



Provided by the Church of the Lutheran Confession - Board of Missions

Old Testament Survey

Lesson 23 – David Prepares for the Temple and Organizes the Public Worship (First Chronicles 22-29; Psalms)

David and the Temple

David himself had wanted to build a temple for God in Jerusalem. But God, through the prophet Nathan, forbade him. Instead of David building a house for God, God wanted to build a house for David – that is, He promised David that his dynasty would last forever. God gave David the promise of an everlasting kingdom. David was a man of war. His son Solomon, which means Peace, would be the one to build a temple for the worship of the LORD.

David spent the last years of his life making preparation for Solomon's Temple. He bought Araunah's threshing floor in Jerusalem for the Temple site. He gathered workers and materials. He made plans. He encouraged Solomon and the people to carry out this great project after his death.

David and the Public Worship of the LORD

The Levitical worship given by God through Moses had fallen into disuse during the years of the judges and King Saul. The original tabernacle in Shiloh had very likely been destroyed by the Philistines when the time the Ark was stolen, and Eli's sons were killed. The prophet Jeremiah later said: **"Go now to My place which was in Shiloh, where I set My name at the first, and see what I did to it because of the wickedness of My people Israel"** (Jeremiah 7:12).

The prophet Samuel brought sacrifices to God in various places. During the reign of Saul, worship was carried on in Nob until Saul, in a jealous rage, commanded that all the priests at Nob be killed. The priest Abiathar escaped, however, and traveled with David. God's tabernacle then was set up at Gibeon during the rest of the reign of Saul and during the reign of David.

When David moved the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem, he had a tabernacle built for it. So then there were two tabernacles: one in Gibeon and one in Jerusalem. There were also two high priests: Abiathar from the family of Eli, and Zadok from the house of Eliezer. Zadok officiated chiefly at Gibeon, and Abiathar chiefly in Jerusalem.

These irregularities in the God-prescribed worship continued until Solomon built the Temple. Nevertheless, David put things in order as well as he could. The last chapters of First Chronicles tell us about all the musicians and priests that David appointed for the worship services. The Psalms give examples of the worship in David's time. They also show David's love for praising God in the tabernacle with songs and hymns.

Read at notes given below and least one chapter of First Chronicles listed below, and as many of the psalms in this section as you can. If you have questions, ask them.

1 Chronicles 22 – *David's Preparations for the Building of the Temple*

David hires laborers and gathers materials for the building of the Temple (vv. 1-5).

David instructs his son Solomon to build the Temple after his death (vv. 6-16).

David encourages Israel's leaders to help Solomon build the Temple (vv. 17-19).

1 Chronicles 23-26 – David's Organization of the Levites

The number, duties, and families of the Levites (chapter 23).

The 24 classes of priests and the 24 classes of Levites (chapter 24).

The 24 classes of musicians, 4000 of them (chapter 25).

The classes of doorkeepers, treasurers, and officers (chapter 26).

1 Chronicles 27 – Divisions of David's Army; Also Princes, Administrators, Councilors

In 1 Corinthians 14:40 we today are told: **"Let all things be done decently and in order."**

1 Chronicles 28-29 – David's Last Commands and His Death (see also the next lesson)

David announces to his leaders God's choice of Solomon as the next king (28:1-10).

David gives Solomon God's pattern for the Temple (28:11-21).

David and his princes give willingly for the building of the Temple (29:1-9).

"With a loyal heart they had offered willingly to the LORD" (v. ___)

David gives thanks to God in prayer (29:10-19).

The people celebrate, Solomon rules, and David dies (29:20-30).

Psalms 3-5 – Two Morning Hymns and an Evening Hymn

These three psalms were probably written in the time of Absalom's rebellion.

Psalms 19 – God Reveals Himself in His Creation and in His Word

Nature declares the glory of God (vv. 1-6).

"The heavens declare the glory of God" (v. ___)

The Word of God is an even more wonderful revelation (vv. 7-14).

"The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple" (v. ___)

Psalms 26-28, 122 – David Longs to Worship God in the Tabernacle

These four psalms were probably written in the time of Absalom's rebellion, when David had to leave Jerusalem with its tabernacle.

"LORD, I have loved the habitation of Your house" (v. _____)

"One thing...I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD" (v. _____)

"Hear...when I lift up My hands toward Your holy sanctuary" (v. _____)

"I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go into the house of the LORD'" (v. _____)

Psalms 30 – David Praises God at the Consecration of the Temple Site

"Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning" (v. ___)

Psalms 36, 37, 39, 58 – David Considers the End of the Wicked and Comforts the Godly

"With You is the fountain of life; in Your light we see light" (v. _____)

"Do not fret because of evildoers, nor be envious of the workers of iniquity" (v. _____)

"Commit your way to the LORD, ...rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for Him" (v. _____)

"I have been young, and now am old; yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken" (v. _____)

"I am a stranger with You, a sojourner, as all my fathers were" (v. _____)

"The wicked are estranged from the womb; they go astray as soon as they are born" (v. _____)

Psalms 41, 55 – David Prays Concerning Friends Who Betrayed Him

In these two psalms David is no doubt thinking chiefly of Ahithophel, his adviser, who rebelled against him together with Absalom. As David had his Ahithophel, so David's Son, Jesus, had His Judas Iscariot.

"My own familiar friend...has lifted up His heel against me" (v. _____)

"The words of his mouth were smoother than butter, but war was in his heart" (v. _____)

Psalms 42, 43, 84 – David's Companion Longs for Jerusalem

These psalms were probably written by one of David's men who fled from Absalom with him.

"As the deer pants for the water brooks, so pants my soul for You, O God" (v. _____)

"How lovely is Your tabernacle, O LORD of hosts!" (v. _____)

"For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand" (v. _____)

Psalms 61 – 65 – Five More Psalms of King David in Exile

"You will prolong the king's life, his years as many generations" (v. _____)

"If riches increase, do not set your heart on them" (v. _____)

"I have looked for You in the sanctuary, to see Your power and Your glory" (v. _____)

"The righteous shall be glad in the LORD, and trust in Him" (v. _____)

"We shall be satisfied with the goodness of Your house, of Your holy temple" (v. _____)

Psalm 86 – A Prayer that Praises God's Gracious Name

"A God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering and abundant in mercy and truth" (v. _____)

Psalm 103 – A Beautiful Psalm Proclaiming the Mercies of God

This psalm has so many beautiful expressions that it is worthy to be memorized.

"As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions" (v. _____)

Psalms 140, 141 – Two More Psalms of David from the Time of Absalom's Rebellion

"Let my prayer be set before You as incense" (v. _____)

Psalm 139 – David Meditates on God's Omnipresence, Omniscience, Omnipotence

"I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made" (v. _____)

Psalm 144 - **"Happy Are the People Whose God is the LORD!"** (v. _____)

Psalm 145 – King David Praises a Much Greater King

"The eyes of all look expectantly to You, and You give them their food in due season, You open Your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing" (v. _____)

Questions

1. Where had the Jews been worshiping God from the time of Moses to Samuel?
2. What was so important about worshiping God by sacrifices?
3. What great plan for worship did David reveal to Nathan, God's prophet?
4. What did God say to Nathan about David's great plan?
5. How was God going to build a house for David?
6. How has God's promise about David's house been fulfilled?
7. What project did David prepare for before his death?
8. Who was selected by God to carry out this project?
9. In what two ways does Psalm 19 show the glory of God?
10. Why did David call himself a stranger?
11. Who was Ahithophel and why did he take his own life?
12. List how Psalm 139 shows God's almighty power and His all-knowing wisdom.
13. Choose one of the psalms in this section and explain its meaning.