

## DAVID: A MAN OF PASSION AND DESTINY

## STUDY TWENTY-FOUR

## The End of an Era

*1 Chronicles 28–29*

*In the final moments of David's life, he's involved in four activities from which we can learn much. He reflects on the temple, he speaks to his son, he prays before the Lord, and then with the assembly, he rejoices before he passes away.*

—Pastor Charles R. Swindoll

**S**HEPHERD. Musician. Warrior. King. Throughout David's life, he earned each of these titles. Yet one title stands far above the rest. Most importantly, David was *a man after God's own heart*.

Despite his flaws and failures, David's love for God translated into a remarkable legacy. Reflecting on the end of David's life, Pastor Chuck Swindoll writes:

The nation was now unified under one flag. A royal capital had been established in Jerusalem. The military force of Israel was now respected by all the enemies around them, and every enemy had been subdued, including the Philistines. Israel's boundaries had been extended from 6,000 to 60,000 square miles. Prosperity had been brought in by extensive trade routes that [David] had set up. The people hungered for God and righteousness, and the sounds of [his] song could be heard throughout the land. I'd call all that an enviable legacy.<sup>1</sup>

In his final days, David set aside time to share advice with Solomon, heir to Israel's throne. While these final words provide counsel on ruling Israel, they more importantly offer wisdom on being a person after God's heart—wisdom any follower of God should seek to receive and apply. This *Searching the Scriptures* study will witness these moments that marked the end of an era.



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## The End of an Era

*1 Chronicles 28–29*



### PREPARE YOUR HEART

Before you read about David preparing the next generation of the people of God, offer to God these words of praise from *Psalms 145:4–7* about His faithfulness throughout every generation.

*Let each generation tell its children of your mighty acts;  
let them proclaim your power.  
I will meditate on your majestic, glorious splendor  
and your wonderful miracles.  
Your awe-inspiring deeds will be on every tongue;  
I will proclaim your greatness.  
Everyone will share the story of your wonderful goodness;  
they will sing with joy about your righteousness.*



### TURN TO THE SCRIPTURES

*How special are last words!* An offering of seasoned advice, a saying of godly wisdom, a heartfelt expression of concern for the future from someone who has lived a long life serving God can be so meaningful. Thankfully, Scripture has preserved King David's last words in *1 Chronicles 28–29*. Turn there now and read the weighty words of a great man who deeply loved his loyal God.



### Observation: An Untired Ruler

According to Pastor Chuck's *Searching the Scriptures* method, the first step in understanding and applying the Bible is observing a passage and asking what it says.<sup>2</sup> As you read the account of David's last words in *1 Chronicles 28–29*, observe not only David's words but also the *context* in which he said them.



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*1 Chronicles 28–29*

### An Unfulfilled Desire—1 Chronicles 28:1–21

After gathering all his most beloved and trusted soldiers, officials, and family members, David offered one final royal address. According to *1 Chronicles 28:2–3*, what did David want to do? How did God respond to David's request? What explanation did God offer for His response?

Although God said no to David's request, He said yes to something else—something of eternal significance. According to *28:4*, what purpose did God have for David?

According to *28:5–6*, who would ultimately fulfill David's original desire?



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What advice did David offer the entire assembly in *1 Chronicles 28:8*? What advice did he offer Solomon specifically in *28:9, 20*?

*It may very well be that you will die with your deepest desire unfulfilled. And that will be one of the hardest things in the world for you to face and accept. David did a beautiful job of it. He had this deep desire to build the temple, but the Lord's answer was no. And he received this answer with grace. —Pastor Chuck Swindoll*

### An Undivided People—*1 Chronicles 29:10–28*

Although God had deferred the dream of building the temple to Solomon, David did not grow jealous or embittered against his son. Instead, he offered help by sharing building plans, offering logistical advice, and even supplying building materials. David may not have worshiped in the temple, but it certainly bore his fingerprints long after its completion.

After reviewing the plan for the temple, David's heart overflowed with gratitude toward God, and he put his heart for God on display in one final song of praise. According to *1 Chronicles 29:10–12*, why did David consider God praiseworthy?



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According to *1 Chronicles 29:13–17*, what would be God’s role in the construction of the temple?

David passed on the crown of Israel to his son with honor, and the chronicler honors David saying, “He died at a ripe old age, having enjoyed long life, wealth, and honor” (29:28). David’s long life has many timeless lessons to teach those who follow God today.



### Interpretation: Serving an Unchanging God

Based on the hard-earned lessons David shared in his final address, develop theological principles based on each of the following verses.

**Key verse:** “Be careful to obey all the commands of the LORD your God” (*1 Chronicles 28:8*).

Principle 1: *A person after God’s own heart will \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_.*



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**Key verse:** “And Solomon, my son, learn to know the God of your ancestors intimately. Worship and serve him with your whole heart and a willing mind” (*1 Chronicles 28:9*).

Principle 2: *A person after God’s own heart will \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_.*

**Key verse:** “Be strong and courageous, and do the work. Don’t be afraid or discouraged, for the LORD God, my God, is with you. He will not fail you or forsake you.” (*28:20*).

Principle 3: *A person after God’s own heart will \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_.*

**Key verse:** “Everything we have has come from you, and we give you only what you first gave us” (*29:14*).

Principle 4: *A person after God’s own heart will \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_.*



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### Correlation: Paul's Final Words

Another person who could easily have earned the title of a man after God's own heart was the apostle Paul. Though he never ruled as a mighty king over Israel, he was a herald of the good news of the kingdom of heaven. In *2 Timothy 4:1–8*, Paul offered parting words to his protégé Timothy.

According to *4:1–2*, what was Paul's final command to Timothy? When was Timothy to carry out this command? How was he to do so?

According to *4:3–5*, what challenges would Timothy face as he carried out this command in the future? Despite these challenges, what hope did Paul offer in *4:6–8*?

What parallels do you see between David's final words to his physical son Solomon and Paul's final words to his spiritual son Timothy?



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*Preach the Word.* Such a simple command can be so difficult to obey. Yet both Paul and David's last words provide advice that every Christian can follow as we seek to determine our place in God's grand plan.



### Application: Leading a Life after God's Heart

Based on David's address to Solomon at the end of his life, Pastor Chuck derived four exhortations. This wise counsel applies to followers of Jesus Christ today just as well as they did for Solomon more than three thousand years ago.

1. Know the Lord.
2. Serve the Lord.
3. Seek the Lord.
4. Walk with the Lord.

Of these four application points, which one do you feel you've done well in the recent years? Which one signals an opportunity for growth?

David's life abounded with moral failures. Yet, at the end of his life, he didn't dwell on his regrets. After all, you can't change the past! Instead, he focused on the gracious way God used him despite his brokenness. As you reflect on your life, you may be tempted to miss God's victories for your own failures. In the space below, write about a time God used you for His purposes.





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What has been your biggest takeaway from your study of the life of David? How can you apply this takeaway as you look ahead to the remaining days God has given you on your journey from earth to heaven?

David loved God. He trusted Him. His heart broke over the same things that grieved God. This is what it means to be a person after God's heart. Yes, David committed egregious sins, but he never allowed his own wickedness to eclipse his devotion to His God. His example has shined for thousands of years and continues to light the path of the faithful.

May David's life guide you in your faith journey as you follow hard after Jesus today.



### A FINAL PRAYER

*Father, thank You for preserving the account of the life of David in Your Word, and thank You for the ways You have both challenged and encouraged me through his example. Help me imitate David when his heart was near Yours, and strengthen me to avoid stumbling into the same sins that trapped him throughout his life. Ultimately, I ask You to work in me every day to make me a person after Your own heart. In Jesus' name, amen.*

#### ENDNOTES

1. Charles R. Swindoll, *David: A Man of Passion and Destiny*, Great Lives from God's Word (Dallas: Word, 1997), 292.
2. To learn about Pastor Chuck Swindoll's *Searching the Scriptures* method of Bible study, go to the web page, "[How to Study the Bible for Yourself](#)."

