**Week of Dec 15, 2019**

**1 Chronicles 17:1, 3-4, 11-14; 21:18, 21-27**

**Key Verse:** “11 And it shall come to pass, when thy days be expired that thou must go to be with thy fathers, that I will raise up thy seed after thee, which shall be of thy sons; and I will establish his kingdom. 12 He shall build me a house, and I will stablish his throne forever.”

(1 Chronicles 17:11-12)

**1 Now it came to pass, as David sat in his house, that David said to Nathan the prophet, Lo, I dwell in a house of cedars, but the ark of the covenant of the LORD remaineth under curtains.**

**3 And it came to pass the same night, that the word of God came to Nathan, saying, 4 Go and tell David my servant, thus saith the LORD, thou shalt not build me an house to dwell in:**

**11 And it shall come to pass, when thy days be expired that thou must go to be with thy fathers, that I will raise up thy seed after thee, which shall be of thy sons; and I will establish his kingdom. 12 He shall build me a house, and I will stablish his throne forever. 13 I will be his father, and he shall be my son: and I will not take my mercy away from him, as I took it from him that was before thee: 14 But I will settle him in mine house and in my kingdom forever: and his throne shall be established for evermore.**

**18 Then the angel of the LORD commanded Gad to say to David, that David should go up, and set up an altar unto the LORD in the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite**

**21 And as David came to Ornan, Ornan looked and saw David, and went out of the threshing floor, and bowed himself to David with his face to the ground. 22 Then David said to Ornan, Grant me the place of this threshing floor, that I may build an altar therein unto the LORD: thou shalt grant it me for the full price: that the plague may be stayed from the people. 23 And Ornan said unto David, Take it to thee, and let my lord the king do that which is good in his eyes: lo, I give thee the oxen also for burnt offerings, and the threshing instruments for wood, and the wheat for the meat offering; I give it all. 24 And king David said to Ornan, Nay; but I will verily buy it for the full price: for I will not take that which is thine for the LORD, nor offer burnt offerings without cost. 25 So David gave to Ornan for the place six hundred shekels of gold by weight. 26 And David built there an altar unto the LORD, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings, and called upon the LORD; and he answered him from heaven by fire upon the altar of burnt offering. 27 And the LORD commanded the angel; and he put up his sword again into the sheath thereof.**

**Understanding the Scriptures**

Today’s Scripture passage focuses on two central point—David’s desire to build God a temple in which the ark of the Lord’s covenant could be placed and David’s repentance for wrongdoing. Chapter 17 records David’s concern that the ark of the covenant was housed in a tent instead of a permanent structure. David wanted to honor God by building a great temple but realized that his good intentions did not line up with God’s will.

David was a warrior. During his reign, David led many battles, and many people died as God gave Israel victory over many nations. David was responsible for much bloodshed. God did not want a man with “blood on his hands” to build his Temples, but He did honor David’s desire by agreeing to allow one of David’s own sons to build the Temple as the appoint time. David’s son Solomon would be God’s choice to build the Temple.

In contract to Chapter 17, Chapter 21 examines how David became consumed with his own power. David ordered a census to find out how many Israelites existed. In commanding the taking of a census, David seemed to be attributing Israel’s military victories to their physical might rather than the power of God’s might. As a result, God sent a plaque and seventy thousand people died because of David’s sin. An angel spoke to David and offered a plan to end the plague. In repentance for his wrongdoing, David was to purchase land from Araunah and build God an altar. Although Araunah offered the land to David for free, David paid high dollar for the land as a sacrificial gift to God. David sacrificed burnt offering and peace offering on the altar. David’s accepted sacrifices signified God’s forgiveness and reconciliation with David. Out of David’s mistake came the purchase of the land that would later the site where Solomon would build God’s Temple. David and the people of Israel endured the consequences of David’s pride, but despite everything, God’s love for David and the nation was unchanged.

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