

# 1 Chronicles

## Chapter 22

**Then David said, “Here shall be the house of the Lord God and here the altar of burnt offering for Israel.”**

**22:1–29:30** This material is unique to Chronicles and displays some of the Chronicler’s most characteristic interests: the preparations for the building of the temple, the legitimacy of the priests and Levites, and the royal succession. The chapters portray a theocratic “Messianic” kingdom as it existed under David and Solomon. (CSB)

David organizes the temple (chs 23–26) and governmental personnel (ch 27). His actions are encased in two speeches regarding his son’s succession to the throne and role as builder of the temple: a private speech to Solomon and the leaders of Israel (ch 22), and a public charge to Solomon preceding David’s death (chs 28–29). In this way, the legitimacy of both the temple and the Davidic line is maintained. (TLSB)

**22:1** David dedicates this property (21:18–30) as the site for the temple (see vv. 2–6). (CSB)

*David Prepares for Temple Building*

**2 David commanded to gather together the resident aliens who were in the land of Israel, and he set stonecutters to prepare dressed stones for building the house of God. 3 David also provided great quantities of iron for nails for the doors of the gates and for clamps, as well as bronze in quantities beyond weighing, 4 and cedar timbers without number, for the Sidonians and Tyrians brought great quantities of cedar to David. 5 For David said, “Solomon my son is young and inexperienced, and the house that is to be built for the LORD must be exceedingly magnificent, of fame and glory throughout all lands. I will therefore make preparation for it.” So David provided materials in great quantity before his death.**

**22:2–19** Solomon’s appointment to succeed David was twofold: (1) a private audience, with David and some leaders in attendance (vv. 17–19), and (2) a public announcement to the people (ch. 28), similar to when Joshua succeeded Moses. (CSB)

**22:2–5** David is the one who gathered the laborers and materials that would be used in building the temple (cf vv 14–16). Stone, iron, bronze, and cedar were gathered in immense quantities. Some of the bronze had been taken as war booty in David’s victory over Zobah (cf 18:7–8). (TLSB)

**22:2** *aliens ... stonecutters.* 2Sa 20:24 confirms the use of forced labor by David, but does not specify that these laborers were aliens, not Israelites. Solomon used Israelites in conscripted labor (1Ki 5:13–18; 9:15–23; 11:28), but the Chronicler mentions only his use of aliens (2Ch 8:7–10). Though they were personally free, aliens were without political rights and could be easily exploited. The OT frequently warns that they were not to be oppressed (Ex 22:21; 23:9; Lev 19:33; Dt 24:14; Jer 7:6; Zec 7:10). Isaiah prophesies the participation of foreigners in the building of Jerusalem’s walls in the future (Isa 60:10–12). (CSB)

For David’s stockpiling program, he recruited non-Israelites, who were forced to work in labor gangs (2Ch 8:7–8). (TLSB)

22:5 *young*. Solomon's age at the time of his accession is not known with certainty. He came to the throne in 970 B.C. and was likely born c. 991. (CSB)

Solomon does not let youth or naivete keep him from being a model king. In 2Ch 13:7, Rehoboam's youth and inexperience split the kingdom. (TLSB)

*must be exceedingly magnificent*. David wanted God's house to attract the interest of the nations. (TLSB)

22:2–5 Though the Lord does not let David build the temple, He allows him to make preparations so that Solomon can accomplish the goal. The heavenly Father calls on earthly fathers to care for and support their children. This is especially important in matters of faith (cf Dt 6:7–9), of which the building of the temple is an excellent example. As the Lord calls fathers to this work, He strengthens and sustains them through the work of His Son and His Spirit, working and building together as a family. • Lord, grant peaceful labor and cooperation within our families so that we may accomplish Your purposes. Amen. (TLSB)

#### *Solomon Charged to Build the Temple*

**6 Then he called for Solomon his son and charged him to build a house for the LORD, the God of Israel. 7 David said to Solomon, “My son, I had it in my heart 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 before me on the earth. 9 Behold, a son shall be born to you who shall be a man of rest. I will give him rest from all his surrounding enemies. 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. He shall be my son, and I will be his father, and I will establish his royal throne in Israel forever.’**

**11 “Now, my son, the LORD be with you, so that you may succeed in building the house of the LORD your God, as he has spoken concerning you. 12 Only, may the LORD grant you discretion and understanding, that when he gives you charge over Israel you may keep the law of the LORD your God. 13 Then you will prosper if you are careful to observe the statutes and the rules that the LORD commanded Moses for Israel. Be strong and courageous. Fear not; do not be dismayed. 14 With great pains I have provided for the house of the LORD 100,000 talents of gold, a million talents of silver, and bronze and iron beyond weighing, for there is so much of it; timber and stone, too, I have provided. To these you must add. 15 You have an abundance of workmen: stonecutters, masons, carpenters, and all kinds of craftsmen without number, skilled in working 16 gold, silver, bronze, and iron. Arise and work! The LORD be with you!” 17 David also commanded all the leaders of Israel to help Solomon his son, saying, 18 “Is not the LORD your God with you? And has he not given you peace on every side? For he has delivered the inhabitants of the land into my hand, and the land is subdued before the LORD and his people. 19 Now set your mind and heart to seek the LORD your God. Arise and build the sanctuary of the LORD God, so that the ark of the covenant of the LORD and the holy vessels of God may be brought into a house built for the name of the LORD.”**

22:6–16 David's private charge to Solomon. (TLSB)

22:6 *charged him*. David matched the liberality of his financial contributions to the temple (21:1–22:5) with the sincerity of moral support, even though he was not permitted to undertake the project. He laid the unfinished business on Solomon's heart (vv 6–16) and urged “all the leaders of Israel to help Solomon his son” (v 17). (TLSB)

Nathan the prophet (17:1–15). Solomon also states David was too preoccupied with war to build the temple (1Ki 5:3). Although the Lord ordered the conquest, had granted David numerous victories in war, and is even described as a warrior and avenger in Scripture, here He desires a man of peace to build His temple on earth. When considering the Lord’s character and actions, we must always keep in mind His two ways with humankind: the Law (by which He punishes and condemns) and the Gospel (by which He forgives and comforts). The Lord shows that peace and comfort are His proper work. (TLSB)

*shed so much blood.* Jerome: “The reference is not, as some think, to his wars, but to the murder [of Uriah]” (NPNF 2 6:363). (TLSB)

**22:9** *man of rest.* Or, “a calm man.” The peace necessary for building the temple resulted from David’s victories over the neighboring peoples (chs 18–20). (TLSB)

*Solomon.* Hbr *shelomoh*, similar to *shalom*, “peace.” Solomon will be a man of peace who, unlike David, will not engage in warfare. Unlike David, he will exact no vengeance (cf 1Ki 2:5–9). (TLSB)

**22:10** *establish ... forever.* Chem: “To David was given a particularly clear repetition of the promise [regarding Christ]” (LTh 2:458). (TLSB)

**22:14** *100,000 talents of gold.* At the height of his glory, Solomon had an annual income of 666 talents of gold. David may be speaking here in figures that are meant to indicate large sums rather than totals based on actual calculations. (TLSB)

**22:17–18** David reminds the Israelite leaders that it is through the Lord that the land has been subdued. (TLSB)

**22:19** *holy vessels.* Utensils and furnishings dedicated for use in the temple. (TLSB)

**22:6–19** David tells Solomon to build the temple, affirming that the Lord will be with him in this task. We also commend our children to the Lord’s care, praying for them daily and wisely entrusting them with service to the Lord, their family, and their nation. Our success and our future is with the Lord. He entrusted the work of our salvation to His beloved Son, who in turn commended the temple of His body and His spirit into the Father’s hands (Lk 23:46), that we might be cleansed by His blood and reign with Him in the resurrection. • O Jesus, grant such trust and sharing in our families! Be with us, and keep us by Your grace. Amen. (TLSB)