

GOD & MONEY

A THEOLOGY OF OWNERSHIP AND STEWARDSHIP

1 Chronicles 29:10–20

RELATED SCRIPTURES

1 Chronicles 29:6–9 | Proverbs 10:4–5 | Jude 24–25

STUDY FOR SERMON FROM 4.19.26

SUMMARY

Today's passage is a prayer by King David as he prepares to hand the kingdom to his son, Solomon, who will oversee the construction of the temple. His prayer is in response to material gifts given by Israel's leaders for the temple. It is arranged in a common pattern: praise (vs. 10–13), thanksgiving (vs. 14–16), and supplication (vs. 17–19). David begins his praise by listing God's attributes, which are exemplary of a king. Greatness and power convey strength, glory and majesty convey splendor, and victory conveys endurance. David, king of Israel, recognizes that God is the true King over everything in heaven and on earth. He is the source of everything given to man—riches, honor, power, might, and strength. David continues by thanking God for his material provisions. Israel had just given generously to build God's temple, but David recognized that they were giving back to God from what God had provided. It is human nature to see our resources as the fruit of our own labor. On one level this is true, as "A slack hand causes poverty, but the hand of the diligent makes rich." (Proverbs 10:4). On the other hand, "unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain" (Psalm 127:1). The Bible never tolerates laziness, but also reminds us that God is the ultimate source of all things. Finally, David prays to God for the hearts of Israel and Solomon. "Keep forever such purposes and thoughts in the hearts of your people, and direct their hearts toward you. Grant to Solomon my son a whole heart that he may keep your commandments" (Deuteronomy 29:18-19). He knows that wealth and power test the hearts of all men, regardless of their position. This theme of recognizing God as our King and provider continues into the New Testament, but with the added recognition of Jesus Christ as our Savior and King. "Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen" (Jude 24-25).

GROUP QUESTIONS

Share something that surprises, encourages, or troubles you from the sermon or your direct reading of 1 Chronicles 29:10-20.

One common pattern for prayer is the mnemonic ACTS (adoration, confession, thanksgiving, supplication), which is very similar to David's prayer. Have you ever used this or a similar pattern for structuring your prayer time? If so, how does it impact the content of your prayer?

Compare 1 Chronicles 29:11 and Jude 25. What similarities do you notice? How does this strengthen your understanding of Jesus Christ as a member of the Trinity?

If there's one thing Jesus would want you to walk away believing and receiving as a result of this portion of Scripture, what is that thing?

CLOSE IN PRAYER

As you pray, be sure to include today's themes in what you bring before God.