

pared for the house of the Lord an hundred thousand talents of gold, and a thousand thousand talents of silver; and of brass and iron without weight; for it is in abundance: timber also and stone have I prepared; and thou mayest add thereto.

*b* Or, in my poverty.

15 Moreover there are workmen with thee in abundance, hewers and *c* workers of stone and timber, and all manner of cunning men for every manner of work.

*c* That is, masons and carpenters.

16 Of the gold, the silver, and the brass, and the iron, there is no number. Arise therefore, and be doing, and the Lord be with thee.

*23* 17 David also commanded all the princes of Israel to help Solomon his son, saying,

*23* 18 Is not the Lord your God with you? and I hath he not given you rest on every side? for he hath given the inhabitants of the land into mine hand; and the land is subdued before the Lord, and before his people.

*l* Deut. 12 10; Josh. 22. 4; 2 Sam. 7. 1; chap. 23. 25.

*23* 19 Now *m* set your heart and your soul to seek the Lord your God: arise therefore, and build ye the sanctuary of the Lord God, *n* to bring the ark of the covenant of the Lord, and the holy vessels of God, into the house that is to be built to the name of the Lord.

*m* 2 Chron. 20. 3.—*n* 1 Kings 8. 6; 2 Chron. 5. 7; 6. 11.

#### GENERAL STATEMENT.

The flickering torch of David's life leaps up with a momentary gleam before sinking into the darkness of death. Once more, and for the last time, the venerable king summons all his strength, and sits upon his throne, the throne which his statesmanship and valor have made supreme from the Great Sea to the great river, and which he is now to leave in all its strength to his son Solomon. Around him are gathered the robes of the realm, some of whom have followed David's fortunes from the days of the cave until now, when they shall see his face no more. Before him stands his son Solomon, in the dew of youthful beauty, contrasting with his own old age. He gives him once more the earnest counsel to accomplish the task and build the temple which he himself has longed to build, but has been forbidden. He discloses to his eyes the vast stores which he has gathered from the spoils of war and the payment of tribute, that the treasures laid up for idols may be spent in the service of the God of Israel. He reminds him that the worker for God needs divine wisdom, and loyal obedience, and diligence and courage, and exhorts him anew to walk in the way of God's law. Then turning to the princes of Israel, the aged king reminds them of their privilege to aid in this great work, and urges them to do their part, that the house of God may stand as the gift of a united people. His task completed, the great monarch resigns into the hands of his successor the sceptre which he has worn so well, and then goes home to his palace to await the messenger who shall soon call him into the presence chamber of the King of kings, whom he has served so long.

#### EXPLANATORY AND PRACTICAL NOTES.

**Verse 6. Then.** When David was in old age, and Solomon was beginning his reign. **Called for Solomon.** Sent for him to the royal chamber in which he lay calmly awaiting his end. **Charged him to build an house.** As the religious interests of Israel were always nearest to David's heart, he wished them to be equally dear to his successor. 1. Let the first aim of rulers be the religious advancement of their people.

**7. It was in my mind.** Very early in David's reign he had desired to build a temple to God, but had been forbidden by the prophet. **Unto the name.** *Name* is commonly put for *power* and *glory*. "I had in my heart to build a house in honour of God," is the meaning. **My God.** See how constantly David keeps prominent his relation to God. 2. Happy is that man who can say, "My Lord and my God."

**8. The word of the Lord.** This does not refer to the message through Nathan, (2 Sam. 7;) but to some occasion not mentioned in the record. **Thou hast shed blood.** Not that this blood-shedding was wicked, for most of David's wars were necessary, and undertaken by God's command; but it was fitting that God's house should be built in a time of peace, and by a man of peace. David's empire must be won and strengthened before the house of God could be safely founded. **Made great wars.** In less than thirty years the domain of Israel was increased from nine thousand to sixty thousand square miles, and David won the rule over all the lands between the Nile and the Euphrates. **Shalt not build.** 3. God's kingdom is one of peace, and brings peace on earth, good-will to men.

**9. A son shall be born.** Rather, "is born;" for the prophecy was given after Solomon's birth. **A man of rest.** One who will enjoy rest and quiet, so that he can give entire attention to the building of the temple. **From all his enemies.** There were no wars during Solomon's reign, but his closing years, after his lapse into idolatry, were embittered by revolts and conspiracies. **Solomon.** More precisely, *Shelomoh*, "peaceful." He was thus a type of the Prince of Peace.

**10. He shall build an house.** The building of the temple was the only great event of Solomon's reign. **Be my son.** This does not mean that Solomon was made a child of God, irrespective of his own character; but that as king of Israel he was under God's peculiar care, while, as a man, he was saved or lost by his own choice. **I will be his father.** 4. A parent's faith brings a blessing upon his children. **Establish the throne.** This promise was fulfilled in the possession of the throne by Solomon's descendants through four centuries; but especially in the eternal kingdom of Jesus Christ, who was David's son according to the flesh. **Forever.** While Solomon's throne passed away, the sceptre of Christ is supreme still.