

DAVID'S FINAL PRAYER
1 Chronicles 29:10-20

Intro: This may not have been the last prayer of David's life, but it the last prayer of his recorded in Scripture. It came at the end of forty years of being king over Israel. During that time he had seen the blessing of the Lord in many wonderful ways.

From the very first David had been called a man after God's own heart. See 1 Sam. 13:14. More than any person in the OT David's life was characterized by prayer and praise and worship. Although he did not write all of the Psalms, yet we refer to them as the Psalms of David because he wrote most of them. David had his faults, and on more than one occasion he grieved the Lord. But, for the greater part of his life, he was a man who trusted the Lord, and sought to please the Lord.

There was one thing that David wanted to do for the Lord that he never got to do: that was to built a Temple for the Lord! But the Lord did give David the plan, and David gave all of his strength during the last years of his life to gathering materials for the Temple so that Solomon his son could built it.

The prayer that I want to consider with you this evening was David's prayer to God after all of the materials had been assembled. And his prayer gives us a unique insight into his relationship to God at the very end of his life. This is one thing that makes it such an important prayer, and undoubtedly explains why it is recorded here in Scripture.

The prayer has three distinct parts.

- 1) The adoration of God. See vv. 10-13.
- 2) David's humbling of himself and of his people. See vv. 14-16.
- 3) David's intercession for his people and for Solomon. See vv. 17-19.

At the end you can see his instruction to the people--and these are David's last recorded words in 1 Chronicles. What a marvelous way to be remembered!

Let us look at each part as time will permit.

I. THE ADORATION OF GOD (1 Chron. 29:10-13).

I wish you would take the time to read chapter 28 and the first 9 verses of chapter 29, and you will see that the last years of David's life were among his busiest as he sought to prepare for the building of the Temple.

And yet, throughout this time, he never lost his fervent love for the Lord. Note carefully the attributes of God

which are mentioned, as well as David's emphasis upon the sovereignty of God.

You can see that he considered that the Lord was the King.

— It is not surprising, then, that David should go from speaking about the Lord as he did, to speaking about himself and his people in the way he did.

These are lessons of special importance for those of us who are getting up there in years. Our love for the Lord, instead of getting less, should grow stronger, and should be more evident in our prayers, and in our lives.

II. THE HUMILITY OF DAVID (1 Chron. 29:14-16).

"Who am I . . . ?" This is not the first time David said this. Cf. 1 Sam. 18:18; 2 Sam. 7:18.

He recognized that God had made it possible for them to give in such abundance, and that everything that they had given actually belonged to the Lord.

This shows you how David regarded his possessions.

More than that . . .

— You can see how temporary he considered himself to be in contrast with the abiding presence of the Lord on the earth. See v. 15.

This was David's way of saying, "Praise God from Whom all blessings flow."

This, too, is something for those of us who are older to consider.

III. THE INTERCESSION OF DAVID (1 Chron. 29:17-19).

Notice the emphasis in these verses on the "heart." Five times David used the word "heart" in these verses--his heart, the hearts of his people, and Solomon's heart.

You see, it is not what people do outwardly that is the main thing; it is what is going on in their hearts.

— This is a good prayer for pastors to imitate--and for parents!

Three things are significant:

A. David recognized the importance of the condition of his

heart in what the Lord did to make his people give so generously. See v. 17.

B. David's prayer for the hearts of his people (v. 18).

This was David's prayer for generations to come.

When Gary was teaching Church History for us on Monday nights, many of you will remember that he pointed out that the history of the Lord's work is always downward. Do you suppose the reason for this is that the Lord's people have not prayed as they should, and especially that the leaders, the pastors, have stopped praying when real blessing has come?

C. David's prayer for his son, Solomon (v. 19).

Do you pray for your children, fathers? If so, what is your burden for them?

David had three burdens for Solomon:

- 1) He wanted him to have "a perfect heart," and he knew that the only place he could get it was from the Lord.
- 2) He wanted Solomon to live according to the Word, in obedience to the Word.
- 3) He wanted Solomon to be busy doing the work of the Lord.

The order is important.

Will those of you who are fathers and grandfathers listen to me? I have one ambition as far as my children and grandchildren are concerned: I want to be their chief intercessor.

It seems that this was true with David, and it ought to be the case with us, that the older we get, the more important prayer is to us.

Concl: In closing, look at David's final words to his people. What did he want them to do?

I have often wondered what my text would be if the Lord were to tell me that my next message to you would be my last one. But since I don't know, I have decided to try to preach each time like it was my last message.

I hope that I would have the same burden that David did--not that the people would praise him, but that they would bless the Lord!