I Chronicles 25-29

Review…

- **Wars from within…**
  - David was a target because the Lord had given him great victories…
    - He had moved the Ark of God into Jerusalem / defeated his enemies on every side…
    - So Satan stirred the heart of David to number Israel…
    - According to **Exodus 30:12** – God did not want Israel to take a census of the people...
    - Even so David insisted on counting the people – but God was displeased!
    - The Lord sent the prophet Gad to give David a choice…
    - 3 years of famine / 3 months of fleeing from his enemies / 3 days of plague…
    - David chose to fall into the hands of God – because God is merciful!
  - God sent a plague on the land of Israel - and over 70,000 people died throughout Israel…
    - David purchased the field Ornan the Jebusite and his oxen for 600 shekels of gold…
    - He built an altar – offered a sacrifice – and God sent fire to consume the sacrifice!
    - The field of Ornan goes by another name – Mt. Moriah / Golgotha…
    - The same field where Solomon would build the first Temple – **II Chronicles 3:1**
  - David then began to prepare everything for Solomon to build the Temple…
    - He collected cast quantities of gold / silver / bronze / and iron…
    - He also organized the Levites (*practical*) and priest (*spiritual*) to minister to the people!

The legacy of King David… (*4 things*)

- **1st – Preparing for the Temple - 6 parts… Chapter 25-27**
  - 1st – Organizing the worship… Read: I Chronicles 25:1 / 7-8
    - David called on the sons of Asaph / of Heman / and of Jeduthun… vs. 1-7
      - They and their sons – 288 men in all - were to minister with instruments / worship…
        - We are given 2 descriptions of how they were to worship the Lord…
        - We are told 3 times that they prophesied – speaking of proclaiming the Word of God…
        - Meaning they were not just singing songs – they were singing scripture!
        - As I listen to the 'latest hits' on the radio today – I am often a bit confused…
        - The lyrics are often very generic – are they talking about Jesus / or a boyfriend…
        - The best worship songs come straight out of the Word of God…
        - For it is the Word of God that convicts / changes hearts – **Hebrews 4:16**
      - We are also told they gave thanks / praise to the Lord….
        - It is easy in life to get our focus on our problems – look at all we think we need…

- Yet when we praise God – give Him thanks for all he has done for us…
- It changes our perspective - we see our circumstances in a new light...
- We no longer see our problems – we see God who is greater than any problem!
- Our problems swallowed up in the praise of our incredible Lord!

- The worship team cast lots for their service… vs. 8-31
  - The men were broken up into 24 groups – each group had 12 men in it…
    - They cast lots to decide the order in which the groups would serve…
    - They did this to remove any bias – it did not matter if they were small or great!
    - There is a tendency in the church to limit ministry to those who are qualified…
    - The rest of the people are left feeling like they are the 'small'…
    - The problem with only picking the 'best' is no one else can be raised up…
    - If we do not give opportunity to others to step out in faith – they will never grow!
  - Each group would serve for one week on a continual rotation…
    - Because the worship of God was to be continuous – non-stop praise…
    - It is easy to get the impression worship is something that only takes place in church…
    - But we are called to always be worshiping the Lord – making a melody in our hearts…
    - Therefore lets play worship music in our houses – turn it on in our cars…
    - Because it keeps our mind on the things of God – it keeps our perspective on Jesus!
    - **Ephesians 5:18-20** – "Be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ…"

- 2nd – The organization of the Gatekeepers… Chapter 16:1-19
  - There were 4000 total Gatekeepers - **I Chronicles 23:6** - divided into 24 groups…
    - Their purpose was to guard the four gates that led into the Temple courtyard…
    - The Temple was divided into 4 parts – Outer Court / Inner Court / Holiest / Holiest of All
    - The Outer court was for the Gentiles – with 4000 gatekeepers to keep them out!
    - The Inner court was where the altar of sacrifice was – closer to God – but still far…
    - The Holiest was the 1st room inside the Temple – only the priest were allowed….
    - The Holiest of all was the inner room – Ark of the Covenant – presence of God…
    - Only the High priest could enter there – only once a year – on the Day of Atonement…
    - Bells on his robe / rope on his feet – if he made any mistake – he was dead!
    - God did this to show that the way into God's presence was closed – **Hebrews 9:8**
  - Yet through Jesus the way to God is no longer closed – it was opened up through the Cross!
    - A stranger does not have complete access to a parent – but a child does…
    - The Holiest of all – is now our family room – where we can boldly enter...
    - Coming to our Father for mercy and Grace whenever we need it!
    - **Hebrews 4:16** – "Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need."
- 3rd - The organization of the treasurers… vs. 20-28
  - The things dedicated to the Lord were under the trust of Shebuel - a descendent of Moses…
  - It would appear there was quite a lot - from Samuel / Saul / on through David…

- Whenever the Lord gave a victory to Israel - part of the spoil was dedicated to the Lord!
- No doubt the men overseeing the vast fortune were faithful / trustworthy men…
- **I Corinthians 4:2** - "It is required in stewards that one be found faithful."
- We have all been entrusted with something far more precious than gold - the Word of God!
- We were not given this honor so we could hold onto it / hide it for ourselves...
- We are called to tell others - to those who do not know - so they also can hear about Jesus!

- 4th - Organization of the judges and officials… vs. 29-32
  - Chenaniah (*worship leader*) and his sons were in charge over all matters outside Jerusalem…
    - Hashabiah and 1,700 other men oversaw the west side of the Jordan River…
    - Jerijah and 2,700 other men oversaw the east side of the Jordan River…
    - There purpose was to be the judges over the nation of Israel
  - The role of the judge was a very important one in Israel…
    - In **Exodus 22:8** - we are told that a thief is to be brought before the judges…
    - The word for judge there is the word ellohim - most often translated God!
    - Because when a man steps into the role as judge - he is wielding the authority of God!
    - A humbling consideration when you look at some recent decisions judges have made…
    - Make no mistake - they will be accountable to God for what they have done…
    - Because rather than representing God - they have misrepresented Him!
- 5th - The organization of the military… Chapter 27:1-15
  - The military was divided into 12 groups - with 24,00 troops in each group - 288,000 total…
  - Each group only had to serve active duty for one month out of the year…
  - This was done to make sure a Husband / Father was never gone long from his family…
  - I have met many a father who thought his main purpose was to make money...
  - God does not call men to provide for their families- He provides for us - **Matthew 6:33**
  - Too many Dads work 6 maybe 7 days a week - from morning till night...
  - Their wives never get to see them - never spend time with them...
  - Husbands - the one thing our wives NEEDS from us - is that we spend time with them!
- 6th - The organization of the Government vs. 16-34
  - Each of the tribes had an officer - *nawgeed* - meaning a ruler / prince / governor…
    - All but 2 of the tribes are listed - Gad / Asher - we do not know why they were omitted…
    - David also had good men who oversaw his personal wealth…
    - Treasures of gold/ silver / grain in silos - cities - villages - and in the fields…
    - Vineyards / olive-trees / cattle / Camels / donkeys / goats / sheep (*he had no horses*)
    - It goes without saying that David was a VERY wealthy man - and that was ok…

- Because there is nothing wrong with having stuff – it is when the stuff has us…
- If we put our stuff before Jesus – then we need to reprioritize – put Jesus first!

▪ David also had wise counselors who gave him advice…

- Among them was Ahithophel - who ultimately betrayed him to Absalom…
- He went so far as to counsel Absalom to chase David down and kill him!
- Why would Ahithophel - a close friend of David - turn his back on the King…
- Because Ahithophel was the grandfather of Bathsheba – **II Samuel 23:34 / 11:3**
- We can only assume they never talked about / or resolved what had happened…
- And the bitterness in Ahithophel's heart had turned him against David!
- When we are hurt by someone - and refuse to forgive - it plants a seed in our heart...
- It can quickly grow into bitterness - we become consumed with what they did to us!
- Its roots can grow down deep - poisoning and hardening - separating us from God...
- The result is we become sour and bitter - and eventually brings spiritual death!

- **2ND – THE BLUPRINTS FOR THE TEMPLE… VS. 1- 21** READ: I CHRONICLES 28:1-13
  - 1st - David called all of Israel together - with the command to build the Temple… vs. 1-10

▪ David stood to his feet - no small task - he was confined to his bed - **I Kings 1:47**

- David had the desire to build a house for the Footstool of God - the Ark…
- But David was not allowed to build the Temple because he was a man of war…
- Yet God had chose him - out of Judah / out of the house of his father…
- And God had chosen Solomon - out of the many sons of David - to build the Temple!
- But even though he was chosen - Solomon had to choose to follow the Lord…
- For God searches the hearts and thoughts of men…
- If we seek Him - we will find Him / but if we forsake Him - He will cast us off!

▪ We often hear the argument about sovereignty verses free will…

- God chose us to be His children- 'predestined' - **John 15:16**…
- But if we are not bearing fruit for Jesus – then we are cut off - **John 15:6**…
- It is easy to say we have 'faith' and 'believe' in Jesus – but the proof is in our actions
- If we say we are Christians – but still live like the world – then do we really have faith
- **James 2:17-18** – "So you see, it is not enough just to have faith. Faith that does not show itself by good deeds is no faith at all—it is dead and useless…"

▪ But we are absolutely secure as we hold onto Jesus...

- We lose a relationship with a friend when we stop spending time with them...
- Our heart can grow distant from the Lord when we do not spend time with Him...
- But as we abide in Jesus - there is no concern about not going to heaven...
- Spend time with Jesus and you bear good fruit – proving you are connected to Him!

  - 2nd - David gave the blueprints for the Temple to Solomon…

▪ The plans were not from David - the Spirit of God gave them to him!

▪ Much like the plans for the Tabernacle - when Moses came down from Mt. Sinai…

▪ 3 times in **Exodus 25** - God told Moses to make sure to follow the Pattern He was shown!

▪ So often in life we come to God asking Him to bless our ideas…

- But He gives us no guarantee He will bless / provide for the things we think are important...
- Much better to get our plans from Him - then we are sure that God is in it!

- **3RD – GIVING TO THE TEMPLE… VS. 1-22** READ: I CHRONICLES 29:1-22
  - 1st - Solomon was still young - and there was a lot of work to be done… vs. 1-8
    - But the Temple was not for man - it was for God - David was confidant God would provide!
      - He had already given vast quantities for wealth from his own possessions…
      - 225 thousand pounds of Gold / 525 thousand pounds of silver…
      - But David was not alone - the leaders of Israel also offered willingly to the Lord…
      - 375k lbs. of Gold / 750k lbs. of silver / 1.3 million lbs. of bronze / 7.5 million lobs of iron!
      - As well as any precious stones that the people possessed (*diamonds / emeralds*)…
    - When God is the one who is behind a work - He will provide for all the needs!
      - You do not have to tell people to give / you do not have to make them help...
      - So many churches today strive for money - and miss the work God is doing...
      - When God is the one doing the work - He will stir the hearts of His people...
      - He will provide for all the needs to complete His work!
      - He will provide so much - you end up having to tell the people to STOP giving!
  - 2nd - The people rejoiced - because they had OFFERED WILLINGLY… vs. 9
    - **II Corinthians 9:7** – "So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver."
    - We are not required to give anything to God – we give because we want to…
    - Like a little child who wants to help out his dad – it is not needed…
    - God does not need our money – He is the creator of all heaven and earth!
    - But He does love to get His kids involved in His work!
  - 3rd - The prayer of David… vs. 10-22
    - David acknowledged that all they had given to the Lord - was from the Lord…
    - Everything that they had given - belonged the Lord anyways!
    - We have absolutely nothing - that was not first given to us by the god!
    - God gives us the sunrise every morning - the air that fills our lungs...
    - He gives us rain from heaven - so that our plants grow and we have food to eat...
    - He gave us our hands / our feet / our eyes / our mind - all from the Lord...
    - And we have two options when it comes to the resources God has given to us...

- We can spend them all on ourselves - and enjoy them for a moment...
- Or we can use them to bless others / bless the Lord - and receive an eternal reward!

- **4TH – THE PERSPECTIVE OF I CHRONICLES… VS. 23-30** READ: I CHRONICLES 29:23-30
  - 1st - Solomon sat on the throne - and Israel prospered - ending the 40 year reign of David…
    - The acts of David - from first to last - are written in the book of Samuel (*I & II Samuel*)
    - The book of I Chronicles omits a number of HUGE details from the reign of David…
    - Yet beginning in chapter 13 with the desire of David to bring the Ark into Jerusalem…
    - Through the plan of David to build 'God a house' in chapter 17…
    - Concluding in all the preparations David made to prepare Solomon to build the Temple…
    - The main theme of the Books is the desire of David to draw Israel to the Lord…
    - All the mistakes were overlooked / forgotten – in light of what David did for the Lord!
  - 2nd - Which begs the question – what do we do with the time God has given to us…
    - We tend to fill our days with things that in the end - mean absolutely nothing...
    - We 'waste' our time 'foolishly' on being mindlessly entertained by TV / games...
    - When there is a world full of people who do not know Jesus - a world going to hell...
    - Not that we should not take the time to spend with our wives / family…
    - Not that we cannot take some time to play – relax…
    - But at the same time seize the moment - to tell people about Jesus Christ!
    - **Ephesians 5:16** – "Redeeming the time, because the days are evil."