

## Read the Whole Bible with Pastor

### **Monday (September 25) – 1 Chronicles 24, 25**

Chapter 24 reads something like an Altar Guild schedule, listing the weeks of duty for twenty-four divisions of the priests. Where is Jesus in this chapter? Amazingly, this schedule can be used to pinpoint, with a high degree of certainty, the day of our Lord's birth! Note the eighth division of Abijah in verse 10. This is the division to which Zechariah, father of John the Baptist, belongs (Luke 1:5). According to the yearly schedule, Zechariah would have been on duty in early September (the 2<sup>nd</sup> course for the year), and John would have been conceived only a few weeks later upon Zechariah's return. This aligns perfectly with Church tradition, which has celebrated the conception of John on September 24<sup>th</sup>. We also know from Scripture that Jesus was conceived six months later (Luke 1:26). Once again, we find that the Church has rightly celebrated Jesus' conception (the Annunciation) on March 25<sup>th</sup>! And when we count exactly nine months forward from March 25<sup>th</sup>, we arrive at December 25<sup>th</sup>, the traditional day of our Lord's birth. Don't believe the History Channel or the internet when they tell you that December 25<sup>th</sup> is a made-up date. This date is based on strong scriptural evidence and aligns with nearly two thousand years of Church tradition.

### **Tuesday (September 26) – 1 Chronicles 26, 27**

In 2 Samuel 6, David attempted to bring the Ark of the Lord to Jerusalem on an ox cart. But this ended with disaster when the Lord killed Uzzah for touching the ark. David temporarily left the ark in the care of Obed-Edom, and as a result, "the LORD blessed Obed-Edom, and all his house" (2 Samuel 6:11). Here in 1 Chronicles 26, we learn exactly how God blessed Obed-Edom: not with wealth, but with eight sons (26:4–5). Children are indeed a blessing from the Lord! All told, sixty-two men from the extended family of Obed-Edom were employed in the service of the Lord. Now that is a great blessing!

### **Wednesday (September 27) – 1 Chronicles 28, 29**

David had always desired to build a temple for the Lord, but God had told him that Solomon would be the one to build it. Even so, David began the planning for the temple during his lifetime, handing over to Solomon the written plans, which had been inspired by the Holy Spirit (28:12, 19). David also set aside vast stores of gold and silver to be used for the temple furnishings.

At the end of Chapter 29, we learn something of the authorship of the books of Samuel, Kings, and Chronicles. "The acts of King David...are written in the book of Samuel the seer, Nathan the prophet, and Gad the seer" (v. 29). God inspired these faithful prophets to record the account of His people. Why? Because this is the lineage of Christ. Every word in the Old Testament is focused on the coming of the promised Savior.

## **Thursday (September 28) – 2 Chronicles 1**

The Second book of Chronicles begins with the reign of Solomon. Solomon asks God, not for riches or honor, but for wisdom to guide His people. God is pleased to grant this request, also promising to bestow upon Solomon riches and honor beyond that of any king who had ever lived (v. 12). Unfortunately, Solomon, for all his wisdom, goes out and imports horses and chariots from Egypt, something that God had specifically forbidden the king to do (see Deuteronomy 17:16).

## **Friday (September 29) – 2 Chronicles 2, 3**

Almost immediately after becoming king, Solomon begins to carry out his father's vision of building a temple for the Lord. Solomon sends a letter to the king of Tyre (a city in modern-day Lebanon). Hiram had been David's friend and ally, and also appears to be a believer (v. 12). The two kings reach a trade agreement: wood and craftsmen for the temple in exchange for barley, wine, and oil. Solomon also conscripts all foreigners in Israel as laborers for the temple. These foreigners may have largely been made up of Gibeonites, who by their trickery had been spared by Joshua during the conquest of Canaan, but were consigned to be woodcutters and water carriers for the house of God (Joshua 9:23).

## **Saturday (September 30) – 2 Chronicles 4, 5**

Perhaps you've heard someone say: "The money we spent on a new chalice should have been given to feed starving orphans in Africa!" Anyone who complains that a congregation is spending money on communion vessels or paraments ought to read this portion of 2 Chronicles. No expense was spared in furnishing the house of God. Likewise, we should not be afraid to adorn the altar of our God in beautiful fashion today. (And yes, we can do this in addition to showing care for the widow and the orphan. This is not an either/or.)

The detail shown in these chapters on the furnishing of the temple mirrors what we find in Leviticus during the construction of the tabernacle. And remember that all these details were divinely inspired (2 Chronicles 28:12, 29). This shows us how much God does care about beauty and reverence in our worship.

## **Sunday (October 1) – 2 Chronicles 6**

Our tradition of consecrating a new church building as a house of God is based on Scripture. Perhaps you have attended some wonderful and elaborate celebrations of this kind. But the dedication of the temple makes every other dedication in the history of the world pale by comparison. God Himself answers by fire from heaven, and His glory visibly fills the temple so that the priests cannot enter the house of the Lord (see 7:1–2). Yet, even despite the grandeur of his temple, Solomon acknowledges how inadequate it is as a dwelling place for God. "Behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain you! How much less this temple which I have built!" (v. 18). Solomon's temple is a foreshadowing of an even greater temple, one built not with human hands, but in the incarnation of our Lord Jesus.