

# 1 Chronicles

## Chapter 28

### *David's Charge to Israel*

David assembled at Jerusalem all the officials of Israel, the officials of the tribes, the officers of the divisions that served the king, the commanders of thousands, the commanders of hundreds, the stewards of all the property and livestock of the king and his sons, together with the palace officials, the mighty men and all the seasoned warriors. 2 Then King David rose to his feet and said: “Hear me, my brothers and my people. I had it in my heart to build a house of rest for the ark of the covenant of the LORD and for the footstool of our God, and I made preparations for building. 3 But God said to me, ‘You may not build a house for my name, for you are a man of war and have shed blood.’ 4 Yet the LORD God of Israel chose me from all my father's house to be king over Israel forever. For he chose Judah as leader, and in the house of Judah my father's house, and among my father's sons he took pleasure in me to make me king over all Israel. 5 And of all my sons (for the LORD has given me many sons) he has chosen Solomon my son to sit on the throne of the kingdom of the LORD over Israel. 6 He said to me, ‘It is Solomon your son who shall build my house and my courts, for I have chosen him to be my son, and I will be his father. 7 I will establish his kingdom forever if he continues strong in keeping my commandments and my rules, as he is today.’ 8 Now therefore in the sight of all Israel, the assembly of the LORD, and in the hearing of our God, observe and seek out all the commandments of the LORD your God, that you may possess this good land and leave it for an inheritance to your children after you forever.

**28:1–29:30** The account of the transition from the reign of David to that of Solomon is one of the clearest demonstrations of the Chronicler's idealization of their reigns when it is compared with the succession account in 1Ki 1–2. The Chronicler makes no mention of the infirmities of the aged David (1Ki 1:1–4), the rebellion of Adonijah and the king's sons (1Ki 1:5–10), the court intrigue to secure Solomon's succession (1Ki 1:11–31) or David's charge to Solomon to punish his enemies after his death (1Ki 2:1–9). His selection of material presents a transition of power that is smooth and peaceful and receives the support of “all Israel” (29:25), the officials and the people (28:1–2; 29:6–9, 21–25). Instead of the bedridden David who sends others to anoint Solomon (1Ki 1:32–35), David himself is present and in charge of the ceremonies. (CSB)

**Chs 28–29** David's final speech, when Solomon is publicly anointed as king (29:22–25). With the temple construction secure and the transfer of power complete, David dies (29:26–30). (TLSB)

**28:1** The assembly is composed largely of the groups named in ch. 27. This public announcement (v. 5) follows the private announcement of Solomon's succession in ch. 22 (see note on 22:2–19). (CSB)

The Chronicler inserted a digest of chs 23–27 to explain who these officials were, what their duties were, and how they were organized into working units. (TLSB)

**28:2–8** David's address to the officials of Israel is a public confirmation of his private words to Solomon in ch 22. David desired to build the temple but was forbidden to do so because he was a warrior (vv 2–3; cf 22:7–8). From Judah, God chose David; from David, God has chosen Solomon (vv 4–7; cf 17:7–15; 22:9–10). (TLSB)

**28:5** *chosen my son Solomon*. See vv. 6, 10; 29:1. These are the only uses in the OT of the Hebrew verb for “chosen” with reference to any king after David (see Introduction: Purpose and Themes). The Chronicler’s application of this term to Solomon is consistent with his depiction of that king. (CSB)

**28:1–8** David announces that the Lord chose Solomon as the future king. When the Lord chooses and calls someone, He likewise equips them for that calling. You, too, are called, chosen, and equipped by God for service in His kingdom. Honor His calling with fruitful works of service. He called and chose you in the merciful, loving service of Jesus, who paid for your sins and declared you a child of the eternal Father through Baptism in His name. • Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen. (TLSB)

### *David's Charge to Solomon*

**9** “**And you, Solomon my son, know the God of your father and serve him with a whole heart and with a willing mind, for the LORD searches all hearts and understands every plan and thought. If you seek him, he will be found by you, but if you forsake him, he will cast you off forever.** **10** **Be careful now, for the LORD has chosen you to build a house for the sanctuary; be strong and do it.**”**11** **Then David gave Solomon his son the plan of the vestibule of the temple, and of its houses, its treasuries, its upper rooms, and its inner chambers, and of 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, all the surrounding chambers, the treasuries of the house of God, and the treasuries for dedicated gifts; 13 for the divisions of the priests and of the Levites, and all the work of the service in the house of the LORD; for all the vessels for the service in the house of the LORD, 14 the weight of gold for all golden vessels for each service, the weight of silver vessels for each service, 15 the weight of the golden lampstands and their lamps, the weight of gold for each lampstand and its lamps, the weight of silver for a lampstand and its lamps, according to the use of each lampstand in the service, 16 the weight of gold for each table for the showbread, the silver for the silver tables, 17 and pure gold for the forks, the basins and the cups; for the golden bowls and the weight of each; for the silver bowls and the weight of each; 18 for the altar of incense made of refined gold, and its weight; also his plan for the golden chariot of the cherubim that spread their wings and covered the ark of the covenant of the LORD. 19** “**All this he made clear to me in writing from the hand of the LORD, all the work to be done according to the plan.**” **20** **Then David said to Solomon his son, “Be strong and courageous and do it. Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed, for the LORD God, even my God, is with you. He will not leave you or forsake you, until all the work for the service of the house of the LORD is finished. 21** **And behold the divisions of the priests and the Levites for all the service of the house of God; and with you in all the work will be every willing man who has skill for any kind of service; also the officers and all the people will be wholly at your command.”**

**28:9–10** David’s words to Solomon (part 1). Solomon is now publicly charged with the duty to serve the Lord (cf 22:11–13). (TLSB)

**28:9** *forsake*. Key concept in theological vocabulary of 1 and 2Ch, the term is used elsewhere for irregular worship (2Ch 12:5; 13:10–11; 21:10–11; 28:6; 29:6) or the worship of foreign gods (2Ch 7:19, 22; 24:18; 34:25). (TLSB)

**28:11–19** Divinely inspired temple plans. David states that he received these “in writing,” thereby equating the origin of these plans with the Mosaic Law that God had written (Ex 34:1). Because David had required both the assembly and Solomon to pledge to follow every command of God (vv 8–9), these temple plans were commands from God Himself. (TLSB)

**28:12** David provides Solomon with the plans for the temple. This reflects the Chronicler's modeling David after Moses: Just as Moses received the plans for the tabernacle from God (Ex 25–30), so also David received the plans for the temple. (CSB)

*had in mind.* Refers to all that the Spirit had given David. (TLSB)

**28:15** *each lampstand.* There were 10 such lampstands 1Ki 7:49). (TLSB)

**28:18** *golden chariot of the cherubim.* Lit, “golden the chariot, the cherubim.” The second noun (cherubim) explains that God is pictured as moving about on these angels as on a chariot (see note, Ps 18:10). (TLSB)

**28:19** *All this.* The works of this pattern. *clear to me.* Ironically, the pronoun (“me”) is unclear, perhaps due to scribal omission of a letter, but it seems to refer to Solomon. (TLSB)

*he made clear to me in writing from the hand of the Lord.* The Chronicler may intend no more than the ordinary process of inspiration whereby David wrote under divine influence. On the other hand, he may imply a parallel with Moses, who also received documents from the hand of the Lord (Ex 25:40; 27:8; 31:18; 32:16). (CSB)

**28:20–21** David's words to Solomon (part 2). David's last recorded words to his son and heir. (TLSB)

*Do not be afraid.* Common in the OT, esp in the patriarchal days: Gn 15:1 (Abram); 21:17 (Hagar); 26:24 (Isaac); 46:3 (Jacob). David also uses this phrase with Solomon in 22:13. It also appears in later warfare accounts (2Ch 20:15–17; 32:7). (TLSB)

**28:21** Bach: “Splendid proof that, besides other arrangements of the service of worship, music too was instituted by the Spirit of God through David” (*JSBS*, p 95). Calov: “Now it is clear from this divine example and all the prophetic institutions of David that he did nothing on his own initiative in connection with the building of the temple and arranging the service but that he in all things acted according to the plan which the Lord through His Spirit communicated to him and according to those institutions and offices, exactly as the Lord God had instructed his heart. For we serve God in vain when we insist on our will and on services we dream up ourselves, Matt. 15:9. God prescribes, outlines, encircles, and shows us all things and therefore reveals His will, how He wishes to be honored by us. Therefore in matters of religion we should not plan and do anything without His revealed Word. Use this as a warning against human deception, self-chosen worship, and man-made rules. Similarly, it is contrary to the arrogance and haughtiness of the papists who raise themselves above Scripture” (*JSBS*, p 95). (TLSB)

**28:9–21** David receives the plans for the temple from God and carefully passes them on to Solomon, his heir. God still calls parents to hear Him through Holy Scripture and to pass these words and duties along to their heirs. How rich is our inheritance through the Word, which consecrates us as co-heirs with Christ and as the temple of the living God. • Hallowed Father, make me holy by the blood of Your Son, that I may inherit the riches of Your grace and the gift of Your Spirit. Amen. (TLSB)