

December 17th Readings

[1 CHRONICLES 28:1-29:30](#)

[ROMANS 5:6-21](#)

[PSALM 15:1-5](#)

[PROVERBS 19:18-19](#)

Have you ever had a wonderful plan to do something to God's glory? You look forward to it, tell others about it, even get them involved in completing it. Oh, just wait.

David had it in his heart to build the temple. He made preparations for it. Everyone knew it.

But God said..."You may not build a house for my name, for you are a man of war and have shed blood."

Do you wonder what was in David's heart then? He apparently listens and obeys, because he had the courage to tell all of Israel. Even though God had chosen him to be king, his son Solomon would build the temple.

In 1 Chronicles 29:1, David said, "Solomon, my son, whom alone God has chosen, is young and inexperienced, and the work is great, for the place will not be for man, but for the Lord God."

It wasn't easy for David or our Lord Jesus Christ. Doing God's will may not be easy for us either.

Romans 5 reminds us who has the most amazing plans, who this holy God is, and what He has given us. Even if our plans fail, we can rejoice in God through whom we have now received reconciliation.

"Grace will reign through righteousness, leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ."

Let's hold to God's plans.

December 18th Readings

[2 CHRONICLES 1:1-3:17](#)

[ROMANS 6:1-23](#)

[PSALM 16:1-11](#)

[PROVERBS 19:20-21](#)

Solomon was young and inexperienced when God chose him to build the temple. He had also observed God's great and steadfast love to his father, David. He must have listened and observed. He knew God was with him, too.

It is still a little surprising, when God tells him, "[Ask what shall I give you.](#)" This is God Almighty asking a man what He can give him.

Solomon remains true to his LORD and asked for wisdom and knowledge to go out and come before this people. As usual God blesses him with even more. He granted him wisdom and knowledge, riches, possessions, and honor.

Not even our Lord Jesus had riches, possessions, or honor on earth. He did grow in wisdom though. (Luke 2:52)

What examples we have! With Godly wisdom and knowledge we can purpose in our hearts to do God's will. We can "listen to advice and accept instruction to gain wisdom." (Proverbs 19:20)

Solomon purposed to build the temple using everything God had given him. The temple was a place for God to dwell.

Christ purposed to provide a way for us to be near God, too. This time we are to be the temple! 1 Corinthians 3:16 "Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?"

How can this be? Romans 6 reminds us again that we were buried with Christ by baptism into death so that we may walk in newness of life. We can be a temple of God - free of sin, full of grace - leading to eternal life.

Today is our time to be a temple. EXCITING!

[December 19th Readings](#)

[2 CHRONICLES 4:1-6:11](#)

[ROMANS 7:1-13](#)

[PSALM 17:1-15](#)

[PROVERBS 19:22-23](#)

What can more reading about the temple have to do with me now? All the luxurious items and the structure itself can appear as a very long list to skip over in our study.

However, this was God's plan. Israel used their talents and riches to complete it. They, for once, did what God asked them to do and something beautiful and holy for God was the fruit of their labor. They worshiped God and celebrated with joy at its completion. It was the joy of obedience to our LORD's plan.

What kind of lists does God have for us as Christians? They may seem shorter, but since they deal with our hearts, they may take longer than building a physical temple. Remember Paul's struggles in Romans 7. Same as ours.

Jesus Christ gave a list of only two commandments. "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind... You shall love your neighbor as yourself." (Matthew 22:37) Just like Israel, we want to know how. How can I ever do this?

Read Galatians 5:22-25 again. As Christians, we are blessed with the Spirit. Verse 18 says we are led by the Spirit. The Spirit is the "how." If we are obedient to God, our fruit will glorify Him. Notice how loving our Father and our neighbor is connected to this fruit. We can't love God without joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, or self-control. We can't love others without them, either. These are traits of our God, just as Psalm 18 also describes Him. This is a God plan for our life. "It is finished."

God, Spirit, Jesus Christ - celebrate with joy!

[December 20th Readings](#)

[2 CHRONICLES 6:12-8:10](#)

[ROMANS 7:14-8:8](#)

[PSALM 18:1-15](#)

[PROVERBS 19:24-25](#)

Who is our God?

Solomon is praying to God and describes Him with such thought.

“O LORD, God of Israel, there is no God like you, in heaven or on earth, keeping covenant and showing steadfast love to your servants who walk before you with all their heart.”

“Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain YOU...”

“Yet have regard to the prayer of YOUR servant...”

“and when YOU hear, forgive.”

“YOU only, know the hearts of the children of mankind.”

“Let your saints rejoice in YOUR goodness.”

After this prayer, “the glory of the LORD filled the temple.”

God told Solomon “Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayer.”

Romans 8: “For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh could not do.”

Psalm 18: Our LORD is my strength, my rock, my fortress, my deliverer, my shield, the horn of my salvation, my stronghold, and worthy to be praised!

Who is God?

Look back at 2 Chronicles 6:15.

“YOU spoke with your mouth, and with YOUR hand have fulfilled it this day.”

December 21st Readings

[2 CHRONICLES 8:11-10:19](#)

[ROMANS 8:9-25](#)

[PSALM 18:16-36](#)

[PROVERBS 19:26](#)

The temple is completed. There are two small phrases that jump out. “And they did not turn aside...” “Thus was accomplished all the work...” When we focus, what do we accomplish?

In Romans 8, Paul tries to make us focus on our spiritual lives. "...to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace." Over and over he uses another little phrase, "If ...". The end of that phrase depends on whether we focus on the flesh or things of the Spirit. It is a huge decision to begin to "Set our minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth." Colossians 3:2

It was a bigger decision for God to send Jesus Christ to die for us. "If the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you."

Read that verse twice, maybe three times.

God, raising Jesus, dwelling in us?

It is worth the effort to focus on our God.

December 22nd Readings

[2 CHRONICLES 11:1-13:22](#)

[ROMANS 8:26-39](#)

[PSALM 18:37-50](#)

[PROVERBS 19:27-29](#)

When you read Psalm 18, before 2 Chronicles today, you have to wonder why? Why would anyone abandon God? He has delivered, rescued, and saved them. This must have not have just pricked their hearts, but thrust an entire spear into their hearts when God told them. They remembered who HE is and who they were. They humbled themselves and said, "The LORD is righteousness."

Have you ever had one of those moments? It hits us in the middle of sinning just like Israel. We remember that we don't want to be separated from the love of Christ. We are conquerors through him who loved us. Whatever sin we were committing is not worth the price.

When we sin, we need to humble ourselves before God. It is a stop, caution, and go again moment. Through Jesus Christ we have forgiveness and grace. We may still have consequences. In 2 Chronicles they turned back and God saved their lives, but they lost their treasures. We can lose something or someone because of our sin. It can be heartbreaking,

but how much more heartbreaking would it be to abandon God. Be humble and hold fast to God.

“If God is for us, who can be against us? . . . For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

December 23rd Readings

[2 CHRONICLES 14:1-16:14](#)

[ROMANS 9:1-24](#)

[PSALM 19:1-14](#)

[PROVERBS 20:1](#)

Imagine the people during Asa’s time having the media today? The tweets, the newscasts, posts on Facebook about him - Oh, my! You might friend him at the beginning of his reign. He was “good and right in the eyes of the Lord, his God. He even cried to God, praising Him and asking for help.

Breaking news! By Chronicles 15, he and the people were without the true God.

God reaches for him. “Take courage, Asa.” He got rid of the idols and worshiped God again.

Asa plays our “game” of letting God in, pushing him out, repeat. He listened to bad advisors instead of God. Asa even blames the messenger. He became angry and cruel. He couldn’t bring himself to seek God when he was sick.

It is easy to see how Asa ruined his life. We would have a million comments on Facebook about him. What if we fall in the same trap? Do we “play” this game? Which parts do we want on a public post about us?

We need to be good and right in the eyes of God. How?

Cry to God.

Praise God.

Ask God for help.

Get rid of idols.

Worship God.

Be careful who we listen to for advice.

"Love your neighbor as yourself."

Take the blame. Be humble. We are the clay, God is the potter.

No matter your condition, call upon the LORD.

One more thought about media. Our posts should reflect all of the above. We are children of God!