

January 22

Scriptures: Read 1 Chronicles 27 & 28

Key Verse: "...the Lord made me understand in writing, by His hand upon me, all the works of these plans." (1 Chronicles 28:19)

Overview

David's kingdom under the rule of God was certainly orderly, efficient, and flourishing. Our God is a God of order, not confusion; the order of nature attests to this. David's army was divided into twelve divisions of 24,000 men. Over each division was a renowned military captain, each of whom was listed among David's mighty men (chapter 11). On a rotating basis, each division was called for duty one month out of every year. In this way, David was always militarily prepared.

The regional or tribal administration was organized with an appointed governor over each tribe to represent his people before the king (27:16-25). The central administration worked closely with King David and consisted of royal officers to oversee crown property. These personal advisors included the high priest Abiathar (for spiritual advice), and the general of his army, Joab (for military advice), Ahithophel and Hushai were other advisors (for political advice) of whom we read in connection with the revolt of Absalom. Ahithophel betrayed David in support of Absalom, but Hushai remained true to David and helped him to escape Absalom's treachery (2 Samuel 15:31-37).

At the close of David's life, he called for a general assembly to publicly announce Solomon as his divinely appointed successor who was "to sit on the throne of the kingdom of the Lord over Israel" (28:5). David understood well that he and his son were merely stewards or deputies of God and under His rule. He exhorted Solomon and the whole nation to faithfully build the Lord's Temple. David had privately told Solomon the reason God did not allow him to build the Temple (22:7-8), but now he told it publicly: God did not permit it because David had been a man of war and had shed much blood. David also revealed the promises of God concerning his enduring dynasty (28:3-7; 2 Samuel 7:12-16). The culmination of this dynasty is Jesus Christ's eternal Kingdom.

With the longing of a father's heart to see his son live happily and successfully, David charged Solomon: "know the God of your father, and serve Him with a loyal heart and a willing mind." Following the Lord is a mental decision to not only agree with but to do God's commands, as a loyal subject would do the commands of his king. Unlike with an earthly king, however, nothing can be hidden from God, for He "searches all hearts and understands all the intent of the thoughts." David's wise words were direct and straight to the point. They were profound and yet very simple for Solomon and the people to understand. He warned them to be careful to obey God in order to keep the land He had given them (28:8). He warned Solomon that if he forsook God (abandoned His laws), God would cast him away forever (28:9).

After his charges, David handed Solomon the divinely inspired plans for the Temple (28:12, 19) and all its services, as well as the details required to make the holy articles, including their

weight in gold or silver. In a similar way, God had directed Moses concerning the making of the Tabernacle (Exodus 25:9, 40).

David's final words to his son were to encourage him to fulfill God's plan for his life, which included building God's House. David assured Solomon that he would have all the support and help he required. David's words are similar to the encouragement God gave Joshua when He commissioned him to lead the children of Israel: "I will not leave you nor forsake you" (Joshua 1:5, also vv. 7, 9).

Prayer

O Lord, may Your hand be upon us that we may understand Your plan for our lives and carry out each detail with a loyal heart and a willing mind. We pray this through Jesus Christ our Lord who has always done this. Amen.