

Serve God's Purpose

Part 11

“For when David had served God's purpose in his own generation.” (Acts 13:36a NIV)

“For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God.” (Acts 13:36a KJV)

David's plan to build the temple of God: King David after he was settled and had rest of all his enemies around him he had in his heart to build a house for God; we can read that in the book of *1Chronicles 17:1-15* ^d *“After David was settled in his palace, he said to Nathan the prophet, ‘Here I am, living in a palace of cedar, while the ark of the covenant of the LORD is under a tent.’”* ² *Nathan replied to David, ‘Whatever you have in mind, do it, for God is with you.’”* ³ *That night the word of God came to Nathan, saying: “Go and tell my servant David, ‘This is what the LORD says: You are not the one to build me a house to dwell in. I have not dwelt in a house from the day I brought Israel up out of Egypt to this day. I have moved from one tent site to another, from one dwelling place to another. Wherever I have moved with all the Israelites, did I ever say to any of their leaders^[d] whom I commanded to shepherd my people, ‘Why have you not built me a house of cedar?’”* ⁷ *“Now then, tell my servant David, ‘This is what the LORD Almighty says: I took you from the pasture and from following the flock, to be ruler over my people Israel. I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name like the names of the greatest men of the earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed. Wicked people will not oppress them anymore, as they did at the beginning¹⁰ and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders over my people Israel. I will also subdue all your enemies. “I declare to you that the LORD will build a house for you: ¹¹ When your days are over and you go to be with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, one of your own sons, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹² He is the one who will build a house for me, and I will establish his throne forever. ¹³ I will be his father, and he will be my son. I will never take my love away from him, as I took it away from your predecessor. ¹⁴ I will set him over my house and my kingdom forever; his throne will be established forever.”* ¹⁵ *Nathan reported to David all the words of this entire revelation.”* God was pleased with King David initiative to build a house for him, but he recommended that one of his sons, and later on that was Solomon, to be the one to build the temple of God. After God approved that to him, King David used the rest of his life to make preparations to build the temple of God.

Later on after David repented of his sin of counting the men of the army of Israel and after he bought the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite, ²⁶ *David built an*

altar to the LORD there and sacrificed burnt offerings and fellowship offerings. He called on the LORD, and the LORD answered him with fire from heaven on the altar of burnt offering. ²⁷ Then the LORD spoke to the angel, and he put his sword back into its sheath. ²⁸ At that time, when David saw that the LORD had answered him on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite, he offered sacrifices there.” (1Chronicles 21:18-28) On that same place, *“Then David said, ‘The house of the LORD God is to be here, and also the altar of burnt offering for Israel.’” (1Chronicles 22:1)* From now on the preparation to build the temple of God continued in more active way: -

1- Preparation for dressed stone, iron nails and wood for the doors: ² *So David gave orders to assemble the aliens living in Israel, and from among them he appointed stonecutters to prepare dressed stone for building the house of God. ³ He provided a large amount of iron to make nails for the doors of the gateways and for the fittings, and more bronze than could be weighed. ⁴ He also provided more cedar logs than could be counted, for the Sidonians and Tyrians had brought large numbers of them to David.” (1Chronicles 22:2-4)*

2- David made more extensive preparations before his death: ⁵ *David said, “My son Solomon is young and inexperienced, and the house to be built for the LORD should be of great magnificence and fame and splendor in the sight of all the nations. Therefore I will make preparations for it.” So David made extensive preparations before his death.” (1Chronicles 22:5)*

3- David Charged his son Solomon: ⁶ *Then he called for his son Solomon 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 for the Name of the LORD my God. ⁸ But this word of the LORD came to me: ‘You have shed much blood and have fought many wars. You are not to build a house for my Name, because you have shed much blood on the earth in my sight. ⁹ But you will have a son who will be a man of peace and rest, and I will give him rest from all his enemies on every side. His name will be Solomon, and I will grant Israel peace and quiet during his reign. ¹⁰ He is the one who will build a house for my Name. He will be my son, and I will be his father. And I will establish the throne of his kingdom over Israel forever.’” ¹¹ “Now, my son, the LORD be with you, and may you have success and build the house of the LORD your God, as he said you would. ¹² May the LORD give you discretion and understanding when he puts you in command over Israel, so that you may keep the law of the LORD your God. ¹³ Then you will have success if you are careful to observe the*

decrees and laws that the LORD gave Moses for Israel. Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or discouraged.” (1Chronicles 22:6-13)

4- David prepared huge financial and material resources to build the temple: ¹⁴“I have taken great pains to provide for the temple of the LORD a hundred thousand talents of gold, a million talents of silver, quantities of bronze and iron too great to be weighed, and wood and stone. And you may add to them. ¹⁵You have many workmen: stonecutters, masons and carpenters, as well as men skilled in every kind of work ¹⁶in gold and silver, bronze and iron—craftsmen beyond number. Now begin the work, and the LORD be with you.” (1Chronicles 22:14-16)

5- David commissioned the leaders to do the work of God in building the Temple: ¹⁷Then David ordered all the leaders of Israel to help his son Solomon. ¹⁸He said to them, “Is not the LORD your God with you? And has he not granted you rest on every side? For he has handed the inhabitants of the land over to me, and the land is subject to the LORD and to his people. ¹⁹Now devote your heart and soul to seeking the LORD your God. Begin to build the sanctuary of the LORD God, so that you may bring the ark of the covenant of the LORD and the sacred articles belonging to God into the temple that will be built for the Name of the LORD.” (1Chronicles 22:17-19)

6- David Final preparation before his death: David exactly did God’s will, His pleasant good and perfect will. He was the king over Israel but now as he is old and full of years, he needs to arrange and organize the work of God before he died. For this reason he did the following:

A- David Appointed a King to take over after his death: “When David was old and full of years, he made his son Solomon king over Israel.” (1Chronicles 23:1) As directed by the Lord while he was still alive David appointed Solomon and made him king over Israel because there must be a leader who will be the one to continue to do the work of God and fulfil the vision that God ordained for His church and His people.

B- ²He also gathered together all the leaders of Israel, as well as the priests and Levites: To orient them and plan with them how they will function and do their duties and responsibilities for the glory of God. ³The Levites thirty years old or more were counted, and the total number of men was thirty-eight thousand. ⁴David said, “Of these, twenty-four thousand are to supervise the work of the temple of the LORD and six thousand are to be officials and judges. ⁵Four thousand are to be gatekeepers and four thousand are to praise the LORD with the musical instruments I have provided for that purpose.” (1Chronicles 23:2-5)

The meaning of the word Levi is attached, and God chose the Levites to be attached to Him and to carry on his work. Therefore only those who are near and attached to God and had committed their lives for him is to do the great and real work of God. They are the workers of the Lord who will use them for the different responsibilities:

1- Of these, twenty-four thousand are to supervise the work of the temple of the LORD: They will be responsible to supervise the work to of God to be done with precision.

2- Six thousand are to be officials and judges: Officials they are the leaders who do the administrative work including the treasury. Judges are the one responsible to direct the people about the matter of life and how will live and take godly decision for God. They are to teach the people the decrees and laws, and show them the way to live and the duties they are to perform.

3- Four thousand are to be gatekeepers: They are the one who keep the system and to keep control of those who are coming in and those who are going out from the house of God. They are system controllers to check the input and the output.

4- Four thousand are to praise the LORD with the musical instruments: Those are responsible to teach the people and lead them to worship the Lord in Spirit and truth.

My Dear and Beloved: God loves his people and what David did was God’s love to his people. We are called to build the Church of God and to care for it. We are also responsible to hand over the commands and the law of God to the next generation. Meditate on the above message and see how you apply that in your life in what you can do to work with God to build up His church, the Church of God. We need to think responsibly what we need to do together to secure the future of the next generation by building with God His church based on His word and commands, and in this way we fulfill God’s purpose, as we agree to pray.

My Prayer: “Father God in heaven, we come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for our sins to give us eternal life. Lord we commit ourselves fully to serve you and walk in your ways, using all our resources, talents and spiritual gifts, and work with you to build up your church in order that your word, commands and blessings will pass to the next generation, this all we ask and pray in Jesus name Amen.