

# His Hands

## 1 Chronicles 29:14-20

### Paul Cannings, Ph.D.

#### A. It is All His (vs. 14-15):

1. Should be able: great power – Compared to who the Lord is and what He has done in the past for Israel, in the present and will do in the future, do we have the intellectual ability and strength to sincerely develop special gifts to present during our worship of Him. Can we out give God? Could we give gifts that did not come from God?
  - a) God has wealth, savings, treasures (riches), and a great physical quantity of wealth (honor) and they all come from Him. He has all types of authority (rule), and has the ability to do anything (power) and the strength (might) to get it done. It all lies in His control, power and authority (hand). David confessed that the riches and honor he enjoyed had come from God's generosity. The offerings he and his people had, were possible only because God first had given to them, which enables one to offer so willingly: Not only the ability to give, but the willingness to give, is a gift of God (2 Cor. 9:7, 8). This is what we must express joy to the Lord for and give Him adoration for who He is with a radiance that represents the heart (praise).
2. Able: great power – We tend to think of what the Lord is asking of us rather than first taking an account of all He has done for us, t which is impossible for us to do or sustain each day.
  - a) *"Indeed everything that is in heavens and the earth; Thine is the dominion, O Lord, and thou dost exalt Thyself as head over all."* (vs. 11c).
3. Offer as generously as this; willingly – This mindset was attached to soldiers who felt obligated to serve their country by offering their lives to war. The same mindset is attached to a worshipper's generosity, uncompelled spontaneity, based on their inner commitment to the Lord, to offer their gifts to God. Their sacrifice could not be compared to who He is or what He does each and every moment of the day.
  - a) David personally gave to the temple building and did this based on his ability (29:2) and beyond his ability (29:3). The people also gave; *"for they made their offering to the Lord with a whole heart, and King David also rejoiced greatly."* (29:8)
4. Generously; willingly – Our generosity is a free-hearted reflective response to the Lord because of our constant awareness of who He is and all He continually does for us. "Every good and perfect gift comes from Him" (James 1:17). When we do not maintain this mindset, our gifts are more by sight than by faith. We see the preacher, what he does or does not do, the building, the program we agree with or don't agree with, rather than based on our relationship with the Lord God.

a) This beautiful thanksgiving prayer was the effusion overflowing with gratitude and delight at seeing the warm and widespread interest that was now taken in forwarding the favorite project of his life. Its piety is displayed in the fervor of devotional feeling—in the ascription of all worldly wealth and greatness to God as the giver, in tracing the general readiness in contributing to the influence of His grace, in praying for the continuance of this happy disposition among the people, and in solemnly and earnestly commending the young king and his kingdom to the care and blessing of God. <sup>[1]</sup>

5. From thy hands we have given – Hands means from all that God possesses and has in His power and control. When a person gives to God willfully, and generously, it is an act of worship because they view themselves as respectfully, completely providing back to Him what the Lord allowed for them to have. This is why it is worship because it is respectfully honoring the Lord God for who He is and what He has done.

a) David and the people had brought their gifts and had given generously, but they had only given back what had come from God's hand. David is recorded as asking, "Who am I?" twice elsewhere—once of Saul (1 Sam 18:18) and once more of the Lord (2 Sam 7:18; 1 Chr 17:16). <sup>[2]</sup>

6. We are sojourners before thee, tenants – We have no property rights only civil rights as citizens of His kingdom (Ephesians 2:19-22). We are like children living at their parent's home.
7. We are sojourners before thee, tenants – Why do we hold on to things we cannot keep knowing that all things belong to God in whose presence we live and breathe every moment of the day.
8. We are but a shadow – Compared to the presence of the Lord we live temporarily here on earth.
9. And there is no hope - Without God there is no point to eagerly or steadfastly look for anything. Any such blessing does not sustain against all we can be exposed to on earth.
10. O Lord our God – Worship must always be in reflection of the authority, power and might of our Lord and that He is creator of all things and reigns forever. Our accomplishments, recognitions, possessions we may acquire can easily affect our perspective of who we are compared to who He is (Hebrews 12:28-29).
11. All this abundance we have provided; established; Faithful – When our giving to God is rooted in the recognition of who He is compared to who we are—and with the understanding that everything comes from Him and that we are only here temporarily—our giving becomes spontaneous, free-hearted, and generous. This mindset inspires us, making it a joy to offer our gifts to Him generously.
12. Thy Holy name - What we provide to the Lord must be so consecrated to Him we engage ourselves in establishing His power and reputation before everyone just like the nation of Israel did in the wilderness. Their gifts for the construction of the tabernacle exposed God's presence and power which became a testimony to all the nations whose gods did nothing. This helped lead Hagar to God.
10. Thy Holy name - When we support the Lord's church and lives are changed, people in the community are blessed, missions across the world are expanded, and the reputation of God is greatly exposed. In a sin sick world His holiness and His wholesomeness is exposed.
11. It is from thine hands and it is all thine – We need to change how we view what we have as if it is ours (Luke 22:31-34) because all that we have belongs to Him. As Job said; "naked I came and naked I'll leave, but blessed be the name of the Lord" (Job 2:21). The Laodiceans believed all they had belonged to

themselves and God viewed them as naked in heaven (Revelation 3:17). Job felt all his riches belonged to the Lord and therefore he spontaneously, and generously gave to God (Job 1:5; 2 Timothy 6:17-19) whereas the Laodiceans felt that all they had belonged to them, providing them status while they were poor in heaven.

## **B. Be Thankful (vs. 16-17):**

1. Since I know — David had come to a complete understanding, because of all his interactions with God, so he is convinced he can effectively distinguish good from evil.
2. Triest the heart — God investigates our deepest and innermost feelings, thoughts and has a complete knowledge of all that we intend to do.
3. Triest the heart — Each time we are challenged to give to the Lord evaluates our emotions, our desires against how we gave. Did we give because we wanted something from Him? Did we not give because we have spent money on our own pleasures (James 4:1-4) or did we give because we respect that everything, we have comes from Him, belongs to Him and we are just stewards of His treasures?
4. Delight in our uprightness — When David refers to God's delight in our uprightness, he is referencing to how much pleasure the Lord has when we pay Him the debt, we owe Him (what we owe is based on what His Word requires of us to give to Him based on how He has blessed us). Paying our debt based on our obedience to His Word, which is an act of faith that God would supply our needs, excites the Lord God because it provides Him satisfaction.
  - a) If people truly can give nothing of value to God, why does He ask His people to give? David answers this question. God enjoys a person's uprightness or righteousness. With gifts, offerings, and sacrifices, a person tangibly demonstrates not only gratitude to God, but trust in Him (1 Sam. 15:22). A righteous life always produces a generous spirit. For this reason, David could proclaim that his giving was only out of the uprightness of his heart. Moreover, his joy was heightened all the more when he saw that his people also understood this principle of true giving. <sup>[3]</sup>
5. The integrity of his heart he willingly - "Our sincerity in giving, especially when tested, flows from the mindset described above. It is expressed through our free-hearted, voluntary, and spontaneous desire to bless the work of the kingdom of God. This reflects the true description of a worshipful heart."
6. The joy I have seen in thy people — A sincere heart comes to God with a sense of gratitude so that worship is a celebrative time where worshippers freely express their appreciation of all the Lord has done for them and their families.

## **C. Commit to Remain Respectful (vs. 18-19):**

1. The Lord, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, our fathers — The Lord is faithful to His covenant, sustains His people for generations who are called by Him and are faithful to Him.
2. Preserve this forever — Because of the sincerity of our worship, and the Lord's steadfast commitment to His covenant, we can command Him to watch over us and place a hedge around us (Psalm 34:4, 7-10) so that we remain sincere in our worship to Him. Like Job, even though we may suffer His steadfast faithfulness to His Word will bless us forever.

3. The intentions of the hearts of your people – Because of His preservation He can guard every concept or imagination of our deepest and innermost feelings so that our will is His will, our desires are His desires, so that the “wellspring of our lives” are influenced by Him.
4. The intentions of the hearts of your people – When our worship is sincere, because our mindset is shaped by who God is, and our hearts are pure, the powerful influence of God inspires a free-hearted, joyous, voluntary expression of faithful giving to Him.

a) Reference already has been made to the patriarchs in vv. 10, 15. The Chronicler had dwelt on this theme in Asaph’s psalm of thanks to the Lord (16:8–36). Several of the themes taken up there reappear here. Israel had received a promise long ago. They were the benefactors of God’s favor toward them and had thus been able to bring gifts. David’s prayer was that this desire to give willingly to the Lord in return for all his past favors should remain in their hearts forever and that God might keep their hearts loyal to him. <sup>[4]</sup>

5. Given to my son Solomon a perfect heart – Since God’s promises can last from one generation to the next, we can command Him to generously permanently put in place a sincere love for Him in the hearts of our children.

a) David’s special supplication was that the Lord himself would establish a perfect heart in both Israel and Solomon so that God’s commandments might be kept and the temple built. It is noteworthy that the keeping of the law is set alongside the building of the temple. These two were indissolubly bound together. A temple without wholehearted devotion to the law was an empty gesture.

6. Keep thy commandments, testimonies, and statutes – We must pray that God does not allow anyone to remove His commandments, or His powerful works, that extend from generation to generation, and all that is written in the Word that was shared to our children. “Then David said to his son Solomon, “Be strong and courageous, and act; do not fear nor be dismayed, for the Lord God, my God, is with you. He will not fail you nor forsake you until all the work for the service of the house of the Lord is finished.” (1 Chron 28:20-21; Deut. 6:4-9NASB.
7. I made provision - David so appreciated all that the Lord had done for Israel and himself, even though he was not allowed to build the temple, David firmly put in place all that was necessary in the Lord’s house.

## **D. All In (vs. 20):**

1. Then David said to all the assembly – After David put in place everything for the building of the temple (even buying the land out of his own pocket), and had sincerely worshiped the Lord God, David continuously spoke to the whole nation. Leaders must be the best givers (not the highest, the best) before we speak to the rest of the people.
2. Blessed the Lord your God – David commands them to bow before God with the mindset to endlessly seek to prosper His kingdom agenda always seeking to do His will while they put their full trust in Him.

a) To worship,” as used here, means to “prostrate oneself.” Thus it may be performed either to God or to a man. 21. And sacrifices in abundance for all Israel. Probably peace offerings, on which the people feasted, as the Lord’s guests (Lev 7:15; cf. Ex 24:11).<sup>[5]</sup>

3. Blessed – When the Lord is recognized as the only true God who provides and sustains all things, His people should come before Him with a sincerely committed heart to willfully promote and expand His kingdom agenda through the church.
4. Blessed – We are quick to command the Lord to bless us, as if His blessings (even if it is the grace He renders to us each day) are not “new every morning,” while we neglect His command to bless Him. Many times when we do bless Him, it is because of what we want from Him rather than a reflection of what He has already provided for us.

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<sup>[1]</sup> Jamieson, Robert ; Fausset, A. R. ; Fausset, A. R. ; Brown, David ; Brown, David: *A Commentary, Critical and Explanatory, on the Old and New Testaments*. Oak Harbor, WA : Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997, S. 1 Ch 29:10

<sup>[2]</sup> Thompson, J. A. (1994). [\*1. 2 Chronicles\*](#) (Vol. 9, p. 197). Broadman & Holman Publishers.

<sup>[3]</sup> Radmacher, Earl D. ; Allen, Ronald Barclay ; House, H. Wayne: *Nelson's New Illustrated Bible Commentary*. Nashville : T. Nelson Publishers, 1999, S. 1 Ch 29:17

<sup>[4]</sup> Thompson, J. A. (1994). [\*1. 2 Chronicles\*](#) (Vol. 9, pp. 197–198). Broadman & Holman Publishers.

<sup>[5]</sup> Pfeiffer, C. F. (1962). [\*The Wycliffe Bible Commentary: Old Testament\*](#) (1 Ch 29:20). Moody Press.