

Acceptable

1 Chronicles 21:18-27

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A. Its First, all About Him (vs. 18-23):

1. The Angel of the Lord specifically told David where to go to worship Him.
 - a) When God commanded David to go build an altar, the Angel of the Lord did not tell David to bring an offering - or what to bring.
2. The angel appeared to the four sons of Ornan. God got ahead of David and prepared the way for him.
3. David said to Ornan – David began the conversation with Ornan demonstrating how he was focused on obeying God’s instruction.
4. Given you – David commanded Ornan to generously put in place his land for worship. David is very committed to worshipping God as instructed.
 - a) While no importance can be attached to the ancient harmonizing effort whereby each of the twelve tribes were made to pay fifty shekels, and thereby the six hundred shekels in Chronicles were accounted for (Raschi), this suggests what may have been the Chronicler’s reasoning in reaching six hundred shekels as the price of the Temple site. The Chronicler makes David pay fifty shekels of gold for each tribe since the Temple should be the place of worship for all^[1]
5. Build – David is going to contentiously work to construct and establish everything for God’s altar. He is not going to stop until it is done.
 - a) This probably means that David, as a result of this whole experience, now knew that Araunah’s threshing floor, not Gibeon, was God’s choice for the location of central worship. This is confirmed by the

next verse (22:1): David solemnly proclaimed that this new site would now be the house of the Lord. When Solomon later built the temple, it was on this same piece of land (cf. 2 Chron. 3:1), a place hallowed also because it was the Mount Moriah on which Abraham offered to sacrifice his son (Gen. 22).^[2]

6. Altar – When God told David to build an altar it was understood that it was a place of sacrifice before God. It is the place that God is going to re-establish His relationship with David.
 - a) David wanted the altar at precisely this place because this is where the angel stood with a drawn sword (v. 15), and as was certainly known to David, this was where Abraham had prepared to offer Isaac as a sacrifice to God (Gen. 22:1, 2; 2 Chr. 3:1). It is fitting that this holy place should be the site of an altar where David could make atonement for his sins and thus affect the withdrawal of the plague.
7. Lord – David viewed God as the one who has all authority and who as master, rewards people or punishes people for how they honor and respect Him by the way they behave.
8. Full pricegive it – David was intent on getting from Ornan what God told him to do so, he commanded Ornan to sell him the field at full price. He did not want any favors because then David would not be making a total sacrifice before God.
 - a) While David could have rightfully accepted these gifts without paying for them, he felt that this would not suffice as sacrifice. A true sacrifice to God required labor and investment on David's part.
9. Full pricegive it – David totally surrendered to worship God because he needed God to stop the plague. This means that David came prepared to sacrificially bless the Lord so that he fully exposes a contrite spirit (1 Corinthians 16:1-2).
 - a) Although he had plenty of space on his own property, he was commanded, under peremptory direction, to go a considerable distance from his home, up Mount Moriah, to erect an altar on

premises which he had to buy. It was on or close to the spot where Abraham had offered up Isaac.^[3]

10. Restrained – David’s response is a demonstration of complete dependence on God. Giving also vividly portrays this (Matthew 6:19-24).
11. Take it – Ornan ordered David to permanently own the site.
12. Do - Ornan told David to fulfill, with the land, whatever with deep commitment his ethical obligation is before God.
13. Do - Ornan is clearing the way so that David can give his full energy to preparing the altar for a worship of total surrender to the Lord.
14. Good – Whatever is excellent and provides practical benefit to the nation, Ornan told David to get it done on the site Ornan will give to David.
15. In your sight – Ornan commanded David to fulfill whatever he has as a deep commitment to do based on his own understanding of his relationship with the Lord.
16. Given you – Ornan wanted to generously put into David’s hands all David would need to make a sacrifice before God. Ornan was willing to give his land and his oxen in an effort to serve the king whom he called “my lord” demonstrating that he had a very high respect for David.

B. All In (vs. 24-26a):

1. David said to Ornan – David persisted in addressing Ornan, demonstrating that he was deeply committed to obeying God as instructed.
2. Not take – David said he will not take the site free of charge with a clear conscience. David was committed to pay the full price as a way of expressing his dedication and commitment to God.
 - a) From the cessation of the pestilence in consequence of his prayer and sacrifice, David could only draw the conclusion that God had forgiven him his transgression, but could not have known that God had chosen the place where he had built the altar for the offering demanded by God as a permanent place of sacrifice. This certainly was obtained only by the divine answer, and this answer was the fire which came down upon the altar of burnt-offering and devoured the sacrifice.^[4]

3. What is yours for the Lord – David is not going to make an offering to the Lord that did not cost him anything. David views the Lord as having all authority and power and therefore is the only person who can put an end to the plague. So, David needs to go to the Lord fully surrendered. This can only be demonstrated by how David sacrificially worships the Lord on his own initiative. This exposes the sincerity of his heart to refresh and have a genuine relationship with the Lord.
4. Offer a burnt offering which cost me nothing – To worship the Lord with nothing does not completely expose the purpose that David had in his heart to gratefully worship God. To worship God with nothing is to worship God in vain.
 - a) Burnt Offering - This was the most common sacrifice in the ancient temple. The offering was wholly consumed and speaks of complete surrender to the will of God.
5. Given you – David permanently and generously paid Ornan way more than what the land was worth. David was obviously seeking to unquestionably let God know that He desired to restore his relationship with Him.
6. Build – David endlessly focused on giving his all to endlessly put all his time and attention to constructing an altar in the presence of God.
7. Altar – When God told David to build an altar it was understood that it was a place of sacrifice before Him. David willingly and purposefully wanted to provide God his best with the altar he constructed.
8. Lord – David viewed God as the one who has all authority and who, as the Master, rewards people or punishes people.
9. Offered – David with no end in sight, ascended to the altar most willingly to fulfill his commitment to worship God.
10. Called – David with no intent of stopping, made a specific sustained shout to the Lord expecting a specific response since he had done everything at his very best to please the Lord.

C. God will Respond (vs. 26b-27):

1. Answered – God came to the very altar that David built with fire from heaven demonstrating that He powerfully approved David’s actions. There was no question what the Lord thought of the attitude of worship David displayed.
 2. Lord commanded an angel – The Lord has all authority and is the one who rewards and sustains His relationship with His chosen people. With all authority He told the angel of the Lord to stop the plague.
 3. Lord commanded an angel – God is the one who delivered this message with no intent of stopping until it was accomplished.
 4. Lord commanded an angel – The Lord took charge in response because of the intense commitment David displayed while worshipping the Lord.
 - a) The returning of the sword into its sheath is a figurative expression for the stopping of the pestilence; and the fire which came down from heaven upon the altar of burnt-offering was the visible sign by which the Lord assured the king that his prayer had been heard, and his offering graciously accepted. ^[5]
 5. Back, turn away – David’s worship made the difference that saved lives.
 - a) Just as a three-year drought ended in the days of Elijah when the prophet called down fire on a sacrifice at Carmel (1 Kgs. 18:38, 41), so the three-day plague God brought on Israel ended with the sacrifice at Ornan’s threshing floor. ^[6]
 6. Back, turn away – David’s worship moved God to continuously speak to the angel that was killing people. This is how powerful, genuine, sacrificial worship moves God to respond to our needs.
 - a) In any case, the consumption of the sacrifice by fire from heaven served to confirm God’s acceptance of David’s sacrifice (see 1 Kgs 18:36–40) and pointed forward to the successful completion and dedication of the temple (cf. 2 Chr 7:1). ^[7]
 7. Back, turn away – It is David’s obedience and sacrificial worship to the Lord that brought about God’s gracious response and the protection of the nation.
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- [1] Curtis, E. L., & Madsen, A. A. (1910). *A critical and exegetical commentary on the books of Chronicles* (pp. 252–253). New York: C. Scribner's Sons.
- [2] Merrill, E. H. (1985). 1 Chronicles. In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 1, pp. 610–611). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.
- [3] Jamieson, R., Fausset, A. R., & Brown, D. (1997). *Commentary Critical and Explanatory on the Whole Bible* (Vol. 1, p. 261). Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.
- [4] Keil, C. F., & Delitzsch, F. (1996). *Commentary on the Old Testament* (Vol. 3, p. 533). Peabody, MA: Hendrickson.
- [5] Keil, C. F., & Delitzsch, F. (1996). *Commentary on the Old Testament* (Vol. 3, p. 533). Peabody, MA: Hendrickson.
- [6] Radmacher, E. D., Allen, R. B., & House, H. W. (1999). *Nelson's new illustrated Bible commentary* (1 Ch 21:22–27). Nashville: T. Nelson Publishers.
- [7] Thompson, J. A. (1994). [1, 2 Chronicles](#) (Vol. 9, p. 163). Broadman & Holman Publishers.