. When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.*

Acts 2:41-47- *Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.*

Col 3:12-17- *Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.*

¹John F. MacArthur, Jr., *The MacArthur Study Bible*, (Dallas: Word Publishing) 1997.