



SOLOMON'S TEMPLE

No 1 The Zeal Of Thine House

For the zeal of thine house hath eaten me up;
Psalm 69:9

INTRODUCTION

1 Corinthians 14:40

Let all things be done decently and in order.

decently = concerned with how things look

in order = concerned with proper structure

- as if the great wealth, collection of materials, and building plans were not sufficient to David's heart and mind, the king went further and organized the worship services that would one day be conducted in the Temple

in Saul's day, the government was more concerned with keeping enemies at bay rather than right worship of God...the nation simply went through the motions

during David's reign, the Tabernacle was set up at Gibeon and the Ark of The Covenant was brought into the city of Jerusalem

- the structure of the worship services was no small undertaking, seeing as how it involved an entire nation

everything needed to be structured and organized in order to function correctly and glorify God in the process

1. David's Passion For Construction

2. David's Plans For Construction

3. David's Preparation For Construction

DAVID'S PULSE ON THE CEREMONIES

- in making decisions about the services of the Temple, David and his two High Priests drew lots, a process Joshua used when he distributed the land of inheritance among the tribes of Israel

NOTE: over the course of David's reign, he acquired two men who served as High Priest...one at the Tabernacle (Zadok) and one with the Ark (Abiathar) **1 Chronicles 16:39**

1 Chronicles 24:5-6 (26:13-14) cf **Joshua 14:2**

- but organization wasn't an end in itself, for the people were being organized for **SERVICE**...the phrase 'for the service of the house of the LORD' and similar wording is used several times in these chapters to remind us that ministry is the major responsibility of God's servants in God's house

it is one thing to fill an office, but quite something else to use that office to serve the Lord and His people

THE COMMUNITY OF THE TEMPLE

THE LEVITES **1 Chronicles 23:1-32**

the Levites consisted of the male members of the tribe of Levi...all priests came from this tribe, but not all Levites would serve as priests

generally speaking, the designation of *Levite* referred to those who assisted the priests in the sanctuary ministry

they were required to be at least thirty years of age in order to serve (**verse 3**), but that age was later reduced to twenty years of age (**verse 24**) **Num 4:3**

there were a total of 38,000 Levites and they were divided into four groups, each with specific ministry:

24,000 Levites served as assistants
to the priests

6,000 Levites were installed as
officers and judges

4,000 Levites were made to be porters,
or gatekeepers

4,000 were enlisted as singers

David not only organized the sanctuary musicians,
but he also provided them with the proper
instruments to use in praising the Lord

verse 5 *cf* **2 Chronicles 29:25-27**

this reminds us that nothing the priests and
Levites did in the Temple was left to human
invention, but was ordained of God

the duties for the Levites are given in **verses 24-32**

the Israelites were at rest in their land and no longer
a nomadic people, so the Levites were not required
to transport the articles of the Tabernacle any longer
(**Numbers 4**)

the construction of the Temple meant the Levites
would need new assignments and one of their tasks
would be to keep the Temple clean, uncluttered,
and in good repair

likewise, they were to make certain the
Temple precincts were ceremonially pure

they also saw to it that the supply of meal
was available for the offerings

whenever the daily, monthly, and annual sacrifices
were offered, the Levite choir would provide praise
to the Lord

THE PRIESTS 1 Chronicles 24:1-31

verses 1-2 it was important for the priests to be legitimate descendants of Aaron

the twenty-four families of priests were assigned by lot to serve in the sanctuary at scheduled times during the year

there were 24 assigned *courses*, requiring each priest to serve two weeks annually in the Temple

the remainder of their time would be spent living in the priestly cities and instructing the people in practices of the Law

this procedure continued to be followed into the time of Christ, when Zacharias, the father of John the Baptist, served in the Temple

Luke 1:5-9

THE MUSICIANS 1 Chronicles 25:1-31

apart from the ritual blowing of the trumpets (**Numbers 10**), the Law of Moses does not mention any music in connection with Jewish worship

this chapter, however, describes an elaborate organization of twenty-four courses of singers and musicians

David was a great writer of psalms and a gifted musician in his own right

2 Samuel 23:1-2; 1 Samuel 16:18

as part of the music, harps, lyres, psalteries, and cymbals are mentioned (**verse 1**), and trumpets are mentioned elsewhere (**1 Chronicles 13:8**)...there were also choirs (**1 Chronicles 15:27**)

NOTE: according to **verse 7**, there were 288 musicians, divided into 24 courses (the number of the sons of Asaph, Heman, and Jeduthun)

verse 6 three gifted Levites were put in charge of the instrumental music and the singing in the worship services:

Asaph wrote at least twelve *psalms* (**Psalm 50, 73-83**) and played the cymbals (**1 Chronicles 16:5**)

Heman was also called 'the king's seer' (**verse 5**), which suggests that he had a special gift of discerning the Lord's will

he wrote **Psalms 88**

the Lord gave Heman a large family (**verse 5**) and all his children were musicians

14 sons, 3 daughters

Jeduthun's name is related to the name *Judah* and means 'praise,' a good name for a choir director

Jeduthun is associated with **Psalms 39, 62, and 77**

TEMPLE OFFICERS 1 Chronicles 26:1-32

these officials included gatekeepers (verses 1-19), treasurers (verses 20-28), and miscellaneous officials scattered outside Jerusalem (verses 29-32)

The Gatekeepers were assigned to guard the Temple gates, with four guards at the north and south gates and six at the east and west gates

two guards watched over the storehouse, and there were also guards posted outside the Temple area

some details about the Temple area are not recorded in scripture and this makes it difficult for us to be exact in our description

it seems the gatekeepers watched the people come and go and made certain no one was deliberately defiling the Temple or behaving in a way that disgraced the sanctuary of the Lord

The Treasurers were concerned with the two Temple treasuries, one for general offerings and the other for dedicated things from the people...such as the spoils of war

2 Kings 12:4-16

Saul and David added to this treasury, but so did other leaders, such as Samuel the prophet and the generals, Abner and Joab

The Officers and Judges were assigned to tasks away from the Temple and even on the east side of the Jordan river

they kept the king in touch with the affairs of the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and Manasseh.

these officials were also responsible to keep these tribes involved in every matter pertaining to God (verse 32); that is, the all-important religious events of the nation

separated from the other tribes, the trans-Jordanian Israelites might easily grow careless about observing the annual feasts or even the weekly Sabbaths

this explains why these officers are listed among the Temple workers...it is also likely they were responsible for collecting taxes from the people

It is no wonder David had such a long and rich legacy among the Jewish people...his love for the Lord extended beyond God's 'no' and provided the nation with generations of practical worship experience...even today, he is the standard by which Israel is measured (The Throne of David, The Son of David, etc.).

Christian, what preparations have you made for the future work of God? Are you storing up treasures in Heaven?

Psalm 132:1-5

LORD, remember David, and all his afflictions: how he swore unto the LORD, and vowed unto the mighty God of Jacob; surely I will not come into the tabernacle of my house, nor go up into my bed; I will not give sleep to mine eyes, or slumber to mine eyelids, until I find out a place for the LORD, an habitation for the mighty God of Jacob.