

Weekly Word

June 23, 2008

By Mary Ruth Stone

Devotion

Son of Provision

King David had a strong desire to build a house for God. He felt bad that he should live in a house of cedar while the ". . . ark of God dwells inside tent curtains" (2 Samuel 7:2). He expressed his desire to the prophet Nathan; however, God gave Nathan a message for David forbidding him to build God's house. Instead, God made a covenant with David promising, "Your throne shall be established forever" (2 Samuel 7:16).

David accepted God's directive but did not give up on a temple. Unselfishly, he acquired massive amounts of costly building materials. 1 Chronicles 28 and 29 recount David's instructions to his son Solomon concerning the house that should be built. He gave him the plans as well as gold, silver, bronze, and iron in abundance. He prepared wood and stone. He supplied gold and silver talents to cover much of the wood and stone. Offerings were received for the cost of construction.

All of this and more David and his subjects gave so the next king would be able to do what David himself wanted to do. What unselfish leadership he provided! He had patiently waited his turn to become king. Though anointed as a youth, he would not harm Saul in order to hasten his ascension to the throne. Now that he had reigned almost forty years, he worked unselfishly to prepare for the success of the king who would follow him.

That is not always the case with leaders. It seems to be a trait of humanity to want all the success and all the accolades to go to one's self. Yet, for the work of the kingdom of God to go forward, we must support those who lead ahead of us and enable those who will lead behind us. Let us mentor the next generation for kingdom building.

"Then the people rejoiced, for they had offered willingly, because with a loyal heart they had offered willingly to the Lord; and King David also rejoiced greatly" (1 Chronicles 29:9).

Scripture

"Now David said, 'Solomon my son is young and inexperienced, and the house to be built for the Lord must be exceedingly magnificent, famous and glorious throughout all countries. I will now make preparation for it.' So David made abundant preparations before his death"

(1 Chronicles 22:5).

This 'n That

"Thus David the son of Jesse reigned over all Israel. . . . So he died in a good old age, full of days and riches and honor; and Solomon his son reigned in his place"

(1 Chronicles 29:26-29).

Prayer

Dear Lord,

Help me to do my part unselfishly enabling those before me and those after me. Amen.

Building,
Mary Ruth