

Preparing the Next Generation to Know God

Text: 2 Samuel 24; 1 Chronicles 22

Date: Wednesday, January 6, 2010, 7pm

Series: Life of David

Tabernacle Baptist Church

7020 Barrington Road

Hanover Park, Illinois 60133

Website: www.GodCentered.info

Introduction: Open your Bible to **2 Samuel 24**. We will later be in **1 Chronicles 22**. This evening I want to challenge you to "Prepare the Next Generation to Know God".

We come to 1 Chronicles 22 where David is at the very end of his life making preparations for his son Solomon to build the Temple. It is almost too late, in the very last year of David's life, and yet, we find when we go ahead and are willing, God is not bound at all by time and circumstances. He truly is the Lord God Almighty. He can do anything.

Are your children prepared to meet God? Are they going to be the ones to do an amazing work for God or will you lose them to this world. Will they only be cause for heartache to you? Children are one of our greatest stewardships. We are not here to enjoy ourselves in this world. We are to prepare ourselves AND OUR CHILDREN to meet God. Indeed we are to be making disciples of all people.

David prepared the way for Solomon to build the Temple. Who are you preparing? Who are you mentoring?

- I. First we come to a **Realization** of how things are. In 2 Samuel 24, David comes to this realization. **2 Samuel 24:10**, "David's heart smote him after that he had numbered the people".

We often don't prepare our children very well in knowing God. We figure somehow they'll catch on. We often are not taking deliberate steps to make sure those friends, family, and co-workers are prepared to know God. Often it is because we are not well prepared ourselves.

The present state of things in many homes and churches is to barely maintain the spiritual life. A great many families lose their children to the world. This is not the way God intended us to live.

David was nearing the end of his life, and he began to doubt God's protection for Israel. He began thinking in a very earthly minded way. But he realized after he numbered the people that he was headed in the wrong direction.

Explanation: Repentance is just as great a sign of the Holy Spirit in our lives as revival. Do you have a broken heart for God? Are you living an awakened life? That is the heartbeat of the Christian life. **Ephesians 5:14**, "Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light."

Application: Are you awake to the fact of lost family members around you? Do you grieve for them? If you have children, do you talk to them about their soul constantly? Do you live in the power of the Spirit and prayer and the Word before them continually?

We are commanded to teach all things that Jesus commanded to our children (**Matthew 28:18-20**). We are commanded to teach our children diligently to love the Lord and His law (**Deuteronomy 6:6-9**).

- II. After a realization, we come to **Repentance**. 70,000 are taken for David's sin. That wakes David up. The prophet Gad instructs him in **verse 18**, "Go up, rear an altar unto the LORD in the threshingfloor of Araunah the Jebusite". He is called "Ornan" in **1 Chronicles 21:25**, "So David gave to Ornan for the place six hundred shekels of gold by weight.".

- A. David had come to a very significant **place**. When you read "Jebusite", you could substitute "Jerusalemite" because the Jebusites capital city was Salem, which David renamed "Jerusalem".

So David purchases a very special place that happens to be on Mount Moriah. David is standing on what will be the Temple Mount, Mount Moriah. He pronounces it as such in **1 Chronicles 22:1**, "Then David said, This is the house of the LORD God, and this is the altar of the burnt offering for Israel.". This is where Solomon would later build the Temple, **2 Chronicles 3:1**, "Then Solomon began to build the house of the LORD at Jerusalem in mount Moriah, where the LORD appeared unto David his father, in the place that David had prepared in the threshingfloor of Ornan the Jebusite."

It is there that David purchases the very Temple Mount from Araunah the Jebusite. He offers oxen there that are kindled with fire that comes right from heaven. This offering, like all OT offerings are a type of the penal substitution of Jesus Christ. Jesus is the "Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world" (**John 1:29**).

- B. This mount had a very special **history**.

1. It was here in Jerusalem that Abraham met **Melchizedek**, who was a type of Christ with an eternal priesthood. **Hebrews 7:1-3**, "For this Melchisedec, king of Salem, priest of the most high God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings, and blessed him". And verse 3 says Melchisedec was "without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life; but made like unto the Son of God; abideth a priest continually."
2. Abraham offers **Isaac** in Jerusalem. We see another type of Christ in Isaac at Mount Moriah which is in the same area. Later God would bring Abraham back to Mount Moriah to offer his son Isaac upon the altar. **Genesis 22:2**, "And he [GOD] said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of." There is some archaeological evidence to suppose that the place of the crucifixion of Jesus was at the summit of Mount Moriah, probably near the present-day Garden Tomb which would of course be a literal fulfillment of Abraham's offering of Isaac. We read in **Genesis 22:14**, "So Abraham called the name of that place, 'The LORD will provide'; as it is said to this day, 'On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided'" (ESV).
3. Now **David** comes to this Jerusalem, the city of the Jebusites, 500 years after Isaac, and gives an offering of propitiation to God at a time of crisis on behalf of the people. God kindles the burnt offering with fire from heaven. This is a

picture of the penal substitution of Christ. He was punished in your place, on your behalf, so you would not experience the fires of hell. Christ was consumed. He was forsaken and "wounded for our transgressions". **Isaiah 53:11**, "He [GOD] shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities."

4. David did not know that within a thousand years, the **Messiah** would die just outside of the gates of the city, probably very near the place where Isaac was almost offered.

Explanation: David repented, and through His repentance, God used him to be a blessing to millions of people, including us today.

Application: Dear friend, you have no idea the blessings that repentance will bring to you and your family! First of all, you will glorify God, and that ought to be your motive. The motive of repentance is to bring glory to God and to know Him. This repentance is seen by a forsaking of all things for Christ. It means your chief motive is to love God above all else, as seen by Jesus' words in **Luke 14:26**, "If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple." You must have no other motive for your action but simply knowing Christ and pleasing God.

- III. After a realization, and repentance we come to **Urgent Preparation**. David is in his last year of life, though he did not know it. He knew he had just a little time.

Look at **1 Chronicles 22:5**, "And David said, Solomon my son is young and tender, and the house that is to be builded for the Lord must be exceeding magnifical of fame and of glory, throughout all countries: I will therefore now make preparation for it. So David prepared abundantly before his death".

We need to use our time wisely. We all have very little time on this earth. **James 4:14**, "For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away."

- A. What we need to do is prepare our children to be **TEMPLES** of God. The Temple is a picture of the place where God dwells, and we need to prepare our children to be temples for God. This is why they were created.

Revelation 21:3, "And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God."

1. In a general sense, it is a picture of the **Church**. **1 Corinthians 3:16**, "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?"

It was for this reason that David himself could not build the Temple. The Temple is a type of the church, and Solomon was to be a type of Christ in building it.

Look at **1 Chronicles 22:6-8**, "Then he called for Solomon his son, and charged him to build an house for the LORD God of Israel. 7 And David said to Solomon, My son, as for me, it was in my mind to build an house unto the name of the LORD my God: 8 But the word of the LORD came to me, saying, **Thou hast**

shed blood abundantly, and hast made great wars: thou shalt not build an house unto my name, because thou hast shed much blood upon the earth in my sight."

The building of the temple was a figure of Christ building His Church, and Christ builds His church not by destroying men's lives, but by saving them. David was a man of war. Only a man of peace could typify the "Prince of Peace" who is the Head of the church.

2. Let's apply this even more to our children. In a more specific sense, the temple is a picture of our **relationship** with God! All who are saved are a temple for the Holy Spirit. **1 Corinthians 6:19**, "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?"¹

We have so little time to prepare our children! **Verse 5**, "David prepared abundantly before his death". When you die, will your children serve God? They may not build a temple, but will the BE God's temple? Don't let the years pass by without daily making sure they are converted and growing in Christ.

- B. We need to prepare our children through telling them the **TRUTH** about God. Look at what David says in **verses 9-10**, "And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve Him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the Lord searcheth all hearts and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: **if thou seek Him, He will be found of thee but if thou forsake Him, He will cast thee off forever.** Take heed now; for the Lord hath chosen thee to build a house for the sanctuary: be strong and do it".

Application: If you have children, do you know if they are converted? If you are not sure if your children are converted, it is likely that they are not. How can I motivate you and stir you up for your children? If your children are unconverted, then at the judgment you will see them taken away, and they will be alone forever. When Jesus took our punishment, He cried out that He indeed was "forsaken" of God. That means to be left utterly alone—to be left behind, never to see loved ones, never to see the blue sky, never to enjoy food, never to breath clean air, never to feel anything good again. This is what your children will receive for their sins if they are not in Christ.

- C. We need to prepare our children by living in **TRIUMPH** ourselves. Look at **verses 17-18**, "David also commanded all the princes of Israel to help Solomon his son, saying, 18 *Is not the LORD your God with you? and hath he *not* given you rest on every side? for he hath given the inhabitants of the land into mine hand; and the land is subdued before the LORD, and before his people.*"

David clearly established the borders of Israel. His enemies knew how far they could go, and they left him and his people alone. But he had to fight for those clear boundries.

Application: How about you—do you have clearly established boundaries?

¹ In heaven, God is our Temple, and we dwell in Him. **Revelation 21:22**, "And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it."

- Are you living in victory over your enemies—the world the flesh and the devil?
- Do you have an established prayer life, a time with God each day?
- Are you a committed member of one of Christ's local congregations? If not, you will be "tossed about like the waves of the sea".

Yet a serious realization, a sincere repentance, and an urgent preparation are not enough!

IV. You must take immediate **responsibility**. Look at **verse 19**, "Now set your heart and your soul to seek the LORD your God; arise therefore, and build ye the sanctuary of the LORD God, to bring the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and the holy vessels of God, into the house that is to be built to the name of the LORD."

Explanation: It's not enough to know what the Bible says. We are commanded to do it. Are you making disciples of Jesus Christ, beginning with your children? Are you having success with your children spiritually?

Conclusion: We don't have a moment to waste. We must be "redeeming the time, because the days are evil" (**Ephesians 5:16**).

Are your children going to be a Temple for God or an object of His eternal wrath?