

SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIALS FOR ADULTS

LESSON 13



DAVID'S LAST DAYS

Scripture Texts: 1 Chronicles 28:1-10; 1 Kings 2:1-11

As we come to the end of this study of David, we feel that we have been dealing with one of the greatest men of all history. Militarily, politically, administratively, and religiously, he was of highest quality. No ruler since his day has compared with him in the exercise of these powers.

Many of God's promises and blessings were conditional. Our salvation is conditional upon our belief and obedience—in our seeking and obeying God. An everlasting King was promised. He is reigning today.

MEMORY VERSE: *For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.* — **2 Peter 1:11**

David's Final Message

1 Chronicles 28:1-4 David was an old man now. His time to leave this world was near. He called all leaders in Israel to receive his final message. David told of his hope to build a temple of God. **An house of rest for the ark**—a safe and settled place for the precious symbol of the closest association in this world of God with man. **And for the footstool of our God**—suggestive of submission and worship at the feet of the great Ruler of the universe.

But God, Who does not see as man sees, did not allow David to build the house because of his shedding of blood. This reveals something of God's feeling about war. He allows it as inevitable because of sin. But its stain must not be on His holy house. Yet, God did not shut out David completely. He allowed him to gather a vast amount of materials for the house. He gave to him the pattern for it (**1 Chronicles 28:11-19**). David did not rebel against the decision of the Lord.

God's Promise and Condition

1 Chronicles 28:5-8 God approved Solomon for king. Concerning him He said—(1) He was to build the house of the Lord. (2) God would bless him as a father does a son and give him a peaceful reign. (3) The covenant made with David was continued to him. **I will establish his kingdom forever.** The forever part looked forward to the coming of Christ. Later an angel would say to Mary, **The Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David (Luke 1:32).**

There was a condition attached to God's blessing of Solomon—**If he be constant to do my commandments . . .** No one can continue in favor with God and not continue to obey His commandments. Solomon could not. Israel could not. We cannot. Sin cuts one off from God. When Solomon and his sons turned from God into sin, the kingdom in Israel did fail and foreign powers took the rule.

The part of the prophecy concerning Christ could not fail. It was of an everlasting, real, spiritual kingdom. Christ did come and now reigns on the throne of David. Israel's temporal kingdom and Christ's eternal kingdom here are intertwined, yet distinct. In the line of descent from David and Solomon, Jesus was born a King sitting on the throne of David. The promise of this was sure and unchangeable. The temporal government of Israel in the intervening years was conditional (**1 Kings 2:4**). David charged Israel to obey God's commands. This was the condition upon which they would possess the land and pass it on to their children.

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Charge to Solomon

1 Chronicles 28:9-10 David's charge is weighty with vital words to light the path of every person from then to now—and forever. We do well to heed them. **Know thou the God. . . .** Solomon had seen His hand in David's life. He should make contact with Him for himself. To KNOW God is life eternal (**John 17:3**). **Serve him with a perfect heart**—a heart cleansed from sin, open to God. **A willing mind**—our will in accordance with God's will. No rebellion. Desiring and acting to obey Him. **The Lord searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations. . . .** Nothing is hid from Him (**Luke 12:2-3**). **If thou seek him, he will be found of thee. If thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever.**

David's Death and Burial

1 Kings 2:1-4 David knew he was near death. If ever one speaks seriously it is then. **Shew thyself a man.** A man is a soul made in the image of God, made from the dust of the ground and breath of God. Solomon was charged to lift himself to his full height, to make real his possibilities. David told him to do something worth dying for, something to show that he had a mind and a heart and a soul within him. The continuation of Solomon's and his family's reign in literal Israel was conditioned upon his (and their) obeying this charge.

1 Kings 2:10-11 David's last days were not without trouble. Another son rebelled against his father's will. Adonijah, full brother of Absalom, proclaimed himself king, but did not succeed in holding the position. David saw Solomon established there.

Then David died after forty years of turbulent reign. From that day he has been held as Israel's greatest king. Yet the One now sitting on David's throne is greater. Is He your King?

Conditional

What basis is there for the teaching that salvation is all of grace, and not dependent in any way upon the life and deeds of the receiver? The promise to Solomon of the continuing earthly throne was dependent upon his obedience. The promise to Israel of possession of the land was dependent upon their obedience. The promise to us of salvation and Heaven is conditional. Jesus said, **he that endureth to the end shall be saved; (Matthew 10:22)**. And **If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed (John 8:31)**. Paul wrote, **but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off (Romans 11:22)**. **For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of god: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them (Ephesians 2:8-10)**. . . . **and they were judged every man according to their works (Revelation 20:13)**. Do you see the fine balance here of grace and works? Of works done not in one's own strength but by the power of God working in one redeemed by grace? Can one fall into sin and still retain his position in Christ?

What might now be Israel's history had she continued to obey God? What might be the situation of our own nation if we were listening to and obeying God? What is our personal position before God, each of us? Are we enjoying fully the blessings provided for us?

Salvation Has Emotion

Many Christians have lost the joy of their early Christian experience. Their religion has become cold and formal, with looks of scorn upon any emotional expression of those giving true praise to God. They claim such emotional outbursts show instability, lack of culture, and even lack of intelligence. They are willing for us to shout our heads off at a football game, or to go practically insane with excitement at other sports events, but they insist that we should restrain ourselves when we feel joyful at the thought of what God has done for us in Christ, or when we seem to be especially blessed. The real danger to Christianity is not from the fanatic who becomes

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enthusiastic about his faith, but rather from the cold, formal religionist who because of lack of warmth and fervor, can attract no one to Christ.

JUST A THOUGHT

Since you can't change facts try changing your attitudes.

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