

Survey of the Bible part 32 1Chronicles 21-29

We ended with 1Chronicles 21 last week as we got through the first few verses of this chapter, but I wanted to revisit the first part of this chapter and ask a couple of questions.

1 Chronicles 21:1 ^{NAU} Then Satan stood up against Israel and moved David to number Israel.

As we saw last time satan is opposed to all that God loves and Israel as a called out people of God is one of satan's enemies due simply to the fact that God has placed His love upon them and called them out for a specific purpose to accomplish His will to crush the works of satan by having the seed of the woman come into the world through this particular nation.

1 John 3:8 ⁸ the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil.

Well, what are the works of the devil?

To destroy all people in general and God's elect in particular.

But God's chosen could never be destroyed by satan in the sense that he could separate us from the love and blood atonement of Christ.

But that doesn't mean he doesn't try as we see here in the case of satan tempting David to sin against God as he numbers the nation of Israel.

As it turns out David admits that it was a foolish thing to number Israel.

And by the way, according to verse 5, what part of Israel is he numbering and why does David number Israel in this way?

To evaluate his military might.

And why would this be a bad thing in light of the fact that Israel is surrounded by its enemies?

But, David is told by God that the Lord will judge his sin and will give him three choices of how God should deal with him. In the end God sent a pestilence to Israel and 70,000 men were destroyed

and in the midst of the judgment, as an angel is about to destroy more of Israel, God tells the angel to put his sword back in his sheath and spare the rest of the nation.

David is then commanded to offer a sacrifice to the Lord on behalf of Israel.

1 Chronicles 21:18-20 ¹⁸ Then the angel of the LORD commanded Gad to say to David, that David should go up and build an altar to the LORD on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite. ¹⁹ So David went up at the word of Gad, which he spoke in the name of the LORD. ²⁰ Now Ornan turned back and saw the angel, and his four sons *who were* with him hid themselves. And Ornan was threshing wheat.

Evidently, God decided to use the threshing floor of Ornan as the place at which David would offer the sacrifice and David obviously agreed. In the process David also bought the place of the threshing floor from Ornan and there he offered the sacrifice.

But what is interesting is David's and Ornan's sons reaction to this angel. In verse 20 we are told that Ornan's four sons hid themselves when they saw this angel.

Notice David's reaction.

1 Chronicles 21:27-30 ²⁷ The LORD commanded the angel, and he put his sword back in its sheath. ²⁸ At that time, when David saw that the LORD had answered him on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite, he offered sacrifice there. ²⁹ For the tabernacle of the LORD, which Moses had made in the wilderness, and the altar of burnt offering *were* in the high place at Gibeon at that time. ³⁰ But David could not go before it to inquire of God, for he was terrified by the sword of the angel of the LORD.

What does this tell us about the power of such angels of God?

What does this tell us about such angels who are placed over us by God to protect us?

From this point David begins to make preparations to build the house of the Lord knowing that his son will do the actual construction.

1 Chronicles 22:2-4 ² So David gave orders to gather the foreigners who were in the land of Israel, and he set stonecutters to

hew out stones to build the house of God. ³ David prepared large quantities of iron to make the nails for the doors of the gates and for the clamps, and more bronze than could be weighed; ⁴ and timbers of cedar logs beyond number, for the Sidonians and Tyrians brought large quantities of cedar timber to David.

And so, before his death, David then charges his son to finish the work of building the house of the Lord.

1 Chronicles 22:5-10 ⁵ David said, "My son Solomon is young and inexperienced, and the house that is to be built for the LORD shall be exceedingly magnificent, famous and glorious throughout all lands. *Therefore* now I will make preparation for it." So David made ample preparations before his death. ⁶ Then he called for his son Solomon, and charged him to build a house for the LORD God of Israel. ⁷ David said to Solomon, "My son, I had intended to build a house to the name of the LORD my God. ⁸ "But the word of the LORD came to me, saying, 'You have shed much blood and have waged great wars; you shall not build a house to My name, because you have shed *so* much blood on the earth before Me. ⁹ 'Behold, a son will be born to you, who shall be a man of rest; and I will give him rest from all his enemies on every side; for his name shall be Solomon, and I will give peace and quiet to Israel in his days. ¹⁰ 'He shall build a house for My name, and he shall be My son and I will be his father; and I will establish the throne of his kingdom over Israel forever.'

As we come to chapter 23 we see an interesting thing in that David is back numbering Israel.

1 Chronicles 23:1-5 ^{NAU} Now when David reached old age, he made his son Solomon king over Israel. ² And he gathered together all the leaders of Israel with the priests and the Levites. ³ The Levites were numbered from thirty years old and upward, and their number by census of men was 38,000. ⁴ Of these, 24,000 were to oversee the work of the house of the LORD; and 6,000 *were* officers and judges, ⁵ and 4,000 *were* gatekeepers, and 4,000 *were* praising the LORD with the instruments which David made for giving praise.

In this numbering there is no indication that God is going to judge David as he did when he previously numbered Israel. Why do you think this is the case?

In the previous case David numbered Israel to check the strength of his army to fight against his enemies despite how God was more

than capable to fight for him with even one angel able to take care of business.

Here David numbers part of Israel with the express purpose of worship to the one true God.

1 Chronicles 23:27-30 ²⁷ For by the last words of David the sons of Levi *were* numbered from twenty years old and upward. ²⁸ For their office is to assist the sons of Aaron with the service of the house of the LORD, in the courts and in the chambers and in the purifying of all holy things, even the work of the service of the house of God, ²⁹ and with the showbread, and the fine flour for a grain offering, and unleavened wafers, or *what is baked in* the pan or what is well-mixed, and all measures of volume and size. ³⁰ They are to stand every morning to thank and to praise the LORD, and likewise at evening,

Chapter 24 is dedicated to the divisions of the priests and Levites and the names of these people.

All of chapter 25 is dedicated to those who were to be the temple musicians.

1 Chronicles 25:5-7 ⁵ All these *were* the sons of Heman the king's seer to exalt him according to the words of God, for God gave fourteen sons and three daughters to Heman. ⁶ All these were under the direction of their father to sing in the house of the LORD, with cymbals, harps and lyres, for the service of the house of God. Asaph, Jeduthun and Heman *were* under the direction of the king. ⁷ Their number who were trained in singing to the LORD, with their relatives, all who were skillful, *was* 288.

Chapter 26 is dedicated to the numbers of those who were to be gatekeepers of the house of the Lord, along with the treasurers, officers and judges.

But as we come to chapter 27 we are struck with the fact that the military is being numbered.

1 Chronicles 27:1 ^{NAU} Now *this is* the enumeration of the sons of Israel, the heads of fathers' *households*, the commanders of thousands and of hundreds, and their officers who served the king in all the affairs of the divisions which came in and went out month by month throughout all the months of the year, each division *numbering* 24,000:

There would be 24,000 from each tribe.

Why do you suppose David is numbering the military when it seems apparent that God was not pleased with that action earlier?

Because God is the one commanding David to do the numbering at this point, not so much to ensure David that there are enough soldiers, but to simply give an account of the military.

1 Chronicles 27:23 ²³ But David did not count those twenty years of age and under, because the LORD had said He would multiply Israel as the stars of heaven.

And so, the numbering of the military was at God's request and yet God gave certain restrictions to David in this numbering which David now adheres to.

Chapter 28 is where David comes before all of Israel and tells them that his intent was to build the house of the Lord, but that God will not let him build such a house because that privilege will go to his son Solomon. And then he charges Solomon before Israel to carry out God's will of following the Lord in all things.

1 Chronicles 28:9-13 ⁹ "As for you, my son Solomon, know the God of your father, and serve Him with a whole heart and a willing mind; for the LORD searches all hearts, and understands every intent of the thoughts. If you seek Him, He will let you find Him; but if you forsake Him, He will reject you forever. ¹⁰ "Consider now, for the LORD has chosen you to build a house for the sanctuary; be courageous and act." ¹¹ Then David gave to his son Solomon the plan of the porch *of the temple*, its buildings, its storehouses, its upper rooms, its inner rooms and the room for the mercy seat; ¹² and the plan of all that he had in mind, for the courts of the house of the LORD, and for all the surrounding rooms, for the storehouses of the house of God and for the storehouses of the dedicated things; ¹³ also for the divisions of the priests and the Levites and for all the work of the service of the house of the LORD and for all the utensils of service in the house of the LORD;

What is interesting here is that David was not allowed to construct the house of the Lord, but what was he allowed to do as it relates to the house of the Lord?

To come up with all of the blue prints for every aspect of the construction. And so, though we may say that Solomon built the house of the Lord, it was David's plans that were carried out as God allowed David to be involved in that aspect of the house of the Lord.

But we must ask, where did David come up with such detailed plans that were designed to be for the worship of the God of heaven and earth?

1 Chronicles 28:19 ¹⁹ "All *this*," said David, "the LORD made me understand in writing by His hand upon me, all the details of this pattern."

When it comes to how God is to be worshiped that is never left in the hands of men anymore than it was left in the hand of Moses when he was told how to construct the means of worship as they wandered the desert for 40 years.

God will give the details as to how He is to be approached and honored and worshiped.

And how has He done that for us today?

By fulfilling all that is laid out here in 1Chronicles in the house of the Lord that was designed to be used for the sacrificial system as the high priest came before the Lord on behalf of His people.

How are we to approach the living God today that is shown in the pattern laid out for David?

Through the shed blood of Jesus Christ our high priest.

Hebrews 4:14-16 ¹⁴ Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as *we are*, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Hebrews 8:1-6 ^{NAU} Now the main point in what has been said *is this*: we have such a high priest, who has taken His seat at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, ² a minister in the sanctuary and in the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, not man. ³ For every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts

and sacrifices; so it is necessary that this *high priest* also have something to offer. ⁴ Now if He were on earth, He would not be a priest at all, since there are those who offer the gifts according to the Law; ⁵ who serve a copy and shadow of the heavenly things, just as Moses was warned *by God* when he was about to erect the tabernacle; for, "SEE," He says, "THAT YOU MAKE all things ACCORDING TO THE PATTERN WHICH WAS SHOWN YOU ON THE MOUNTAIN." ⁶ But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, by as much as He is also the mediator of a better covenant, which has been enacted on better promises.

The pattern of the tabernacle in the house of the Lord that both Moses and David were given by God were patterns that already existed in the present heaven.

Acts 7:44-50 ⁴⁴ "Our fathers had the tabernacle of testimony in the wilderness, just as He who spoke to Moses directed *him* to make it according to the pattern which he had seen. ⁴⁵ "And having received it in their turn, our fathers brought it in with Joshua upon dispossessing the nations whom God drove out before our fathers, until the time of David. ⁴⁶ "*David* found favor in God's sight, and asked that he might find a dwelling place for the God of Jacob. ⁴⁷ "But it was Solomon who built a house for Him. ⁴⁸ "However, the Most High does not dwell in *houses* made by *human* hands; as the prophet says: ⁴⁹ 'HEAVEN IS MY THRONE, AND EARTH IS THE FOOTSTOOL OF MY FEET; WHAT KIND OF HOUSE WILL YOU BUILD FOR ME?' says the Lord, 'OR WHAT PLACE IS THERE FOR MY REPOSE? ⁵⁰ 'WAS IT NOT MY HAND WHICH MADE ALL THESE THINGS?'

If Moses and David were given patterns of what already existed then what do we know of the present heaven and the throne of God?

They are real physical structures that are patterned on earth in the form of the tabernacle that Moses and David were given.

Hebrews 9:18-26 ¹⁸ Therefore even the first *covenant* was not inaugurated without blood. ¹⁹ For when every commandment had been spoken by Moses to all the people according to the Law, he took the blood of the calves and the goats, with water and scarlet wool and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people, ²⁰ saying, "THIS IS THE BLOOD OF THE COVENANT WHICH GOD COMMANDED YOU." ²¹ And in the same way he sprinkled both the tabernacle and all the vessels of the ministry with the blood. ²² And according to the Law, *one may* almost say,

all things are cleansed with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness. ²³ Therefore it was necessary for the copies of the things in the heavens to be cleansed with these, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. ²⁴ For Christ did not enter a holy place made with hands, a *mere* copy of the true one, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us; ²⁵ nor was it that He would offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the holy place year by year with blood that is not his own. ²⁶ Otherwise, He would have needed to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now once at the consummation of the ages He has been manifested to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.

But what does that tell us about the future fulfillment of that pattern that Moses and David were given as it relates to the future tabernacle and throne of God?

Revelation 21:3-7 ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, ⁴ and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be *any* death; there will no longer be *any* mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away." ⁵ And He who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." And He said, "Write, for these words are faithful and true." ⁶ Then He said to me, "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost. ⁷ "He who overcomes will inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son.

This heavenly city that Abraham longed for exists today and will one day come to this earth as the New Jerusalem.

Revelation 21:1-2 ^{NAU} Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer *any* sea. ² And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband.

This city exists today in the present heaven and was always the pattern from which Moses and David borrowed as God revealed it to them.

This is the place from which God has chosen to rule His universe temporarily. It is a place that is to honor God and exalt His name

and David understood this as he gave the plans to his son Solomon and charged him to build a copy of this place on planet earth.

1 Chronicles 29:1 ^{NAU} Then King David said to the entire assembly, "My son Solomon, whom alone God has chosen, is still young and inexperienced and the work is great; for the temple is not for man, but for the LORD God.

But as we've seen this copy is to give way to the real thing when God finally restores His kingdom in perfection as He resurrects His people and the universe to a place without the curse and sin as He reigns of the throne of David forever and ever on the new earth and new Jerusalem.

And David understood this and gives praise to God for the opportunity to give the plans to Solomon to build this copy as he worships the Lord before Israel.

1 Chronicles 29:10-13 ¹⁰ So David blessed the LORD in the sight of all the assembly; and David said, "Blessed are You, O LORD God of Israel our father, forever and ever. ¹¹ "Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, indeed everything that is in the heavens and the earth; Yours is the dominion, O LORD, and You exalt Yourself as head over all. ¹² "Both riches and honor *come* from You, and You rule over all, and in Your hand is power and might; and it lies in Your hand to make great and to strengthen everyone. ¹³ "Now therefore, our God, we thank You, and praise Your glorious name.

David never thought for a moment that the Creator of all could dwell in a house made with human hands. But he knew that God was giving the pattern through the blue prints of an existing house not made with human hands that would allow God to dwell among His people on a throne that would one day find it and the Lord sitting upon it on this planet, the new earth.

And so, first Chronicles ends with the last days of David coming to an end.

1 Chronicles 29:26-28 ²⁶ Now David the son of Jesse reigned over all Israel. ²⁷ The period which he reigned over Israel *was* forty years; he reigned in Hebron seven years and in Jerusalem thirty-three *years*. ²⁸ Then he died in a ripe old age, full of days, riches and honor; and his son Solomon reigned in his place.