

Lesson IX.

DAVID'S CHARGE TO SOLOMON

November 29, 1903

1 Chron. 28: 1-10. Commit to memory vs. 9, 10. Read 1 Chron., chs. 21-29.

1 And Da'vid assembled all the princes of Is'rael, the princes of the tribes, and the captains of the companies that ministered to the king by course, and the captains² over the thousands, and captains² over the hundreds, and the stewards over all the substance and possession of the king, and of his sons, with the officers, and with the mighty men, and with all the valiant men, unto Jeru'salem.

2 Then Da'vid the king stood up upon his feet, and said, Hear me, my brethren, and my people: As for me, I had in mine heart to build an house of rest for the ark of the covenant of the Lord, and for the footstool of our God, and had made ready for the building:

3 But God said unto me, Thou shalt not build an house for my name, because thou hast been a man of war, and hast shed blood.

4 Howbeit the Lord God of Is'rael chose me before all the house of my father to be king over Is'rael for ever: for he hath chosen Ju'dah to be the ruler; and I of the house of Ju'dah, the house of my father; and among the sons of my father he liked me to make me king over all Is'rael:

5 And of all my sons, (for the Lord hath given me

many sons,) he hath chosen Solomon my son to sit upon the throne of the kingdom of the Lord over Is'rael.

6 And he said unto me, Solomon thy son, he shall build my house and my courts; for I have chosen him to be my son, and I will be his father.

7 Moreover I will establish his kingdom for ever, if he be constant to do my commandments and my judgments, as at this day.

8 Now therefore in the sight of all Is'rael the congregation of the Lord, and in the audience of our God, keep and seek for all the commandments of the Lord your God: that ye may possess this good land, and leave it for an inheritance for your children after you forever.

9 And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the Lord searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: if thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever.

10 Take heed now; for the Lord hath chosen thee to build an house for the sanctuary: be strong, and do it.

Revised Version.—1 served the king: 2 of rulers; 3 possessions; 4 even all the mighty men of valor; 5 it was; 6 art; 7 the God: 8 out of; 9 to be prince; 10 in; 11 took pleasure in; 12 And I will; 13 observe; 14 out; 15 to.

EXPLANATION

Connection—After the defeat and death of Absalom, David returned to Jerusalem. The section of 1 Chron. assigned to be read (chs. 21-29) contains an account of: (1) David's census of the people, the pestilence, and the purchase of the threshing-floor of Araunah (ch. 21); (2) His arrangements for the construction of the temple and the keeping up of the public service, and for his army, chs. 22-29.

1. **Assembled**; to ratify the selection of Solomon as successor to David. (See 1 Kings 1: 39.) **Princes of Is'rael**; leading men from the whole nation. Six classes are mentioned. (1) **The princes of the tribes**; that is the rulers of the clans into which the tribes were divided. For their names see ch. 27: 16-22. (2) **The captains of the companies**; named in ch. 27: 1-15. They had charge of the men engaged in the building and other works of Solomon. (See 1 Kings 5: 14-15.) (3) **Captains over the thousands** . . . hundreds; officers in the army. (4) **Stewards**; those who had charge of the king's property, ch. 27: 25-31. (5) **Officers**; those employed in the royal household, ch. 27: 32-34. (6) **Mighty men**; men of influence who did not hold office, including the **valiant men**. These classes represented all the people, and what they did the tribes would agree to.

2-4. **Stood up upon his feet**; David's standing, though he was now old and feeble (1 Kings 1: 11), showed the importance of the occasion and his respect for his hearers. **I had in mine heart**. See 2 Sam. 7: 2; ch. 17: 1. **The ark**; the sign of God's presence, and the centre of the religious life of the nation. **The footstool**; a name given to the temple as contrasted with God's throne of glory in heaven.* (Compare Isa. 60: 13.) **Had made ready**. See 1 Chron. 22: 5. **God said**; in ch. 17: 4. **Hast shed blood**; and so was not a suitable person to build the temple. It was to be a house of peace. **King . . . forever**. The throne was to abide with David and his descendants, 2 Sam. 7: 13. This promise points to Christ.

5-7. **Hath chosen Solomon**; through the prophet Nathan (1 Kings 1: 11-14), and by giving him fitness for the kingship. **Shall build my house**. See ch. 22: 10. Solomon's name means "peaceable."

If he be constant. Solomon must be faithful to God if he is to keep the divine favor.

8-10. **Now therefore**. David makes a solemn appeal to the assembled rulers, to pledge themselves and the people to be steadfast in their obedience to God. The whole nation and God Himself are summoned as witnesses to this pledge. **Possess this good land**. The people would remain in possession of the land so long as they were obedient to God.

Thou, Solomon. The king now appeals to his son to do his part in God's service. **A perfect heart**. Faithfulness to the Lord in all things, not freedom from all sin, is meant. (See 2 Chron. 15: 17.) **A willing mind**; freely choosing the right way. **Searcheth all hearts**; and so cannot be deceived. (Compare Ezek. 8: 7-12.) **He will be found**. To those who really wish to know God He will make Himself known. **Cast thee off**; the penalty of forsaking God. **The Lord hath chosen thee**; and, therefore, will not let thee fail. These are four powerful reasons why Solomon should faithfully serve the Lord. **Sanctuary**; a holy place. **Be strong**; for the work to be done was very great.



David and Solomon