

JULY 19

1 Chronicles 28-29

We haven't read what is in these two chapters. It is recorded only here and must have been a part of other records and documents. My tendency is to read what David said to Solomon and begin to lament because I know what Solomon will do. Ezra is trying to move the hearts of that generation returning to Israel after the exile, by emphasizing the words that David spoke to Israel and to Solomon. Few of these people remember the former days of Israel. Many or most of them had been born in Babylon and know "Israel" only because of what has been handed down to them. In these chapters Ezra is directing this final charge of David to the hearts of these men and women, who had returned to Jerusalem and to this entire generation.

As you read these chapters, try to imagine you are one of these returnees. Because of David's heart and love for God, it's easy to be inspired by what he says here.

1 Chronicles 28

Vs. 1-8 After David hastily had Solomon crowned king in 1 Kings 1, there was another ceremony recorded here. First Chronicles 29:22 confirms this. This chapter must have taken place between 1 Kings 1 and 2. David had been frightfully awakened out of whatever he had been ailing under and called upon his last strength to set in motion all that he had been preparing over the past several years.

Notice that David explains all of what is happening as God's will by virtue of the choices God Himself made. Notice also how David's passion to build the temple became a directive of God. God chose the builder to be Solomon. That adds a lot of perspective to God's choice and purpose for Solomon. It also shows that the actions of Adonijah, Abiathar and Joab (1 Kings 2) to make one final effort to take the throne from Solomon, after David was gone, was very deserving of death.

V. 7 is interesting to think about. God promised He would establish Solomon's kingdom or line of rulers forever if Solomon faithfully followed the Lord. Solomon didn't and the kingdom of Israel was divided after his death. Not only that, one of the kings in the line of Solomon, Jehoiachin, will be told by Jeremiah (Jer. 22:30) and God that none of his sons will ever sit on the throne of Israel. Matthew traced Jesus' genealogy back through Joseph, through Jehoiachin, through Solomon to David. According to Jeremiah 22:30, Jesus couldn't sit on the throne of David. But Joseph was Jesus' legal father, not His physical father. Luke traced Jesus' genealogy back through Mary to David through David's son Nathan, another son of Bathsheba. So actually, neither Jehoiachin nor Solomon is in the physical blood line to Jesus. This means that this conditional promise to Solomon was made void when Solomon became a worshiper of idols later in his life. Solomon's bloodline of kings ended with the sons of Josiah at the Babylonian captivity.

V. 8 This charge was to all of Israel, and Solomon failed here. By his own actions, he left the nation and its next generation damaged by injecting the poison of idolatry into its veins.

Vs. 9-10 This was a very clear promise and warning to Solomon. Solomon did succeed in building the temple and securing the Lord's promise to always dwell in Jerusalem. That would "stick," but nothing else did.

Vs. 11-19 Notice that David gave Solomon written plans and that these plans came from the Lord. Reading 1 Kings, you would just think this all came from Solomon. It makes Solomon even more suspect, when he dedicates the temple and keeps saying, *that I have built*. Ezra is showing that David is the one who had the passion for the temple of God among the people. God spoke to David and gave him the detailed plans for the temple. It is interesting that God

apparently took as much interest in the building of the temple as He did in the design and building of the tabernacle.

Vs. 20-21 Isn't it interesting how often God tells someone to be strong and courageous? I have to admit that all of what we are reading here really elevates David in my estimation. What a guy.

1 Chronicles 29

What an amazing chapter of the Bible.

Vs. 1-5 Beyond the massive personal investment David had already made, he left the rest of his personal fortune to the building of the temple. You can figure out the weight of all of this. A talent was 75 pounds and a daric was a fourth of an ounce. We are talking tons of precious metals.

Vs. 6-9 Verse 9 shows that leadership and passion are more often caught than taught. The people were moved with David's total love and devotion to the Lord. Again, we are talking tons of metals here.

Vs. 10-19 These are some of the final words of David and what a testimony they are to his heart and love for God. It is definitely more inspiring to think of these as David's last words than to think that his last words were to Solomon telling him to make sure that Joab and Shimei went to their graves in blood. (See 1 Kings 2.)

Notice that David knew that all things came from God, so that what they were offering to Him for the building of the temple was really from Him. There is a lot of spiritual insight and maturity expressed in this prayer.

Vs. 18-19 In my mind, the only prayer that God can't answer is the one that would demand Him to overpower someone's will to make them love Him and follow Him.

Vs. 20-22 David led them in worship; and at the end, for the second time, they made Solomon the king.

Vs. 23-25 David probably reigned together with Solomon, as co-regents. Considering David's health, that probably wasn't a long time. This is a summary of the effect of this day both before the people and before the Lord.

Vs. 26-30 Ezra doesn't record anything negative about David except for the census, which resulted in the finding of the location for the temple. Since the nation had just returned from exile, they themselves knew enough about sin and what effect it had had on them. Since 2 Samuel has the record of David's mistakes, Ezra is showing here that David recovered and became a model of spiritual leadership and a model for how God can take a sinful man (or nation) and restore them to become a blessing for others.

Good thoughts for us too as disciples. We will slip and fall, but knowing these stories and knowing the incredible grace of our Savior, we get up and follow Him in the harvest, reaching the lost and making disciples who make disciples.

And hooray, you just finished 1 Chronicles.

Romans 5:6-21

In reading a letter like Romans, one reading doesn't really do it. Reading Romans once a year in The One Year Bible is helpful, but you still forget a lot. If you were studying Romans without a commentary, you would read through it several times getting the main arguments and divisions set in your mind. Then you would work through understanding why Paul goes on from one thought to the next and how they fit together. That would be more than you'd get from most commentaries. If you were doing your own study of Romans, you would only go to a

commentary for a particular question or after you had familiarized yourself with the book so well that you could talk your way through it, chapter by chapter.

For our purposes here, since it is unlikely that you're going to go back and study Romans, I'm going to fill in some detail about where I think Paul is going with his argument before he gets there. Hopefully it will be helpful.

Vs. 6-11 This really belongs to the reading from yesterday. The love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit. Understanding that love is what the Holy Spirit helps us to do; this then is the fuller description of that love.

Notice the reference to being saved from wrath. This fits nicely with v. 11. We can only rejoice in God, because of what Christ did for us. Many people have happy "god thoughts." There will be no happy meeting with God without the blood of Christ covering them, having been made a new spiritual creation in Christ. People mistake their warm feelings and imaginations for reality. At the end of life, without Christ, there is only wrath and judgment, not some jovial bearded old man smoking a pipe, welcoming us home.

Vs. 12-21 In this section Paul shows what Jesus did in contrast to the way sin has ruined mankind in relationship to God.

Vs. 12-14 Sin came into the world, into the human race through Adam. It seems that since Adam was the first man and became maimed and sick spiritually, in whatever way the life and spirit of man is passed on in the reproductive process, everyone since Adam has been born with that same spiritual sickness. Just as bodily defects can be passed on, this spiritual disease called sin has been passed on causing us to be born spiritually dead. The result of spiritual death is physical death.

Death is separation. Physical death is the separation of the spirit from the body. Spiritual death is the separation of the spirit from God. Spiritual death results in physical death because the physical is dependent on us being spiritually connected to God. It's like cutting a flower. The second it is cut from the root it dies, but it appears to live for a while. The same is true with us. Because of spiritual separation from God, our body is born sick and dying.

Paul is about to talk about the effects of sin vs. the effect of the free gift; but what Paul is working toward is that this body is joined to the sinful spiritual nature. The physical is not evil, but this body has been contaminated by this sin within us. This body must die or be recreated at the rapture. There is no cure for the "body of death" in this life. In salvation, we are given a new spiritual life (new creation, new nature) that dwells in this body along with that old spiritually sick spiritual nature. It is a class "A" miracle. In the resurrection, for those who are saved in Christ, the newly created spiritual life and nature is put in the resurrection body. The old nature dies with the old body since it has been judged in Christ. For those who are not saved by Christ, they too are resurrected with a new body, but one that will be indwelt by that sick, rebellious nature, and will therefore have to live in separation from God. At that point, that union becomes permanent, like the angels, and unable to be changed. Sin is a very big deal, and really, an incurable sickness in this body. God does not and cannot change the sinful nature. He judges the old and gives us a new nature in Christ. Sin is a spiritual disease and still beyond our comprehension.

Vs. 15-19 Notice how each verse alternates between death and life and condemnation and justification. Verses 15 and 17 are parallel, and vs. 16 and 18 are parallel. Verse 19 is an all inclusive summary of sorts.

Vs. 20-21 is the purpose of God explained in the long unfolding plan of redemption. When we get to the closing verses of Romans where Paul mentions the *mystery that was kept secret for long ages*, this is a part of what he's referring to. Part of the reason the law was given was to increase the reaction of sin to make it more visible and more understandable in its power and

effect. The law causes sin to go nuts and we remain under God's judgment. Grace made it possible to become forgiven and righteous before God by faith in Christ. The Lord's righteousness imparted to us leads to eternal life.

Again, hooray! And this is what we get to share in the harvest. It's the best news in the world!

Psalm 15

David had been pursued by men who wanted him dead. Lies had been circulated around the nation regarding David to justify Saul's bitterness, murder and threats. But what made David the man he was is that he really had only one ambition, to be at the feet of God, in His presence, before this mercy seat and throne. It must have hit David as he thought of wanting to be before God, that those who were pursuing him couldn't come before God because of their hearts. David had to live away from the tabernacle of God; yet in exile, he lived at God's feet. Those who pursued David could stand in the tabernacle, but their hearts were far from God. It isn't "doing" that makes you acceptable to God; it is the heart of faith responding to Him. Later David will put it simply in Psalm 51:17, *A broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.* Is it any wonder that David's life ambition was to build a temple so he could be near the Lord?

V. 1 This is the great question, but for most people, even in David's time, it wasn't really the true desire of their hearts. Most people are fine with God, if He will just leave them alone. Someday He will.

Vs. 2-5 Now, you could read this as earning God's favor by doing religious stuff. But it is really the intent to dwell in God's presence and to honor Him. At the heart of obedience to God is love and faith. Abraham was righteous by faith, and out of love and faith he obeyed. *Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.* (John 14:21)

Proverbs 19:18-19

Read this along with Luke 15:11-24, and you'll see this is not only a mark of the Father, but a mark of a disciple of Jesus in the harvest.