

August 28, 2022

1 Chronicles 28-29 (selected)

What's on your bucket list? Do you have a bucket list? I should make sure we all know what a bucket list is. A bucket list is a list of things you want to do before you kick the bucket, before you die. Everyone should have a bucket list. I don't say that as law from God, but as good wisdom from God. Everyone should have a bucket list. What are some things people put on their bucket lists? Travel to Machu Picchu, eat sushi, pet a snake. I'm not saying we all should (or that any of us should) have bucket lists like that. I'd love to go to Machu Picchu, or even more, Israel, Germany, Greece, Turkey, Scotland, Ireland, and the list could go on. But I don't think of those places as bucket list places to go before I die. No, I think of things like that on a blessing and battery list. Things to do when God gives the time and money; things to do to recharge my batteries for the life, the mission that God has for us. So, no, traveling here or there isn't on my bucket list. I have far more important things on my bucket list. God has far more important things for our bucket lists. What do I, what does God have in mind?

I think of King David's bucket list. We don't have David's list spelled out for us, but he does give us clues. I think of Psalm 27 - **“One thing I ask of the Lord, this is what I seek, that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple.”** What was on David's bucket list? Time with God, time at church with God, serious time at church with God. Taking time to wow at God's beauty, his grace and glory. And

then what? Psalm 51, sharing God's grace and glory: **“O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.”**

David knew the most important things in life aren't things, or getting things, or going to see things, or even the experience of experiencing the things of this world. David had hid out in the back of caves, and now he lived in a palace. He had gone begging for food, and now he dined at the king's table. He had lived the life of a shepherd boy, and now he lived the life of a king. David knew about the value of things and experiencing the best of the world, and what did he say: “Rich, poor - it doesn't matter. Though your riches increase, do not set your heart upon them. My rest, my hope come from the LORD.” David knew the most important thing in life is knowing God, being right with God, living the life God has for us here, and then some day living the life God has for us in heaven.

Why? Living the good life here and now - what does it get us in the end, where does it get us in the end? Nothing, nowhere. Living the good life here is of no lasting value. And living the life of the world - what does that get us in the end, where does it get us in the end? Worse than nothing, worse than nowhere. Living the life of the world means being judged with the world - and this world is destined for the fires of Judgment Day.

David knew that God offers us something more. In the blood of the Lamb we have forgiveness for the ways we have lived the life of the world, forgiveness for the ways we've been more entranced by the stuff of this world than by the love of God, forgiveness for being more in love with God's gifts than in love

with God himself. It's so easy to go off the rails like that, but with Jesus, we're forgiven. And in the kingdom of God's forever King, not only do we have life with God blessing us here today, but we have life with God forever in heaven. It can be so easy to get caught up in the here and now, filling our bucket list with the here and the now of the world. David knew we have something better for our lives with God.

So what do we see in our lesson today? We see David living his bucket list. David has things he wants to do before he dies. David has God in his heart, God on his mind, and God in his plans. He wants Solomon, he wants the people in his life to know his love for the LORD. He wants them to know the Lord's promise and the LORD's way to keep his promise. He wants Solomon and the people in his life to put God front and center in their lives. For David, that wasn't just a secret wish, a wish down at the bottom of his bucket list. So when David gets his family and his people together, he doesn't just talk about the good old days. He doesn't just get them together for fun and games. And when he gets serious, he doesn't just talk about the things of this world. David has God in his heart, God on his mind, and God in his plans. And he wants his family, he wants his people to know it - so that they have God in their hearts, God on their minds, and God in their plans.

Did you notice? David didn't just drop hints; he didn't keep it generic with just some fluffy, empty words about God. David laid out what is at stake, and he laid out the promise God has for us. David made it clear that he had God in his heart, God in his mind, and God in his plans; and that he wanted the same for them.

Do you have those talks with your family, with your people? Or when you get together do you get stuck on the good old days, or stay stuck talking news, weather, sports, what-not? We have something better to talk about, don't we? We have something better for our bucket lists than - Before I die, I want to stay stuck on the good old days. Before I die, I want to stay stuck talking news, weather, sports, what-not. We have something better for our bucket lists than just this - Before I die, I want to drop some hints about Jesus. We have better than that, we want better than that, don't we? We have something better than the life of this world to share; we have life with God to share - before we kick our bucket, right?

Before David kicked his bucket, he made sure to talk the talk. But David didn't just talk the talk. He walked the walk; he worked the work. How so? He wrote his will; he made his estate plans. I think we could say he set up an irrevocable trust. Throughout his life, we hear of David sacrificing sacrifices, offering offerings, giving gifts for God and his work. Before he went into retirement, he set up something more. David set aside - not just from his royal coffers but from his personal treasures, David set aside hundreds of tons of gold and silver. Even if he wouldn't be alive to see it, David wanted to help his people build God's temple. Even if he wouldn't be alive to see it, David wanted to help his people set God front and center in their lives.

Oh, that's such a neat thing. I remember years ago, Mom told me about what she and Dad had done. When they drew up their will, they divided things up 6 ways - 5 children and 1 Jesus.

She said that we always prayed as a family: “‘Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.’ With Jesus blessing us at the table for all those years, it only seemed right to treat him as part of the family in the will.” We’ve been blessed here in much the same way. I think of a dear lady always on the lookout to be helpful and generous with what God gave her while she was alive. If she saw a need, she wanted to be part of meeting that need. And when she went home to heaven, before she went home to heaven, she made sure Jesus was in her estate plans - and we were blessed. I know there are more like her. And I also know that when it comes to estate planning and wills, we can be slow to get things done. I know it was on my to-do list too long before it got done. Now that we got it done, I can think about the neat ways God is going to use his money after he takes Lisa and I home.

We know God has some neat things in mind, don’t we? Children he is eager to adopt. Lonely hearts he is eager to hold. Hurting hearts he is eager to heal. Eager hearts he is eager to partner with in sharing the life and the love of heaven. Eager hearts like David’s heart. Eager hearts like your heart. So what’s on your bucket list? Sharing Jesus today and forever sure seems like a great place to start! Amen.

August 27 & 28, 2022

SERVICE OF THE WORD

IN OUR WORLD TODAY ... what is the legacy our neighbors, our culture, our world wants to leave for the next generations? I don't know the answer to that question. One the one hand, a greener world with less litter and garbage, on the other hand, a world with delivery boxes by every front door. Our world (and our own lives) are filled with such legacy contradictions, aren't they?

IN OUR WORSHIP TODAY ... we see the legacy that King David wanted to leave, the legacy that David worked to leave to bless the generations after him. What is the legacy we want to leave for the generations after us?

OPENING HYMN

"Rejoice, the Lord Is King"

Hymn 524

Rejoice, the Lord is King! Your Lord and King adore!
Rejoice, give thanks and sing, and triumph evermore:
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

The Lord, our Savior, reigns, the God of truth and love;
when he had purged our stains, he took his seat above:
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

His kingdom cannot fail, he rules o'er earth and heav'n;
the keys of death and hell are to our Jesus giv'n:
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

Rejoice in glorious hope! Our Lord and judge shall come
and take his servants up to their eternal home:
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

INVOCATION

M: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

+ CONFESSION OF SINS AND ABSOLUTION +

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: **Amen.**

+ PRAYER AND PRAISE +

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

HYMN

"O Taste and See"

Hymn 965

O taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless-ed are they who take
ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e - ter - nal; it
stands firm in the heav - ens. Your faith - ful - ness con -

tin - ues for - ev - er. O taste and see that the
 Lord is good. Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Dearest Jesus, you became poor so that we might become rich. In addition to forgiveness and eternal life, you have given us blessings far too numerous to count. So inspire us by your generosity that we devote all we have and all we are to the glory of your name and the well-being of others. Help us learn the joy of giving, the value of faithful labor, and the satisfaction of time well spent. Replace our fear and selfishness with the confidence that you will provide everything we need for doing good and will do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine.
Amen.

FIRST READING

1 Chronicles 28:1–10; 29:1–9 select verses

David summoned all the officials of Israel to assemble at Jerusalem: ...

King David rose to his feet and said: “Listen to me, my fellow Israelites, my people. I had it in my heart to build a house as a place of rest for the ark of the covenant of the LORD, for the footstool of our God, and I made plans to build it. But God said to me, ‘You are not to build a house for my Name, because you are a warrior and have shed blood.’

“Yet the LORD, the God of Israel, chose me from my whole family to be king over Israel forever. He chose Judah as leader, and from the tribe of Judah he chose my family, and from my father’s sons he was pleased to make me king over all Israel. Of all my sons—and the LORD has given me many—he has chosen my son Solomon to sit on the throne of the kingdom of the LORD over Israel. He said to me: ‘Solomon your son is the one who will build my house and my courts, for I have chosen him to be my son, and I will be his father.’

I will establish his kingdom forever if he is unswerving in carrying out my commands and laws, as is being done at this time.’

“So now I charge you in the sight of all Israel and of the assembly of the LORD, and in the hearing of our God: Be careful to follow all the commands of the LORD your God, that you may possess this good land and pass it on as an inheritance to your descendants forever.

“And you, my son Solomon, acknowledge the God of your father, and serve him with wholehearted devotion and with a willing mind, for the LORD searches every heart and understands every desire and every thought. If you seek him, he will be found by you; but if you forsake him, he will reject you forever. Consider now, for the LORD has chosen you to build a house as the sanctuary. Be strong and do the work.”

Then King David said to the whole assembly: “The task is great, because this palatial structure is not for man but for the LORD God. With all my resources I have provided for the temple of my God—gold for the gold work, silver for the silver, bronze for the bronze, iron for the iron and wood for the wood, as well as onyx for the settings, turquoise, stones of various colors, and all kinds of fine stone and marble—all of these in large quantities. Besides, in my devotion to the temple of my God I now give my personal treasures of gold and silver for the temple of my God, over and above everything I have provided for this holy temple: ... Now, who is willing to consecrate themselves to the LORD today?”

Then the leaders of families, the officers of the tribes of Israel, the commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds, and the officials in charge of the king’s work gave willingly. ... The people rejoiced at the willing response of their leaders, for they had given freely and wholeheartedly to the LORD. David the king also rejoiced greatly.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



1 Hear my prayer, O God, and lis - ten to my plea;
 2 Hound - ed by a foe who crushed me to the ground,
 3 An - swer soon, O God; my spir - it faints in me;
 4 Keep me safe, O God, and help me learn your will;



faith - ful, right - eous One, give ear and an - swer me.
 I am like the dead or those in pris - on bound.
 do not hide your face, or I will cease to be.
 let your Spir - it lead through lev - el path - ways still.



Judge me not, I pray; no mer - it dare I claim;
 Hope - less, numbed by fear, I pon - der all your care;
 When the morn - ing dawns, make known your love a - new;
 For your great name's sake, my griefs and fears dis - pel;



know - ing my own faults, I trust in your just name.
 thirst - y as parched earth, I lift my hands in prayer.
 show me how to walk, for I will trust in you.
 free me from my foes, that I may serve you well.

SECOND READING

Colossians 3:16-17

Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! These words are written that we may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Luke 1:26-33

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

HYMN OF THE DAY

"The King of Love My Shepherd Is"

Hymn 552

The King of love my shepherd is, whose goodness fails me never;
I nothing lack if I am his, and he is mine forever.

Where streams of living water flow, my Savior gently leads me,
and where the verdant pastures grow, with food celestial feeds me.

Perverse and foolish oft I strayed, but yet in love he sought me
and on his shoulder gently laid and home, rejoicing, brought me.

In death's dark vale I fear no ill with you, dear Lord, beside me,
your rod and staff my comfort still, your cross before to guide me.

You spread a table in my sight, a banquet here bestowing;
your oil of welcome, my delight; my cup is overflowing!

And so through all the length of days your goodness fails me never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing your praise within your house forever!

SERMON

HYMN

"Brothers, Sisters, Let Us Gladly"

Hymn 748

Brothers, sisters, let us gladly give to God our all, our best:
service hearty, thorough, honest, with a living love impressed.
All our duty, all our striving, all our time to him belong;
praise him, then, with true devotion, come before him with a song.

By his mercy, by his bounty, by the gift of Christ, his Son,
what great goodness he has shown us, what high marvels he has done!
Let us to him promptly, freely, yield our bodies and our souls,
thankful that his love protects us, that his wisdom all controls.

Gracious Lord, accept our service for the sake of Christ, your Son;
lo, our hope abides now only in the righteousness he won.
Bless and save us, help and guide us, watch to comfort and restore,
till in heav'n we rest rejoicing, praising you forevermore.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Eternal God and Father, we give you thanks for the blessings we share as members of your holy Church, for your gracious Word and sacraments, for opportunities to worship and to grow in faith and knowledge, for occasions to serve and be served, for fellowship with believers in our congregation and in our synod.

C: **Help us to rejoice in these blessings, dear Lord, and to use them faithfully.**

M: Jesus Christ, Lord of the Church, you give grace to your people by calling us to be your witnesses in the world. Open our eyes to see the great and noble mission that lies before us. In the hurting eyes of the lonely, in the pained eyes of the sick, and in the searching eyes of the lost, help us to see your face, O Jesus, and to serve others as we would serve you.

C: **Awaken us to the opportunities you give to proclaim your message of love.**

M: Holy Spirit, giver of life, through Word and sacrament bestow on us the wisdom and power we need to witness clearly and to act boldly. Help us to speak the truth in love, to give the reason for the hope we have, and to conduct ourselves with gentleness and respect.

C: **Set our hearts on fire as we work and witness for Christ.**

M: Hear us, Lord, as we pray for a family member, an acquaintance, a neighbor, or a friend who does not believe in you, or whose faith is weak or troubled.

Silent prayer.

M: Bless the Church with men and women who are willing to proclaim your Word in places where we cannot go. Keep them and their loved ones in your care, and let nothing hinder their work. By the power of the gospel, restore their spirits each day, so that they do not lose heart as they serve us and others.

C: Move us to support them with our sincere prayers and generous offerings.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M: Wherever your Word is proclaimed, O Lord, grant it success. Let your kingdom come to us and others, so that we and many more might join the assembly of saints and angels to sing your praise forever.

C: Savior of all, hear our prayer and help us in our mission. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

CLOSING PRAYER

M: O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

BLESSING

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another.
Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

“Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing”

Hymn 927

Lord, dismiss us with your blessing; fill our hearts with joy and peace.

Let us each, your love possessing, triumph in redeeming grace.

O refresh us, O refresh us, trav’ling through this wilderness.

Thanks we give and adoration for the gospel’s joyful sound;

may the fruits of your salvation in our hearts and lives abound!

Ever faithful, ever faithful to your truth may we be found.

So whene’er the signal’s given us from earth to call away,

borne on angels’ wings to heaven, glad the summons to obey,

may we ever, may we ever reign with Christ in endless day.

OFFERING

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