**1 Ch 1 / Ac 19**

**Main theme: Do not be the hero of the world but be a heavenly warrior**

**-A hero / A warrior (rebel/press forward)**

Golden verses: 1 Ch 1:1-4 Ac 19:20

1 & 2 Chronicles discussed on the history of David's kingdom. It focused on the service of the sanctuary and the development of David's kingdom. Chapter 1 to 9 concerned the genealogy of the forefathers and the relationship of David and Jesus' genealogy. This displayed the great love and the salvation plan of God towards the chosen people. The first chapter of 1 Chronicles and Act 19 discussed the worldly heroes and the heavenly warriors. On one side it concerned that after the flood, mankind took Nimrod as the mighty warrior who rebelled and went against God. But God chose Seth and his descendants to prepare for the kingdom of David and the coming of Christ. On the other side it concerned Paul was chosen by God. He was like a heavenly warrior who overcame evil and preached the Word to save men.

**A. Do not be a hero but be bold to preach the Word for the Lord's Word overcomes**

God confuses (1 Ch 1:1-16) - God testifies (Ac 19:1-12)

1.【Lead men into the ark】1-9 After Adam sinned, sin entered the world and death entered the world. Mankind was under sin and worthlessness. God prepared the genealogy of Jesus through Seth’s descendants born of Adam to save men from the bondage of corruption to enjoy the glorious freedom of God’s children. (Ro 5:12-14; 8:20-21) In the age of Enoch, men already sinned heinously. But because he believed and walked with God, he prophesied the flood would come. God also prepared the ark through Noah because he believed and preached the Word of righteousness. He led men into the ark and preserved his whole family with salvation. Within the descendants of Noah, only Ham and Canaan were ungodly and resulted their descendants were cursed. (Gen 9:24-28) Thus we ought to lead men enter the ark to preserve life and gain the everlasting salvation.

※【Lead men to receive the Holy Spirit】1-7 Paul was chosen by God and had a share in the redemption plan of God just like Enoch and Noah who set apart to be holy to walk with God. He preached the Word everywhere and led men enter the ark to gain life. He arrived Ephesus and led the believers be filled with the Holy Spirit to gain an abundant life. After the flood, the descendants of Japheth (enlarged) only focused on external extension. But Paul preached the gospel and led men advanced in life to produce spiritual descendants to fill all the land.

2.【The heroes rebel and God disperses】10-16 After the flood, the descendants of Ham with Nimrod as the representative united against God and created the tower of Babel to proclaim their name. Finally God confused and scattered them. (Gen 10:8-11; 11:1-9) The Philistines and the various tribes of Canaan were the offspring of Ham. They were all destroyed due to sins and evil and all sorts of detestable evil customs. (Lev 18:1-20)

※【God testifies the heavenly warrior】8-12 Paul stayed in Ephesus for two years and spoke boldly arguing persuasively about the kingdom of God. He trusted in the Holy Spirit. He had great power and did extraordinary miracles and wonder to testify the Word he preached. Nimrod grew to be a mighty warrior on the earth and was against God. He conspired together to rebel and was finally destroyed. Paul was a warrior of the kingdom of heaven. Though he faced opposition, he was testified by the Holy Spirit. Those stubborn disbelievers slandered against the Lord’s Word just like the various tribes of Canaan. Their sins were heinous and would perish. We ought to learn from Paul who was powerful to destroy the power of sin to evade the evil spirit and disease.

**B. The flesh and blood come to nothing; to obey the will in trouble will be saved**

Doom to destruction (1 Ch 1: 17-54) Is saved (Ac 19:13-41)

1.【Abandon the idols and obey to follow】17-31 God chose Abram from the descendants of Shem and promised to give him Isaac. He feared God and obeyed His command to leave his country, his people and his father’s household. It was a place of idols worshiping. He followed God to run a faithful path. He waited patiently and received what was promised. (Heb 6:13-15)

※【Overcome sorcery and obey to press forward】13-22 Paul feared God and kept the Word all his life just like his forefather Abram. He exalted God’s name and proclaimed Christ everywhere. While those who went around driving out evil spirits were self-deceiving and hurt themselves. They were overpowered by the evil spirit and the people were all seized with fear. The Lord’s name was greatly honored. Paul led those who believed repent and confess. They burned the scrolls of sorcery completely. The Word of the Lord spread widely and grew in power. Abram abandoned the idols and returned to the true God and became the father of faith and father of many nations. Paul overcame sorcery and obeyed God’s will to work. He decided to go to Jerusalem and then to Rome to preach the Word. He became the pioneer of missionary. Abram and Paul had set up good examples for us.

2.【To set up kings by the flesh and blood is meaningless】32-54 The descendants of Abram born of the flesh would be lost and could not accomplish God’s plan. Edom was Esau. He was hated by God (Mal 1:2-3) for he coveted the secular and made his body as king. He always bore the hatred on his brother Israel without any compassion. His descendants the Amalekites represented the cravings of sinful man. They were against the people of God. They are also our great enemy that must be overcome by the Holy Spirit. The offspring of Edom had eight kings and eleven tribal leaders. They belonged to the flesh and were arrogant and self-deceiving. They dominated for a time but were worthless and doomed to destruction.

※【To set the whole city in confusion comes to nothing】23-41 As Paul preached that man-made gods are no gods at all, thus Demetrius the silversmith could not continue to gain money. So he was very angry and gathered the peer to attack Paul and induced great confusion. At that time, the whole city was in an uproar just like the Edomites belonged to the flesh. They let their body and old self be king and were against God to persecute Paul. Paul only exalted God as king. He had the spirit to die every day and endanger himself every hour. He overcame in his spiritual war and was saved by God. (1 Co 15:30-32) The Lord sits enthroned over the flood. The Lord ruled over everything and raised the city clerk to work for the good of it to disperse the crowd so the confusion was like the result of Edom and turned to nothing in an instant.

**Ps 119 / Rev 17:5 Main theme: To thirst humbly for the Lord's words and obey completely till the end will overcome the enemies' mystery**

**-Thirst for the Word / Overcome the enemy**

The Lord's words are the mystery to godliness and can overcome the mystery of the prostitute. Whoever does not understand the mystery of the prostitute will be harmed.

(1)【Blessed is he who completely obeys the Lord's words】1-16 Seek with one heart and be diligent and steadfast to obey the Lord’s words and dwell in Him so the enemy cannot harm us. Pay attention not to swerve or forget the Lord’s words.

(2)【Inquire deeply of the mystery of the Lord's Word】17-40 May the Lord set my heart free to press forward to the Word. May I turn not to what is false but thirst for God’s promise.

(3)【Be careful to keep the Lord's words and remember them day and night】41-168 Thirst for God’s teaching and do not forget. We see that everything is limited but the Lord’s commands are boundless. I will obey forever. But I hate every wrong path and all my ways are known to God.

(4)【Cry out to the Lord for deliverance and help】169-176 May the Lord help me to be released from the temptation of the enemy and the prostitute so I may live to exalt and extol the Lord. I have always strayed like a lost sheep, May You seek me because I have not forgotten your commands.

**Central point of the wheels: The heavenly warriors will observe and preach the Word to overcome evil**

Dear Lord, may You make me exalt You as King, to overcome evil and be a heavenly warrior to preach the gospel far and wide till the ends of the world.

**1 Ch 2 / Ac 20**

**Main theme: Be contrite and awake, be zealous to love the Lord and deny your life to preach the Word**

**-Awake / Repay the kindness**

Golden verses: 1 Ch 2:1-2 Ac 20:23-24

A discussion on awaking and repaying the kindness - on one side it concerned Judah sinned and depraved. All his descendants were chosen by God after he became contrite and awoke. They accomplished the will of God. On the other side it concerned Paul, the worst of sinners, was zealous to preach the Word and denied himself to sacrifice after he was contrite and favored. He also accomplished God's will.

**A. Be contrite and favored, be zealous to preach the Word and deny oneself to save men**

Deny oneself (1 Ch 2:1-23) - Save men (Ac 20:1-16)

1.【Be contrite and awake】1-13 Judah was originally not the firstborn. He was unworthy of the grace and he once was indulging and depraved. But afterwards he was contrite and awoke, he was chosen by God through the descendants of his offspring Perez (breach) to prepare David and the genealogy of Jesus to accomplish God’s salvation plan. He had nothing to boast. Thereafter he bore the mind of the father to deny himself for his younger brother to bear the burden and intercede.

※【Be zealous to repay the kindness】1-6 Paul was originally the worst of sinners. He persecuted Jesus and oppressed the church. But after he was contrite and favored, he preached the Word boldly. He repaid the kindness zealously like Judah was contrite and satisfied God’s mind. After the uproar, he encouraged the apostles and strengthened them. Then he went to Macedonia to continue his preaching. But because the Jew made a plot against him, he left Athens. He went back to Macedonia to Troas and stayed with his co-workers for seven days. He had the mind of God and risked his life to preach regardless of anything.

2.【Deny oneself to obey the will, overcome the enemy and save the people】14-23 David was the youngest son of Jesse. He was faithful to shepherd his father’s flock when he was young. Though he was sneered, he was anointed by God. He had great power by God and was brave to kill the enemies. He killed ten thousands and saved the people. In the tribe of Judah Bezalel was chosen by God to be the expert craftsman. He was filled by the Holy Spirit and accomplished the work of the ark of Testimony according to the pattern on the mountain. (Exo 31:1-11)

※【Deny oneself to preach the Word and the dead child becomes alive】8-16 Paul was also an expert builder. He set up churches everywhere according to the pattern of God’s instruction. On the last day when he was in Troas, he gathered and broke the bread and talked until midnight. He denied himself to preach the Word. He neglected his fatigue and saved a young man named Eutychus alive just like David sacrificed to kill the enemies and save the people. They greatly manifested the glory of God.

**B. Deny oneself to obey the will, Be careful to be on guard and be faithful and loyal till the end**

To follow (1 Ch 2:24-55) - To guard against the enemy (Ac 20:17-38)

1.【Hold on to the inheritance】24-49 Among the descendants of Judah, Sheshan had no sons – only daughters. In order to keep the inheritance of God, he gave his daughter in marriage to his Egyptian servant Jarha and she bore him Attai to continue his line and kept the inheritance. (Num 27:6-11; 36:7-9)

※【Be firm to obey God's will】17-28 In order to reach Jerusalem by the day of Pentecost, Paul decided to sail past Ephesus. So he sent the elders in Ephesus to come. He used his own example to urge them to keep watch over themselves and all the flock. Though there was prison and hardships facing him, he considered his life worth nothing to him. He firmly obeyed God’s will and pressed toward Jerusalem. He truly kept God’s inheritance (including his siblings and millions of Gentiles)!

2.【Be faithful and loyal till the end】50-55 This chapter mainly recorded the descendants of Judah and the cities where they lived. Many of them followed David through life and death. They were refined and followed till the end. Thereafter they became the people of the kingdom of David and Solomon. The people of Kiriath Jearim once were favored because they received the ark. The descendants of Recab the Kenites firmly kept the command of their forefathers from the beginning till the end. They refused to drink wine and led their lives in a godly way. They were promised to serve before God forever. (Jer 35) This is what we should learn from. But some people of Judah finally followed Adonijah. They were not faithful till the end which is a warning to us. (1 Ki 1:9)

※【To guard watchfully】29-38 Paul finally warned them to be on guard. Savage wolves would come to draw away disciples. At the end he committed them to God and to the word of His grace to be established and strengthened without being tempted just like the tribe of Recab who kept the order of their forefathers firmly without shaking. On one side was the people of Judah had a suffering spirit to follow David till the end. On the other side was to follow Paul’s example of warning with tears and denying himself to suffer. Though they wept to say goodbye with Paul, before Paul was martyred, the Asians deserted him (2 Ti 1:15) just like the people of Judah also betrayed David before he died.

**Ps 120 / Rev 17:6 Main theme: Pray watchfully with the Lord's words and destroy the enemy's lies lest we will be harmed**

**-Arrows and burning coals / The prostitute**

There are many saints and those who witness for the Lord die under the hand of the prostitute. So how can we escape from her jeopardy?

(1)【Call on the Lord in distress】1-2 Call on the Lord and He will answer. What shall we plead? We plead to be saved from deceitful tongues.

(2)【How to deal with the enemy】3-4 How to face the deceitful tongues and the lips that kill without spilling blood of the snake, the prostitute, the false prophets, the anti-Christ, the devil and Satan. This is by the words of God which are like a two edge sharp arrow that pierces just like the burning coals of the broom tree. Similarly when the Lord was tested, He used the words of the Scriptures to destroy all the lies of the evil one.

(3)【Dwell in the Lord】5-6 God’s children dwell in the Lord due to faith. Though they live as aliens among the Gentiles, they will live in the Lord and take root deeply by the blood and obeying the Lord’s words.

(4)【Be silent】7

**Central point of the wheels: Be contrite and defeat the crime, deny your life to preach the Word**

Dear Lord, may You let me be awake and repay your kindness after beng contrite, so I may deny myself to preach the Word, lead men to turn from sin and defeat crime and keep the Word till the end.

**1 Ch 3 / Ac 21**

**Main theme: Turn from sin completely, do not receive grace in vain and deny oneself to obey the will**

**-To sin / To obey the will (be captivated/be saved)**

Golden verses: 1 Ch 3:5 Ac 21:13

A discussion on sinning and obeying the will - on one side it concerned the genealogy of David's royal family. Except for a few kings of Judah, most of them did not imitate David but learned from the abhorrent evil of the foreign nations. Thus they were captivated. On the other side it concerned Paul forsook everything to suffer to obey God's will. He was saved in distress. This teaches us we ought to turn from sin completely, do not receive grace in vain and be faithful to obey God's will till the end.

**A. Turn from sin completely, take lesson and deny oneself to obey the will and go forward**

Go after the sinful nature (1 Ch 3:1-12) - Obey the will (Ac 32:1-20)

1.【In everything obey the will】1-9 David was a king who was after God’s heart. He did everything God wanted him to do. (Act 13:22) After Saul died, he did not reign according to his own decision. Instead he inquired of God’s will and obeyed to go up to Hebron. He was anointed as king of Judah. Thereafter he was again led by God to reign in Jerusalem.

※【Obey God's will firmly】1-14 Paul had been obeying unremittingly God’s will all his life from the beginning to the end. He left Miletus and faced toward Jerusalem. He passed through Tyre and came to Caesarea. A prophet named Agabus prophesied Paul would be bound. The co-workers and the local disciples wept and pleaded with Paul not to go up to Jerusalem. But Paul did not have regard for anything and firmly obeyed God’s will with David to become a servant after God’s own heart to satisfy His mind.

2.【Be complacent and sin, thus troubles do not go away】1-9 David sent out his troops but he stayed in his palace in complacency and committed adultery with Bathsheba. He killed the husband of Bathsheba through a sword and sinned greatly against God. This resulted in calamity which did not leave his house. (2 Sam 11:1-19) Amnon the eldest son raped his sister and was killed. Thereafter two of David’s sons committed treason and usurped successively. The one who sows to please his sinful nature will reap destruction.

※【Suffer and continue forward to accomplish God's will】1-14 Paul suffered all his life to deny himself to carry the cross and obey God’s will. Though the tears of the co-workers and the disciples broke Paul’s heart, they did not move him. David was complacent and sinned resulting serious scourge. Paul suffered to press toward Jerusalem to accomplish God’s will.

3.【Be contrite completely】5-9 David was hard-hearted after he sinned until Nathan the prophet admonished him. Then he was contrite completely before God. He tore his heart and was shown mercy by God. Thereafter he bore Solomon and Nathan who were listed in the genealogy of Jesus to become the forefathers of Joseph and Mary (Lk 3:31; Mt 1:6) to share in God’s plan. The rest of David’s sons were arrogant and indulging. They sinned and became the root of the disasters. They participated in the rebellious force of Adonijah. (1 Ki 1:9)

※【Serve the Lord with a pure heart】7-9 Philip had four unmarried daughters. They served the Lord with a pure heart and prophesied in the spirit. They proclaimed God’s words and were full of God’s glory. The sons of David indulged and sinned in the palace. They could not stand the test and swung toward Adonijah and greatly disgraced God.

4.【The heart is led astray which brings calamity to the country and people】10-12 Solomon was led astray when he aged. He was tempted by one thousand wives and concubines to follow other gods and failed God’s grace. He provoked God’s anger and brought disasters to his country and his people creating a separation of the nation. Jehoshaphat had great honor. But he went down to intermarry with Ahab. He did not set apart to be holy and took the daughter of Jezebel for his son as wife and jeopardized all the people. This crisis nearly created the extermination of the royal family.

※【Obey the will firmly and press forward towards the goal】15-20 Paul firmly obeyed God’s will. He rejected all kinds of human affection and pressed forward to Jerusalem. He reported in detail what God had done among the Gentiles to the elders of the church and witnessed God’s deed. On one side was Solomon’s indulgence and depravation resulted in the separation of the nation. On the other side was Paul’s firm obedience to God’s will. He enhanced the unity of the church between the Jews and the Gentiles. The king of Judah did not set apart to be holy and brought endless disasters. Paul broke through all the hindrance and reached Jerusalem. He brought God’s rich grace and glorified Him.

**B. Restore and be favored, be saved in distress**

Be favored (1 Ch 3:13-24) - Be saved (Ac 21:21-40)

1.【Be favored, take lesson and be restored】13-24 The kings of Judah did evil in the eyes of God and followed all the detestable practice of the nations. Thus they ended with subjugation and captivity. After seventy years of bitter punishment, they were favored and took the lesson. Through the leaders like Zerubbabel they returned to their homeland exhibiting God treated them with everlasting kindness. The gracious words promised by God were accomplished.

※【Take lesson and be saved in distress】21-40 At that time Paul was faced with the compromising decision of the elders and he submitted to the rules of the law. He went into the temple and purified himself. As a result he had to face more opposition. He wishfully hoped to remove the misunderstanding and instead added more to it. This forced him to take the lesson in distress. The Jews persecuted him and stirred up the crowd to catch him. The whole city was in an uproar. Just as when they were trying to kill him, God raised a commander to save him. Similarly God also raised Cyrus the king of Persia so the captives returned from the land of captivity. Though Paul was bound with two chains and taken into the barracks, he took the chance to testify among his kindred. How zealous was his heart toward them. May God raise such leaders to lead millions of souls to the Lord!

**Ps 121 / Rev 17:7 Main theme: Understand the mystery of the enemy, pray watchfully and obey the Word so the enemy cannot harm us**

**-Be watchful and obey / Understand the enemy**

God's children must seek and discern the mystery of the enemy.

(1)【Look up to the Almighty Lord】1-2 Under the power of the evil one God’s children must trust in the help of the Almighty Lord. Then they may overcome wickedness and obey the Word to do good.

(2)【Stand firm in truth by the Lord】3-5 We may stand firm on high and not be shaken if we trust in the Lord and be enhanced in power. If we obey the Word to dwell in the Lord, He will keep an eye and watch over us day and night. God will watch over His children. The one who watches over you is the Almighty Lord. The Almighty One will be my shade.

(3)【The Lord will keep you from all harm forever】6-8 Keep the Word any time and everywhere by the help of the Lord. Hide deep in the Lord and you will be protected from all disasters and the temptation and danger of the mystery of the enemies. No matter in or out we will be protected by the Lord forever.

**Central point of the wheels: Understand the enemy's plot, only by trusting in the Lord and be determined to obey the will, then God will protect.**

Dear Lord, may You make me forsake evil, be contrite and be favored, be faithful to your assignments and be saved and protected by You, so I may suffer to obey your will till the end!

**1 Ch 4 / Ac 22**

**Main theme: The worst of sinners is favored, so plead and preach extensively and repay the Lord's goodness**

**-Plead extensively / Preach to far away**

Golden verses: 1 Ch 4:9 Ac 22:14-15

A discussion on pleading extensively and preaching to faraway places - on one side it concerned the genealogy of Judah's sons Perez and Shelah and also the genealogy of the descendants of Simeon. Among them Jabez was born under dystocia from his mother. He greatly pleaded for God's favor so he might enlarge his territory. He was thus granted. On the other side it concerned Paul witnessed himself as the worst of sinners and how he had the vision to preach the gospel widely to all the nations.

**A. Fall and be contrite, plead according to God's will to enlarge the territory**

Follow wholeheartedly (1 ch 4:1-20) - Understand the will deeply (Ac 22:1-16)

1.【Plead to enlarge the territory in distress】1-10 The descendants of Judah who are the offspring of Perez inclusive of the various tribal leaders were the people of David’s kingdom. The mother was in great pain when she gave birth to Jabez (sorrow). He did not forget about the birth pain of his mother. He knew what to pursue and was more honorable than his brothers. He considered God’s mind and grabbed His promise to call on God – (1) to bless him, (2) to enlarge his territory, (3) to be with Him and (4) to keep him in peace from harm. He pleaded with the mind of God and was answered.

※【Reborn from sin and repay the kindness】1-10 Paul witnessed to the people in chain; how he was thoroughly trained in the laws of his father. He was zealous to persecute the church to their death. But on the road to Damascus, a bright light from heaven made him fell to the ground and be contrite. He was called with assignment. The mother of Jabez had difficulty in laboring him while Paul the worst sinner gained life because Jesus paid the price for him. He was shown great mercy by God. (1 Ti 1:13-17) All his life was just as what Jabez pleaded – his territory was enlarged, he spread the gospel widely to repay the Lord’s kindness. (1 Co 15:8-10)

2.【Follow the Lord wholeheartedly and pray for inheritance】11-20 Caleb (wholehearted, brave) had a special spirit. He followed the Lord wholeheartedly and gained the promised inheritance. Due to faith he brought his whole family, his daughter and son-in-law to value God’s inheritance and gained the land. Othniel was not only his son-in-law but also the first judge of Israel. He bravely destroyed the enemy and saved God’s people. (Jos 14:6-15; 15:17; Jdg 3:9-11)

※【Understand God's will and preach to all nations】11-16 Paul was contrite and favored in Damascus. God laid His hands on him through Ananias so he was able not only to see but also to understand God’s will. God wanted him to witness what he saw and heard to all men. Paul was like Caleb who had a special spirit to follow the Lord wholeheartedly to preach the gospel where Christ was not known lest he might build on someone else’s foundation. (Ro 15:20) He preached the gospel extensively and wherever were his footsteps, God gave him the inheritance.

**B. Obey God's will quickly, preach to far away nations, overcome the enemy and take possession of the land**

Take possession of the land(1 Ch 4:21-43) - Escape from danger (Ac 22:17-30)

1.【Stay and work for the king】21-23 Among the sons of Shelah son of Judah were linen workers who brought others to pursue holiness. Some ruled in Moab. (Rev 2:26-27) Some tribal leaders were potters. (Jer 18:1-6) They all possessed their own expertise. But they were the king’s people. They stayed and worked for the good of the king. God’s workers also have to first dwell with God to understand His mind. Then they may accomplish God’s work.

※【Receive a vision and obey the will to work】17-21 Paul was once separately edified by God in the Arabian Desert to understand God’s mind. Thereafter in Jerusalem he had the vision and was instructed to leave there quickly without delay. God sent him far away to the Gentiles. The people of Judah stayed and worked for the king. Paul had even united with God. He first understood His mind and worked according to His intention. (Ac 22:17-21)

2.【Destroy the remaining enemies and gain the good land】24-43 When David reigned, the descendants of Simeon were less than Judah. But the tribal leaders took the lead to the east of the valley to search for pasture for the flock. So they found rich, good pasture, and the land was spacious, peaceful and quiet. They bravely destroyed the Hamites, the Meunites and the Amalekites who lived there formerly. Thus they enlarged their territory and increased their numbers.

※【God saves to escape from danger】22-30 After Paul had made his testimony, the crowd raised their voices and shouted unceasingly ‘get rid of him’. In order to know the reason of shouting, the centurion ordered to flog and question Paul. But when he knew he was a Roman, he became afraid. Paul was born a Roman citizen. This worked for the good of it and saved him from the danger. After Simeon destroyed the enemy, he gained the good pasture and increased in numbers. Paul overcame the enemy’s persecution by the Holy Spirit and was saved by God. He was then released and brought before the Sanhedrin to testify. God enlarged his territory. He searched everywhere for the lost flock and finally brought the gospel to Rome.

**Ps 122 / Rev 17:8 Main theme: There is terror on earth; be closely compacted in the Lord with peace and prosperity**

**-Peace / Terror**

The evil one once was, now is not and will come up out of the Abyss. He will go to his destruction. God's children ought to learn from David to die completely everyday lest they will be harmed.

(1)【In the Lord】1-2 The people of the heavenly kingdom have in mind of the Lord’s matters. All their life they take building the temple as their center. They trust in the blood and the Holy Spirit to consecrate and keep the Word and dwell in the Lord. (1 Jn 1-5) They cannot be the crawling creature on the ground and be harmed by the evil one.

(2)【Get in touch in the Lord】3 Guard and love one another, be holy and in one heart to accomplish the Lord’s work.

(3)【Serve the Lord according to the statute together】4-5 Serve the Lord according to the statutes and decrees instructed by the Lord. In Deu chapter 16 we ought to observe the Passover, the Pentecost and the Tabernacles. We ought to pursue the most righteous and just. Do not set any idol by the side of the temple and do not post any pillars for oneself, then we will not fall into traps in grace. God’s children ought to come before Him and be judged by His words, lest we may turn to the right or to the left and go against the Lord.

(4)【Pray for the revival of the holy city】6-9 Stay focused on the target and bear in mind the holy city and the temple, and that is to take to heart the matters of the Lord. Plead for peace and prosperity for her. For the purpose of all the souls on earth, plead for the restoration of the house of God.

**Central point of the wheels: Plead and preach according to the will, dwell in the Lord with peace and prosperity**

Dear Lord, may You make me consider your mind, obey your will, destroy completely all my inner and outer enemies, gain more souls and be at peace and prosperity.

**1 Ch 5 / Ac 23**

**Main theme: Sin and is captivated; be firm to do good and God helps in distress**

**-Adultery / Purity (taken captive / is saved)**

Golden verses: 1 Ch 5:2 Ac 23:11

A discussion on adultery and purity - on one side it concerned Reuben indulged in grace and left an extremely bad example to his descendants. Thereafter, the tribes of Reuben, Gad and the half tribe of Manasseh chose the permitted land of the east of Jordan. Though they overcame the enemies by God for a time, they were finally captivated due to adultery. On the other side it concerned Paul was pure in conscience. He suffered to obey the will. Though he was in great distress, God helped him. We ought to value God's grace without indulging and trust in God forever. Then we will be saved in trouble.

**A. Indulge and lose grace; be pure and God helps**

Indulge (1 Ch 5:1-17) - Be watchful (Ac 23:1-23)

1.【Indulge and lose grace】1 The firstborn of Israel was originally Reuben. He ought to have excelled in honor and power. However, as he had defiled his father’s bed and indulged in grace and was turbulent as the waters, he no longer excelled. (Gen 49:3-4) Thus he lost the respect and the rights of the firstborn belonged to Joseph.

※【Suffer and be favored】1 Paul the apostle was the worst of sinners and favored. He originally was not an apostle and he had never followed Jesus. But he was chosen by God to suffer to obey the will. He became the apostle of the Gentiles just like Joseph overcame by God in distress and trials. He was separated from his brothers and gained the rights of the firstborn. Paul testified he was pure in conscience. Though he was condemned, he bravely faced the enemy full of spiritual honor and power. Reuben sinned and lost his honor and power.

2.【Be contrite and remorse】2 Judah had once indulged and depraved in grace. Afterward he was contrite and remorseful. He acknowledged she was more righteous than him (Gen 38). Thus he was favored before God. He was chosen by God and became the head of the family above his brothers, David and Christ came from him (1 Ch 28:4)

※【Be hypocritical and self-deceiving】2-3 Though Ananias was the high priest, he ordered to strike Paul and violated the laws just like a whitewashed wall which was hypocritical and self-deceiving. He was not contrite. But Judah was contrite and remorseful. He was chosen by God with great honor and power and had a share in the genealogy of Christ. (Mt 1:2-3)

3.【Be complacent and taken captive】3-8 As the descendants of Reuben and Gad had a lot of livestock, they selected the land east of Jordan. They were unwilling to cross the river (to die in and live out) to run a narrow path to deny themselves to obey the will and suffer. They represented the Christians who pursued a complacent life to run the broad path. Beerah a leader of the Reubenites was the head but was taken into exile by the king of Assyria.

※【Suffer and escape from danger】4-11 Paul chose to suffer to obey the Lord all his life. He stood on trial because he hoped in the resurrection of the dead. He was courageous and undeterred. Due to the argument, there was a great uproar. Thus the centurion took him away from them by force. He was freed from being torn to pieces and escaped the danger in distress. The two and a half tribes chose the land east of the river. They lived in complacency and cared only for matters before their eyes. Thus they lost the blessings and the promised inheritance of God. Paul was revealed and strengthened by God in his hardship. He witnessed for the Lord not only in Jerusalem, but also in Rome. He gained a lot of inheritance in God’s will.

4.【Hesitate to move forward】9-17 The tribal leaders of Reuben extended eastward to the Euphrates River and defeated the Hagrites. They took their land but it was still east of the river. The descendants of Gad also gained their land east of Jordan. Though they had a lot of chief and second, they were spiritually shortsighted. They were unwilling to move forward and could not see the promised good land of God.

※【Press toward the goal】12-23 The next morning more than forty Jews formed a conspiracy and swore not to eat or drink until they had killed Paul. But their plan to wait in ambush was overheard by the son of Paul’s sister. The young man was brave and witty and reported to the centurion. The centurion immediately sent a detachment to escort Paul to Caesarea. Paul trusted in God and God made him escaped from death and overcame the roaring devil. He pressed toward his goal and gained the good land promised by God. But the descendants of Reuben and Gad were unwilling to move ahead and were satisfied with the land east of Jordan.

**B. Commit adultery and is taken captive; obey God's will and is saved**

Commit adultery (1 Ch 5:18-26) - Obey the will (Ac 23:24-35)

1.【Overcome the enemies by God's help】18-24 Over forty thousand of the able-bodied men of Reuben and Gad trusted and called on God. They were answered and helped by God to overcome the Hagrites and their allies. They seized their livestock and property and dwelled on their land.

※【Is saved by God in danger】24-32 The centurion wrote a letter to the governor Felix stating the Jews wanted to kill Paul. Knowing he was a Roman, he sent a detachment to save him and testified there was no charge against him that deserved death or imprisonment. Thus he ordered to escort Paul. The two and a half tribes were helped by God but only won for a time. Paul had always been pure in heart. He trusted in God wholeheartedly. God’s loving kindness surrounded him and he was saved in danger.

2.【Commit adultery and is finally captivated】25-26 Thereafter the two and a half tribes forsook God. They prostituted themselves to other gods and sinned against the God of their forefathers. Thus God stirred up the spirit of the king of Assyria who took them into exile (2 Ki 18:11-12) till today.

※【Obey God's will and is finally saved】33-35 In order to obey God’s will, Paul was imprisoned for no reason. Though he was kept under guard in Herod’s palace waiting to be charged, he was finally brought to Rome. The two and a half tribes prostituted themselves to other gods and were taken captive. On one side was against God due to wickedness. On the other side was glorifying God by keeping God’s will firmly.

**Ps 123 / Rev 17:9 Main theme: Look up to the Lord under the power of the evil till He shows His mercy**

**-Look to the Lord / Wisdom**

The wicked does not understand the mystery. Only the wise who examines fervently will understand. All true wisdom comes from the mouth of the Lord, so pray for the Spirit of wisdom and revelation and pay attention in the most holy faith. Then we may deeply understand the mystery of the gospel and the evil one.

(1)【Lift up your eyes to heaven】1 When God’s children are surrounded by darkness, and there is the outward pressure of the anti-Christ, the temptation of the false prophets and the attraction of the world like the great prostitute. Inwardly where there is the trouble of the flesh and the old self. They ought to lift up their eyes to God whose throne is in heaven, because their help is from God.

(2)【Look up with humility and persistence】2-3 Do not be discouraged but be humble to wait and lift up to the Lord till He has compassion on us. Do not let Him go until we gain what we have pleaded.

(3)【Pray deeply for God's mercy】3 Just as Esther we ought to plead to the point (to destroy the enemy) and plead deeply and thoroughly till all inward and outward enemies are destroyed, then we may sustain because the evil plot of the enemies want to exterminate us.

(4)【Because we have endure much contempt from the enemy】4 The ridicule and contempt of the enemy will destroy our faith. But we will look to the Lord to bestow grace and increase our strength to accomplish the Lord’s work.

**Central point of the wheels: Obey the Lord' will, look up to the Lord and be saved**

Dear Lord, may You make my eyes look up to You only, be firm to obey your will and receive your mercy and deliverance finally.

**1 Ch 6 / Ac 24**

**Main theme: A clear conscience, be loyal in your duty, preach the Word and take possession of more land**

**-Be loyal in your duty / Clear without owing**

Golden verses: 1 Ch 6:31-32 Ac 24:15-16

A discussion on being loyal in your duty and be clear without owing - on one side it concerned the descendants of Levi and the forty eight cities where they lived. They united with God and were faithful in their duties. They sang and served. On the other side it concerned Paul united with God. He kept a clear conscience towards God and men. Though he was accused, he was not afraid. He still served God as normal in the prison. David reigned and he took serving God as the center. Thus he did according to the instructions and prepared the cities of refuge for the various clans and tribes of Levi so they might live in them and serve God in grace.

**A. Be faithful in your duty and do not be afraid to be accused**

Rebel against God (1 Ch 6:1-36) - Trust in God (Ac 24:1-12)

1.【Unite with God and be loyal to the holy duty】1-15 Levi (united) was chosen by God to set apart to be holy to God to serve Him in His temple. Among the three tribes of Levi, Kohath was specially chosen. Within them the descendants of Aaron were given the duty of priesthood for generations. Zadok the priest was tested during the time of David. He was faithful till death and thereafter, only his descendants were able to go near to minister before God. (Eze 44:15) Nadab and Abihu did not unite with God. They violated God’s command and offered an unauthorized fire. They fell before God. Sadder still was, before the house of Judah was taken captive, all the chief priests sinned against God and followed nations to do detestable things and violated God seriously. As a result, they were captivated together with the king and the people. (2 Ch 36:11-14)

※【Accuse by the enemy and still faithful to the assignment】1-5 As a high priest, Ananias rejected the Lord’s Word. He went down with the elders and a lawyer named Tertullus and brought false charges against Paul. Paul was chosen and united with God like the descendants of Levi. He was faithful to the Lord’s assignment and allowed his enemies to charge him. They made improper additions but he was not afraid. He risked his life to preach the Word just like Zadok the priest who was faithful till the end. He also was tested and wherever he went, his infectious power was like a trouble maker. He led thousands of sinners from the power of Satan and they were released. But the priests sinned greatly and followed the nations to do detestable things. They were separated from God and resulted in exile of themselves and the people.

2.【Rebel against God will suffer severe punishment】16-36 Korah the descendants of Kohath was the first who betrayed the party. He united with the descendants of Reuben and two hundred fifty leaders to attack Moses and Aaron. The party of Korah sinned heinously and was severely punished. They went down alive into the grave. (Num 16) Samuel was also a descendant of Korah, the descendant of Kohath. But he was a faithful priest. He was also a prophet. He proclaimed God’s oracle all his life. After the ark was set, David arranged men to minister with music in God’s temple. So after the temple was established, they took their duty. Heman the descendant of Samuel was the leader of the choir.

※【Trust in God and be bold to defend】6-12 Paul became a minister in chain for the gospel. But he trusted in God. He bravely defended for himself before the governor and disclosed the hypocrisy of the enemy. All their condemnation could not be proved. The people of the Sanhedrin rejected the truth. They charged against Paul and hurt the innocent. They too sinned greatly. Similarly the party of Korah betrayed God. They attacked the leader and their criminal evidence was determined. They were guilty of monstrous crimes and were severely punished. Paul defended truthfully. He boldly testified and no one could harm him. Though he was in distress, he dwelled in God’s temple everyday. He sang and praised and ministered God.

**B. A clear conscience will sing and praise, and continue to preach in trouble**

To sing (1 Ch 6:37-81) - Continue to preach (Ac 24:13-27)

1.【Sing in the sanctuary and perform the duty】37-48 Asaph of the Gershon tribe and Ethan of Merari were leaders. (1 Ch 25) They obeyed the king’s will to sing and taught the Levites to sing and made music to praise God in His temple.

※【Always bear a pure conscience】13-16 No matter in what situation Paul was ever victorious. He always encouraged himself to keep his conscience clear before God and man. How holy, righteous and blameless! (1 Th2:10) In his open defense, he admitted he served God according to what they called a sect; that there would be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked. On one side was the descendants of Levi obeyed the king’s will to sing and minister. On the other side was Paul kept a pure conscience to serve God according to His will.

2.【Are given the cities of the Levites】49-81 The descendants of Aaron made sacrifice and burned incense to atone for the people according to the order of Moses the man of God. During the time of David, they set up forty eight Levite cities for the priests and the Levites according to God’s will. Among the cities were six cities of refuge for themselves and those who killed unintentionally to escape so they might retreat before God and be guarded to restore their strength. (Num 35:1-15)

※【The prison becomes the city of refuge】17-27 Paul brought the gift of the poor from the foreign church to Jerusalem. This was also serving God according to His will. He was kept in the prison continuously just like retreating to the city of refuge. Though his flesh suffered, he was cared by God. He served as usual. Felix and his wife came specifically to hear his sermon. Paul boldly discoursed on righteousness, self-control and the judgment to come so that Felix was afraid. Due to his greed for money, he hoped that Paul might offer him a bribe. He also tried to please the Jews. He was unwilling to repent and thus was hard to escape God’s judgment. Paul was righteous and feared God. He did not give any bribe. He was unwilling to drift along to be released. He was jailed for two years and God was with him and became his city refuge. He was favored in distress waiting for God’s time to be released.

**Ps 124 / Rev 17:10 Main theme: Receive help from God to escape from the enemies and not be harmed but take possession of the land**

**-God helps / The enemies**

The seven kings had the power to control and jeopardize God's children even in the past, the present and in the future.

(1)【It was good God helped】1-3 The spiritual woman in labor (God’s children whoever read the Scripture and unite with God will be fruitful. Jn 15:3-5) The male child who is mightily used by God refers to the one who overcomes and does God’s will to the end. God will give him authority over the nations. (Rev 2:26; 12:5) He obeys the Lord’s command and witnesses for Him. He is the object of attack of the evil one. Had it not been the help of God, we have been devoured alive by him.

(2)【The force of the enemies is ferocious】4-5 Suffering is like the flood; the serpent is behind men to spew filthy water at them (just like placing a beautiful lady before David) which is more horrifying. There are also the storm and waves which make people faint. But God will stop these waves without overriding. God also makes the earth open it mouth to swallow the water from the serpent.

(3)【Whether we may escape depend on trusting in God and obeying His Word】6-8 We may escape from the trap of the evil because we have the help from God. Thus we always pray watchfully and be strengthened by God to keep His Word. Then we may escape from the harm of the enemy and accomplish God’s work.

**Central point of the wheels: Be clear without owing and faithful to the duty may escape and hide with God's help**

Dear Lord, may You let me keep a clear conscience so I may sing and praise in my troubles, be faithful in my duty and hide deeply in You.

**1 Ch 7 / Ac 25**

**Main theme: A heavenly warrior removes every unrighteousness and presses on toward the goal**

**-A warrior / blameless (go to battle/God helps)**

Golden verses: 1 Ch 7:23 Ac 25:19

A discussion on warriors and blamelessness - on one side it recorded at the times of David, the various tribal leaders were brave warriors. It also recorded their number and the number of their descendants. On the other side it concerned Paul was the heavenly warrior who did not do anything unrighteous. Not only was he unafraid of the enemy's accusation, he acted according to God's will and boldly appealed before the king. He pressed on toward the goal for the purpose to bring the gospel to Rome.

**A. Innocent and do not be afraid to be accused, boldly plead for inheritance**

Plead for the father's inheritance (1 Ch7:1-19) - Be bold to obey the will (Ac 25:1-12)

1.【Be a heavenly warrior】1-5 In the time of David there was a total of over eighty thousand fighting men from the various tribes of Issachar (value, rewarded). They understood the times. They defected to David and helped him. They had one heart to set David as king.

※【The enemies cannot kill him】1-5 Paul was the heavenly fighting man. He suffered and was jailed for the gospel. He was valuable before God. The chief priests and the Jewish leaders took the chance to urgently request the newly appointed Festus to transfer Paul to Jerusalem, so they might prepare an ambush to kill him along the way. But their plan did not succeed. Instead Festus ordered them to go down to Caesarea to be charged. The fighting men of Issachar understood the times and exalted David as king; while the chief priests and the religious leaders did not exalt the Lord as king. They did at all cost to persecute the servant of Christ. Paul exalted God as king all his life. Thus the enemy could not harm him in distress. Instead, Festus worked for the good of God’s will.

2.【Able to go to battlefield】6-12 The offspring of Benjamin (the son of God’s right hand) who were tribal leaders were fighting men. Their descendants who were able to go to the battlefield in David’s time had a total of over fifty thousand. They belonged to the tribe of Saul and used to obey the house of Saul (representing the world). Thereafter they forsook Saul and defected to David and became the fighting men of David. (1 Ch 12:1-2, 29) We too ought to forsake the evil and defect to kindness to become the son of God’s right hand and the able fighting men of Christ.

※【Do not be afraid of the enemies' accusation】6-8 After Festus took office, the Jews went down to Caesarea and brought many serious charges against Paul, which they could not prove. Paul was also a fighting man of the tribe of Benjamin. He truly was the son of God’s right hand. He took the prison and the court as his battlefield. He boldly went to the battle and courageously made the defense: “I have done nothing wrong against the law of the Jews or against the temple or against Caesar.” Faced with the charge of the enemy Paul took it calmly without fear. God’s righteous right hand sustained him.

3.【Be bold to plead for inheritance】13-19 Among the descendants of Manasseh, Zelophehad had no son but only five daughters. They came before Moses and the assembly and requested for the inheritance of their father by faith. They were answered by God and it became a legal requirement. (Num 27:1-11) Thus the granddaughters of Manasseh gained an inheritance among the sons. (Jos 17:6) This also kept the inheritance of the various tribal clans in their original clan. (Num 36:5-9)

※【Be bold to obey God's will】9-12 In order to do a favor to the Jews, Festus asked Paul if he was willing to stand trial in Jerusalem. Paul had not done anything wrong. He was charged innocently. Thus he was not willing to compromise. He deeply knew God’s will to go to Rome to preach the gospel. (Ac 19:21). Thus he boldly requested to stand trial before Caesar. On one side was the five daughters boldly requested for inheritance. On the other side was Paul courageously requested to appeal to the emperor. They all had a special spirit to press toward the goal. They had no request apart from the Lord but to value the spiritual inheritance given by God. He only had one heart to go to Rome to grab to save the souls. We finally saw God’s will overcame!

**B. A heavenly warrior obeys the will and overcomes the enemies and sees that God works for the good of it**

Is killed (1 Ch7:20-40) - Overcome the enemies (Ac 25:13-27)

1.【Killed for seizing others】20-21 Ezer and Elead the sons of Ephraim unlawfully seized the livestock of Gath and were killed. They went after ill-gotten gain and this took away their lives. (Pro 1:18-19)

※【Harmed for saving others】13-14 Paul was persecuted by the Jews for preaching the gospel to save men. He was still held in jail. But he was determined to obey God’s will faithfully. He requested to appeal to Caesar. The two sons of Ephraim took ill-gotten gain and were killed. Paul only requested for millions of souls as inheritance.

2.【Be bold to establish the land】22-30 Ephraim mourned for them many days and he was given a son and a daughter afterwards. Sheerah her daughter had wisdom and courage. She boldly built Lower and Upper Beth Horon and Uzzen Sheerah and created a precedent for history. Among the descendants of Ephraim, Joshua the son of Nun was specially chosen by God to lead the people boldly to Canaan to gain the inheritance.

※【Everything works for the good of it】13-20 Paul was in the defendant status, but he dared to appeal to the emperor. He pressed forward to the goal of Rome just like Sheerah was courageous to create her inheritance. Festus reported the case to King Agrippa and investigated that Paul had done nothing deserving of death. As Festus had nothing definite to write, he brought Paul before the emperor for investigation. How God had heard the prayer of Joshua to make the sun and the moon worked for the good of it, He also heard the prayer of Paul so the emperor and the governor worked for the good of him! They were faithful to God’s assignment and dared to sacrifice. They had the presence of God and God made everything worked for the good of them!

3.【Able-bodied warriors】31-40 The recorded descendants of Asher (blessed) were tribal leaders. They were choice men and brave warriors. The number of men ready for battle was twenty six thousand. (1 Ch 12:36)

※【Found no sin】21-27 Paul was given the chance to defend before King Agrippa and the high ranking officers by God. He was also a heavenly brave warrior. He was favored in distress. Again Festus testified he could not find anything against Paul. Paul was ready for battle any time and God was with him.

**Ps 125 / Rev 17:11 Main theme: Trust in God, be upright in heart and do good from beginning to end; the enemies will go their destruction**

**-Do good / The enemies will go to their doom**

The power of the wicked one, no matter he was the seven heads and ten horns or the beast, all were against God. Though at times they are no more, they will revive later. Their ending is destruction. God's children ought to know that the wicked one and the tempting one will become more and more evil as time goes by. We must not take this lightly and always be watchful and faithful for the Lord till He comes.

(1)【Trust in God and never be shaken】1-2 Stand firm in the truth by God just like in the holy mountain of Zion with the presence of God. He will protect us in all directions till the end.

(2)【The dark will control only for a while】3 God allows the wicked to do whatever they wanted but only within a certain period of time. This calls for patient endurance and faithfulness on the part of the saints. He who stands firm to the end will be saved. (Dan 12:11-12) Blessed is the one who waits for and reaches the end of the 1,335 days.

(3)【The different endings of the good and bad】4-5 God has prepared for those who obeys His commands are unthinkable eternal blessings; just like what David and Joseph had gained. But those who turn to crooked ways like Saul, Balaam, Cain, etc, their result is destruction. Though the righteous has distress on earth, they have joy and peace in the Lord which cannot be grabbed away.

**Central point of the wheels: Trust in the Lord and do good, be faithful to obey God's will and the kings will work for the good of it**

Dear Lord, may You let me control my temper, be bold to obey your will, exalt You as King and trust in You and never be shaken!

**1 Ch 8 / Ac 26**

**Main theme: Be faithful to the Lord's assignment and be bold to preach the Word; do evil will be captivated**

**-Be captivated / Save men (ungrateful/repay the kindness)**

Golden verses: 1 Ch 8:12 Ac 26:18-19

A discussion on being captivated and saving men - on one side it further concerned the genealogy of the descendants of Benjamin and the house of Saul in detail. Among them were many who did evil and were captivated. On the other side it concerned Saul the Benjamite who was deeply contrite and edified. He became Paul (small), a chained prisoner for the gospel who boldly defended himself before King Agrippa and witnessed God's grace.

**A. Fall under the light, be faithful to the Lord's assignment to avoid being captivated**

Captivated (1 Ch 8:1-28) - Is saved (Ac 26:1-23)

1.【The tribal leaders are captivated】1-18 The sons of Ehud of Benjamin tribe were heads of families. They were deported to Manahath. Shaharaim violated God’s will and took two wives. Then he divorced them at will and re-married a Moabite wife. He had many sons and they were heads of families.

※【The worst of sinners is saved】1-15 Paul witnessed his experience as the worst of sinners before King Agrippa. He had done all to attack and persecuted the church. He even put them to prison and to death. While the descendants of Benjamin who were heads of families sinned and depraved in grace and were deported.

2.【Be wayward, do wicked and violated God's will】19-28 Benjamin was the son of God’s right hand. He was loved and chosen by God. He ought to have set apart to be holy and rested between God’s shoulders. (Deu 33:12) However his descendants were like ravenous wolves, brutal and covetous. They indulged in adultery. (Gen 49:27) Just like the people of Gibeah, they did a vicious and disgraceful thing (Jdg 19:12-30) and violated God’s Word completely. They failed the holy will of God’s choice. There were also many famous heads of families in the descendants of Benjamin. They lived in Jerusalem to serve and worship God.

※【Is not disobedient to the vision from heaven】16-23 Paul was originally zealous about the laws. He persecuted the church and was also like a ravenous wolf. But he was chosen by God and his life was changed to be sent specially to preach the gospel just like the son of God’s right hand. He led men out of the dark to brightness from the power of Satan back to God. The descendants of Benjamin violated God’s ‘holy’ will of selection. (1 Th 4:3-4; Lev 11:45) They did vicious and disgraceful things and nearly exterminated a tribe. (Jdg 19:1-21) Paul was not disobedient to the vision from heaven all his life. He testified to small and great alike about the suffering of Christ and how He rose from the dead. He proclaimed light to his own people and to the Gentiles. He also had the help from God to save him from the hands of the nations.

**B. Be bold to preach and be unbeatable; violated God will fall**

Ungrateful (1 Ch 8:29-40) - Repay the kindness (Ac 26:24-32)

1.【Be wayward and ungrateful】29-34 Saul was chosen by God to be the king of Israel. But he was ungrateful and wayward. He did not listen to God’s command and thus was abandoned and finally fell. Mephibosheth, son of Jonathan and grandson of Saul was lame in both feet. But he was favored by David. He knew himself was lowly and unworthy like a dead dog! During David’s escape, he shared the affliction and bitterness with the king. He was grateful and repaid the kindness. He was tested. (2 Sa 19:24-30)

※【Preach the Word and repay the kindness】24-26 Paul knew himself was the worst of sinners but favored. The more he was forgiven, the more he loved the Lord! Though Saul was the king, his life was not changed. He was wayward and ungrateful. He did not repent till death and failed the selection of God. In Paul’s defense, he zealously testified. Even Festus thought he was insane. Mephibosheth knew the grace and was grateful. He did not take the grace in vain but he used practical action to repay God’s rich kindness and great love.

2.【Brave warriors and archers】35-40 Among the descendants of Mephibosheth, the sons of Ulam, they were brave warriors who could handle the bow.

※【A chained archer】27-32 Though Paul was in chain, he was like a warrior. He spoke freely to King Agrippa like an archer. He shot the sharp arrows of God’s Word toward the king, the governor and the centurions. He rather be bound, but God’s Word would not be bound. He only requested that all who listened to him would receive the salvation and freedom in Christ.

**Ps 126 / Rev 17:12 Main theme: A group of enemies will soon come out, preach the Word in tears will restore the captives**

**-Preach the Word / A group of enemies**

A group of enemies will unite together for a short while and gain power. By that time we may not be able to work. Thus we ought to consider the Lord's done great things for us, we who are like men in dreams and could not have believed. Through us, the restoration in the Lord might look like a small thing. Further, through us salvation may be brought to the ends of the earth. (Isa 49:6)

(2)【We ought to open wide our mouth】4 Pray for great things: that all nations will be restored from captivity just like the day in the upper house to bear God’s mind to pray persistently in one heart. Pray for hard things, to be transformed in the Word and Spirit and love. Pray for all the souls of the nations and the inheritance of the kingdom. God can restore the streams in the Negev. There is nothing too hard for Him.

(3)【Those who sow in tears will reap with songs of joy】5-6 We need to pay the price to understand and obey the Word, then we may preach the Word. We must be diligent to study the Scriptures, be humble to repent, intercede with tears full of God’s love and words. Then we may be sent out to reap with songs of joy and make every effort to do the Lord’s work.

**Central point of the wheels: Be contrite and preach the Word, sow in tears and restore with joy**

Dear Lord, may You make me be a son of your right hand and not be disobedient to the vision from heaven so I may preach the Word boldly and overcome with joy!

**1 Ch 9 / Ac 27**

**Main theme: Be watchful on guard, exhort in time and save men in trouble**

**-Restore / Go forward (be watchful / save men)**

Golden verses: 1 Ch 9:33 Ac 27:25

A discussion on restoration and going forward - on one side it concerned the people of Judah who were restored from Babylon, including the priests, the Levites and the gatekeepers all lived in the holy city. They were faithful and watchful and continued to serve at important posts. It also concerned the genealogy of Saul. On the other side it concerned the imprisoned Paul. He was detained in a ship destined to Rome. Though they met a great storm, due to his faith in the Lord's words and his watchful intercession and love of exhortation for the whole ship, he saved himself and all the people in the ship.

**A. Restore and serve the Lord, be watchful to keep the gate and exhort in danger**

Be watchful (1 Ch 9:1-20) - Exhort (Ac 27:1-20)

1.【Sin and be captivated】1 Israel was the prince of God and was listed in the genealogy recorded in the book of the kings of Israel. The people of Judah were exiled to Babylon due to sins and abandoning God. They worshiped idols and committed adultery and thus lost the position and honor of the prince of God. They also lost the peace and protection.

※【Be innocent and go forward】1 Paul became a messenger in chain for the gospel. Though he had not committed any sin deserving death or bondage and ought to have been released, due to the charges of the Jews he was forced to appeal to Caesar. He was thus sent under escort to Rome. The people of Judah sinned and were exiled and lost everything; while Paul was innocent and escorted forward to accomplish God's will.

2.【Return to their property】1-9 God's promise is always faithful! Though His people were taken captive because of their unfaithfulness, they were shown mercy after seventy years of refinement and resettled on their own property. Among them with different duties were priests, Levites and temple servants. There were also heads of families of Judah and Benjamin and their brothers.

※【Drive toward the goal】1-8 God's will never changes! Paul was determined to go to Rome to preach the vision of the gospel. It was finally realized. God's will for His people to return to their homeland was also accomplished. They lived in the holy city that was in the Lord. Paul had Aristarchus, Luke and other co-workers with him. God was also with him. Though the wind was against them, they boarded another ship and was again blocked by the wind, they were led by God sailing toward the goal.

3.【Serve and take charge in the sanctuary】10-20 Among the returned priests, there were one thousand seven hundred and sixty heads of families. They were able men, responsible for ministering in the house of God. After the exile, they returned and were willing to serve God. After the Levites returned, they united with God and were faithful and watchful to guard the thresholds of the Tent. Among the resettled, there were also descendants of Korah who were responsible for the articles of the temple and the gate. Their forefathers had been responsible for the thresholds of the Tent with Eleazar in charge of them. This was because he had a zealous heart of God and God was with him. (Num 25:10-13)

※【Serve and exhort in danger】9-20 When Paul was on board the ship in danger, he continued to minister like a priest to be watchful for the whole ship and was faithful to what God entrusted. He cared for the fate of the whole ship and was able to prevent them in time to leave Crete lest it might be damaged. But the centurion followed the advice of the experienced owner and the pilot and did not listen to Paul's words. Just as when they thought they had obtained what they wanted, suddenly a wind of hurricane force swept down from the island. The ship was caught by the storm. They had a violent battering from the storm. Worldly men are also unwilling to repent to trust in God when they are in peaceful times. Thus in an instant they are in hopelessness. This is the same. But Paul was watchful for the whole ship tirelessly and God was with him.

**B. Be faithful in your duty, trust and follow the Lord's words and save men in danger**

Be faithful (1 Ch 9:21-44) - Save men (Ac 27:21-44)

1.【Be on duty and keep watching day and night】21-34 There were two hundred and twelve gatekeepers from the Levites. They were assigned to their positions of trust by David and Samuel. They guarded the four sides of the temple according to their roster and shared their duties for seven-day periods. The four principal gatekeepers were entrusted with the responsibility for the treasuries just like the deacons of the church who kept hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience. (1 Ti 3:9) There were also Levite musicians who praised and ministered day and night. They were exempt from other duties.

※【Lead men to trust and follow the Lord's words】21-36 The storm continued to rage the ship. The men had gone a long time without food and peace. Paul carried an important responsibility just like the gatekeepers of the temple. He was watchful for the whole ship and interceded faithfully day and night. He was revealed by God at night and knew he would stand trial before Caesar. He was full of faith and urged the men to believe in the Lord's words to keep up their courage to eat. He took some bread and gave thanks to God in front of them all. He praised God and knew God had graciously given him all their lives. Therefore the more we are in a storm, the more we ought to believe in the Lord's words and sing praise to serve Him day and night.

2.【The whole family falls】35-44 Saul the Benjamite was chosen by God to be the king of Israel. But he was rejected by God because he did not follow the command of God,. As a result he and his three sons were killed and fell.

※【The whole ship is saved】37-44 The ship was wrecked by the fierce storm and in a dangerous moment. God saved Paul through the centurion lest he and the prisoners were killed. As a result Paul and the whole ship of two hundred seventy people were saved on the shore exactly as what God told Paul. Saul rejected God's words and the whole family was killed and fell!

**Ps 127 / Rev 17:13 Main theme: It is in vain to labor outside the Lord; obey and be loved, and be fruitful**

**-Be fruitful / In vain**

The enemies united and have great power, but the loving children of God will overcome.

(1)【By men's power to labor is in vain】1-2 Men's desire and strength want to create the tower of Babel but are in vain. Saul led a great army in search of David. As a result the army fell into deep sleep. It is also in vain to wake up early in the dark to work for food that spoils. What good is it for a man to gain everything, yet forfeit his soul?

(2)【Blessed is he who obeys and is loved】2-5 (a) Full of rest - men who keep the Lord's command are loved by the Lord and they have peace in Him. (b) God bestows choice fruit - men who love the Lord and obey His Word will bear fruit timely. David loved the Lord, so God inspired men to defect to him every day and they were able warriors. (c) Those who are extraordinarily diligent will be fruitful. (2 Pe 1:5-8) They are full of God's love, fruitful and their quiver is full and victorious.

**Central point of the wheels: Obey the Word and be loved, return to serve the Lord and save men watchfully**

Dear Lord, may You let me escape completely from Babylon and trust and follow your words so I may pray watchfully and save men in danger.

**1 Ch 10 / Ac 28**

**Main theme: Violate the order and die; deny completely to obey the will, and grace overflows to the Gentiles**

**-Fall / Establish firmly**

Golden verses: 1 Ch 10:13-14 Ac 28:30-31

A discussion on falling and be established firmly - on one side it concerned Saul violated against God. Thus the Israelites were defeated by the Philistines. Saul finally fell and was forever rejected by God. On the other side it concerned Paul trusted in God and broke through every obstacles, braving the wind and the waves. Finally he reached Rome and accomplished God's will. Our old self must die completely, then we may obey the will to save men and be established by God.

**A. The old self falls, then we may escape from danger again to the promise land**

Fall (1 Ch 10:1-7) - Escape from danger (Ac 28:1-16)

1.【The old self falls】1-3 It was out of God's intention that the Israelites were defeated by the Philistines so Saul would fall in battle and David might reign to establish a kingdom with God as the center. The Philistines pursued closely after Saul and his sons and the battle grew fierce. The three sons of Saul were killed. Saul was guilty and hard to escape the judgment of God. He was finally overtaken by the archer and wounded. His old self refused to acknowledge his guilt and ultimately could not escape the serious judgment of God.

※【Escape from danger again】1-7 Paul was saved in danger and barely escaped death. God worked for the good of it. When he was setting a fire, a viper bit his hand. In distress Paul shook the snake off into the fire. He was not hurt. Again he escaped death. Saul was pursued by the enemy. He was hit by an archer and seriously wounded. But he was still hard-hearted and would not repent. His result was tragic! Though Jonathan loved David deeply, he did not leave his father. He could not shake off the viper and fell together. Only if our old self dies completely, then we may save ourselves and others. Through prayer Paul healed the sick ones on the island and was hospitably entertained by the natives. God's grace was abundant.

2.【All abandon the towns and flee】4-7 Saul did not want to lose face and was afraid to be abused till death. Finally he was forced to take his sword and fell on it. His armor-bearer also fell on his sword and died. Thus the whole family fell on Mount Gilboa. The Lord's words are like a sharp sword (Heb 4:12) full of power. If we are willing to die to our old self, then we may escape from the bondage of sin. (Ro 6:6-7) When the Israelites saw that the army had fled, they also abandoned their towns and fled.

※【All come out to meet】8-16 Led by the grace of God, Paul finally came to Rome and was welcomed by the brothers. God's grace was great and he fully saw God's glory! Thus Paul was full of thanks and much encouraged. The head of Saul was hung up in the temple of the enemy. He was defeated and insulted greatly!

**B. Do not violate God, obey the will and preach boldly, bear fruit unceasingly**

Violate God (1 Ch 10:8-14) - Abandon the Lord (Ac 28:17-31)

1.【Is greatly disgraced due to sin】8-10 The Philistines stripped Saul's his armor. They took his head and hung up in the temple of Dagon. A king of Israel was disgraced and lost all his honor. The strength and the glorious record that he boasted of were all stripped off and turned to nothing in an instant.

※【Is chained for the Word】17-22 Paul was arrested for the Word. He was allowed to live by himself, with a soldier to guard him in chain. Three days later he called together the leaders of the Jews and declared his reason to appeal had nothing against their people or against the customs of their ancestors. But he was brought to Rome in chain stating he was willing to suffer for the gospel without any care for death. However, Saul was greatly ashamed before the enemy due to his violation against God.

2.【Repay the kindness】11-12 Saul had once saved the inhabitants of Jabesh Gilead. They had not forgotten his grace. Thus all their valiant men took the bodies of Saul and his sons to Jabesh the same night and buried them under the tree. They fasted seven days.

※【Be ungrateful and wayward】23-27 On a certain day as arranged Paul declared to the Jews the kingdom of God day and night. Some were convinced but others would not believe. They disagreed among themselves and left. They disbelieved because their heart was calloused. They could hardly hear with their ears and were unwilling to return just like Saul who was unable to be remedied. Even the inhabitants of Jabesh Gilead repaid the grace of Saul. But the chosen people of God were ungrateful and wayward like Saul. They rejected the grace of God.

3.【Violate God and the kingdom is given to David】13-14 The death of Saul was due to his violation against God. He did not obey God's Word. It was also because he consulted a medium and did not inquire of God. He sinned purposely. Thus he added to his sins. He received the righteous judgment of God. His kingdom was given to David who was after God's heart.

※【Reject the Lord and salvation is proclaimed to the foreign nations】28-31 The Jews rejected Jesus and did not believe in the Word. Thus God's salvation came to the Gentiles. Saul violated against God and his kingdom was given to David. Though Israel had experienced a hardening in part, all Israel would be saved according to God's will. (Ro 9:30-31; 11:25-26) But as Saul was unrepentant till death, he was destroyed forever.

**Ps 128 / Rev 17:14 Main theme: Fear God and obey the Word, be faithful to the Lord's assignment will overcome the enemies and be blessed**

**-Fear God / Overcome the enemies**

The enemies unite together to attack the Lord and those who belong to Him. The Lord is tender like a lamb toward the Father God. The weapons he fights with are not the weapons of the world. He denies Himself to obey the will and waits for God to put His enemies under his feet. If we closely follow the Lamb, we will also overcome.

(1)【Blessed is he who fears God and obeys the Word】1-4 We ought to learn from the tenderness and obedience of the Lamb. Joseph turned from evil to do good. Abraham obeyed to offer his beloved Isaac. They were good examples of fearing God. We ought to seek to understand and practice the Word, to press on to acknowledge God. We ought to act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with God. We ought to pursue diligently in the Lord and to labor in His work. Then we will overcome the enemy and bear choice fruit.

(2)【Receive the true and everlasting blessings from God】5-6 Worldly blessings will be seized away and will turn to disasters. But fearing God and obeying His Word will receive His blessings which man cannot take away. Instead you will see the prosperity and peace of the holy city all the days of your life.

**Central point of the wheels: Fear God and obey the Word, die completely will overcome**

Dear Lord, may You make my old self falls and be redeemed by You so I may keep the Word and overcome and repay your love forever and be established firmly in grace.

**1 Ch 11 / Ro 1**

**Main theme: By the power of God to overcome the enemy and preach the Word; the unrighteous will be avenged**

**-Destroy the enemy / Save men (be courageous/repay the debt)**

Golden verses: 1 Ch 11:9 Ro 1:16-17

A discussion on destroying the enemy and saving men - on one side it concerned the Israelites anointed David king over Israel as promised by God and the leaders of the warriors who assisted David to gain his kingship. On the other side it concerned Paul the heavenly warrior. He courageously saved men to turn from evil and believed in the truth. We ought to imitate Paul to treat preaching gospel as his obligation and his goal of life so as to expedite the kingdom of Christ to come at an early date.

**A. To consider the Lord's mind and thirst for the lost souls, to risk our life to overcome the enemy and save men**

Overcome the stubborn enemy (1 Ch 11:1-9) - Overcome Satan (Ro 1:1-7)

1.【Be anointed as king by the promise】1-3 David had suffered for a long time under the hands of Saul. He was refined by God to die to his old self. When the time came he was chosen by God to reign. He first ruled in Hebron as the king of the house of Judah. Thereafter the Israelites anointed him to be the king of Israel according to the promise of God. David made an oath with them before God. He led all the people to serve God forever.

※【Is called to preach the Word by God's will】1-2 In the light of God Paul repented and the old self fell. Thus he was willing to humble to be the servant of God. By God's will he was called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God just like David was anointed as king by God's promise to shepherd His people. The gospel which Paul preached was not by his own desire but was promised beforehand through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures. He was truly a servant who satisfied God's heart just like David was after God's heart and he obeyed God's will in every matter.

2.【The victory of David】4-9 The Jebusites were arrogant. They belittled David and thought he would not get in Jerusalem just like the people of Judah and Benjamin before. (Jos 15:6; Jdg 1:21) However David trusted in God and overcame the obstinate enemy and captured the fortress of Zion as his capital. He built up the city around it, from Millo to the surrounding wall. (Isa 26:1) David became more and more powerful for the Lord Almighty was with him.

※【The victory of Christ】3-7 Paul declared Christ was the center of the gospel. He was not only the Word made flesh and became a descendant of David, and who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by His resurrection from the dead overcoming the devil who controlled the power of death. Thus all the Gentiles came to obey due to faith. David trusted in God and overcame the Jebusites. He captured the fortress of Zion so Jerusalem became the light of all nations. (Isa 62:1) Paul declared about the power of the gospel in order to strengthen the faith of the believers so they might be favored and have peace in the fortress of salvation. Both Paul and David had the presence of God and the sign of victory.

**B. Heavenly warriors overcome evil and lead men to turn from sin**

Destroy the enemy resolutely (1 Ch 11:10-47) - Rescue men (Ro 1:8-32)

1.【Be courageous to destroy the enemy and save men】10-14 Among the chiefs of David's mighty men who gave strong support to David's kingship as the Lord promised was Jashobeam. He raised his spear against three hundred men and killed them in one encounter. Eleazar denied himself and courageously stood at a field full of barley. He struck the enemy and defended the field to keep God's inheritance. May God raise courageous valiant men to guard the Word and faithful intercessors to guard the church's purity in faith and morality. (Ju 1:3; 1 Co 3:9)

※【Pray unceasingly to overcome】8-12 Paul was the heavenly warrior. Though he was seriously attacked by the Jews, he never gave up. He prayed unceasingly and trusted to the end. He stood firm in God's will and finally the way was opened for him to Rome. On one side was David's fighting men destroyed the enemy and saved the people. On the other side was Paul the heavenly warrior prayed and overcame. He obeyed the will and saved men. He longed to meet the saints in Rome that he might impart to them some spiritual gift to strengthen them just like Eleazar saved the field full of barley and kept God's inheritance.

2.【Risk one's life to satisfy the king's heart】15-25 There were three chiefs who went down to the cave of Adullam to see David. They had touched the heart of David. When they heard David longed for the water from the well near the gate of Bethlehem. They disregarded the danger of the Philistine garrison and broke through their lines to draw water for the king. David was deeply moved and poured it out before the Lord.

※【To repay the obligation of the gospel with every effort】13-17 Paul had once retreated to the Arabian desert to understand deeply of God's will. He bore God's mind and treated gospel preaching as his obligation. For several times he had determined to go to Rome. Though there were some prevention, he was not discouraged and did not lose heart just like the three chiefs who went down to the cave of Adullam and risked their life to draw water for David to drink. Paul had also rushed over obstacles. He was willing to sacrifice to make every effort to preach the gospel to the people in Rome to satisfy God's heart.

3.【Beat one's body to destroy the enemy resolutely】26-47 In the list of chiefs of David, many betrayed Saul and defected to David. They followed David. Further there was also Asahel the brother of Joab. He was courageous and good in fighting. But as he ran to strive for victory, he died an unnatural death which was a pity. (2 Sa 2:18-23) Uriah (God's light) was faithful and brave. He sacrificed to love God and the people. He had a heart for the Ark of God. His light had reflected the ugliness and corruption of David. (2 Sa 11) Among the mighty men there was Naharai the armor-bearer of Joab. But in the list, there was no Joab who had been the commander of David. He was arrogant, jealous and homicidal. He turned his coat when he was old and betrayed David. As a result, his gray head was brought down. This is a great warning to the later generation.

※【Remove all evil and grab to save men】18-32 Paul sharply pointed out the sins of the Gentiles including all the godlessness and wickedness. If they did not repent, they would receive God's wrath. They did not believe in the Creator and instead worshiped created things and idols. They indulged in lust, same sex illicit sexual relations and incest and all kinds of evil and wickedness. They would receive their retribution. Joab was jealous and homicidal and he also received his retribution. We ought to have a spirit to suffer to beat our body and resist sins to the point of shedding our blood just like Paul "beat his body and made it his slave". (1 Co 9:26-27) He was faithful to the end without turning his coat. He became a heavenly warrior and overcame evil. He restored men's heart to Christ and became the light of the Gentiles. His name was recorded in heaven and he was remembered forever.

**Ps 129 / Rev 17:15 Main theme: Sin overpower all people; to save men is blessed and to hate people will wither**

**-Save people / Hate people**

All the land is under the hand of the evil one. We ought to trust in the Lord to overcome and be sanctified, and to preach the gospel to all people so they will be blessed.

(1)【The enemies have greatly oppressed me】1-3 God's true children obeyed His commandments and witnessed for Him. They are the thorns in the flesh of the evil one who always wants to harm them. Though they are persecuted, even with deep wound, the evil one has not overcome.

(2)【The Lord cuts off the cord】4 Only if we confess and repent, God is righteous and He will forgive our sins and wash away our unrighteousness. He will cut us free from the cords of the wicked. We will exalt the Lord's salvation to all nations to repay Him and inherit the blessings which God promised to Abraham.

(3)【Those who hate Zion will turn back】5-8 The Edomites who belong to the flesh, the Ishmaelites who belong to the flesh, the hypocritical Moabites, the Hagrites who are slaves to philosophy and the basic principles, the self-righteous Ammonites, the lustful Amalekites, the disbelieving Philistines, Tyre who is the great harbor of the nations, Assyria who confuses the truth and the descendants of Lot who covet the world all hate Zion. They do not pursue the truth and love. They actually undermine the plan of God. Their result is withering and turning back in shame. They hurt themselves and others. They cannot obtain the blessings from God and are our warning.

**Central point of the wheels: Attack and overcome evil, risk our life to save men, and be freed from the enemy's affliction**

Dear Lord, may You let me attack and overcome wickedness by You and be a heavenly warrior to consider your heart to risk my life to obey your will to save men.

**1 Ch 12 / Ro 2**

**Main theme: Remove the inner filth, do good humbly, God accepts and men stream back**

**-Submit / Repent**

Golden verses: 1 Ch 12:21-22 Ro 2:29

A discussion on submission and repentance - on one side it recorded the warriors of each tribe who helped David in the battle and those who took shelter in him during their distress. They betrayed Saul and submitted to David and made him king in one heart. On the other side it concerned the righteous judgment of God and the sins of the Jews. Only by repentance and turning from evil, and doing good persistently, then we will gain eternal life. The heavenly warriors ought to repent and do good. Their hearts must be circumcised and exalt the Lord as King. But the Jews were stubborn and unwilling to repent like Saul. Thus they encountered the wrath of God. He is righteous and will not treat men partially!

**A. Forsake evil and run to do good, repent and turn from wickedness to avoid God's wrath**

Forsake evil (1 Ch 12:1-18) - Do good (Ro 2:1-13)

1.【Forsake evil and run to do good】1-7 In distress David escaped from the pursuit of Saul and hid in Ziklag (enveloped in grief). Some warriors from Benjamin came to help him in battle. They were armed with bows and were able to shoot arrows or to sling stones right-handed or left-handed. They were kinsmen of Saul but had forsaken evil and turned to do good. They followed David to gain his kingship. We too have to forsake evil to do good to be the warrior of Christ and follow Him to the end. (1 Pe 4:2-3)

※【Repent and turn from wickedness】1-5 Paul was originally zealous for the laws. Thereafter he returned completely to follow Christ like the warriors of Benjamin who forsook the dark and come to light. Paul was like a warrior who could sling stones and shoot arrows. He rebuked the Jews sharply at the vital point of their self-righteousness and boasting of their laws. They passed judgment on someone else, but they did the same things. They were contemptuous of the riches of God's kindness, tolerance and patience. They were obstinate to repent and would be judged by the truth. How could they escape from God's judgment if they were unwilling to forsake evil and turn to good? Heavenly warriors will not only forsake the sinfulness of Saul and also to abandon completely their self-righteousness. They ought to be contrite and rebuke themselves without bragging about their self-righteousness and pass judgment on others.

2.【Courageous and good at fighting】8-18 Some brave warriors of Gadites defected to David at his stronghold in the desert. They were courageous and good in battle. They were zealous as lions and swift as gazelles. The least was a match for a hundred and the greatest for a thousand. When the Jordan was in a dangerous situation overflowing all its banks, they had the faith to put to flight everyone living in the valleys, to the east and to the west. Other Benjamites and some men from Judah also defected to David in his stronghold. They went to help David with honesty. So David received them and made them leaders of his raiding bands.

※【Do good persistently】6-13 God is righteous and He will give to each person according to what he has done. To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, He will give eternal life like the warriors of the Gadites tribe who defected to David. They were full of spiritual power and were able to resist the enemy. They were ever victorious and had a share in David's kingdom. But those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth like Saul and his followers violated against the law. They are unrepentant and will receive the wrath of God. God does not show favoritism and He will judge the Jews and the Gentiles according to whether they have the laws inside them.

**B. Submit with one heart, let the heart be circumcised and exalt the Lord as King**

Submit (1 Ch 12:19-40) - Be hypocritical (Ro 2:14-29)

1.【Submit sincerely and become a great army】19-29 Some Manasseh leaders of units of a thousand defected to David. Day after day men came to help David against raiding bands. They became a great army. According to God's word, the kingdom of Saul was given to David. Among them were three thousand kinsmen of Saul. They also came sincerely to be loyal to David.

※【Be hypocritical and self-deceiving will become a stumbling block to others】14-24 All Gentiles who do not have the law will be judged by nature things required by the law (the conscience) for God has written the requirements of the law on their hearts. The Manassites had a stable mind. They were sure of the situation and defected to David. They had the laws of God in their mind. We ought to learn from Paul to preach the gospel to save the souls and become a great army of God, so that on the day when Christ will judge men's secrets, we may have the confidence to see the Lord. The Jews were self-righteous and relied on the law. They could teach others but they could not act on what they knew. They rebuked others but not themselves. They thought themselves were better than the Gentiles. They were unwilling to submit to Christ unlike the three thousand kinsmen of Saul who were sincere to rectify their errors to turn to David. They sinned purposely. They were hypocritical and self-righteous and became a stumbling block. God's name was blasphemed because of them. Only those who turned to David in one heart to beat their body were able to be warriors to go to war. God's name was greatly exalted.

2.【Exalt the Lord as King】30-40 The brave warriors of various tribes and those famous in their clans came sincerely to Hebron in one heart to make David king. Men of Issachar who understood the times were obedient to command. Men of Zebulun could keep ranks with undivided loyalty. All warriors from various tribes who were expert in battles came to submit to David. They came to enjoy God's abundance with the king. The Israelites were grateful and joyous!

※【The heart be circumcised】25-29 The Jews bragged about the law but they also broke the law. Their circumcision was only an external written code and they were not a Jew. Only by the circumcision done by Christ in the putting off of the sinful nature, (Col 2:11) they were truly Jews. Heavenly warriors ought to be circumcised in the heart and exalt the Lord as king. They ought to be new creations to keep in ranks without a double mind. They will gain the praise from God and unite with Him. They will be remembered and joyous forever in the kingdom of Christ.

**Ps 130 / Rev 17:16 Main theme: The enemies kill one another, pray for the redemption and wait watchfully for the Lord's coming**

**-Put hope / Contend**

(1)【Cry by faith】1-2 In time of darkness, strife and hardship cry out to the Lord like Esther who was in the depth of darkness. When Jonah was in the very heart of the seas, he knew by faith God would lift him up.

(2)【Consecrate and ask for forgiveness】3-4 Do not be afraid of the darkness outside or the flood overflows, but be afraid if there are sins inside. Only if we will humble ourselves and intercede for the grace of forgiveness for others, we will be free from disasters and gain blessings.

(3)【Wait and put hope watchfully】 5-6 Do not fix your eyes on anything but put your hope in God's promise. During the time of waiting, make every effort to become mature and pray watchfully. Be zealous to do good and God will turn darkness to light.

(4)【Lead men to put hope in the Lord and be saved】7-8 As the Lord has unfailing love and full redemption, we will put hope in Him. He will redeem us from all our sins so we may become blameless and stand before the Lord happily.

**Central point of the wheels: Forsake evil and run to do good, obey the Word and wait for the Lord to be redeemed**

Dear Lord, may You raise up more heavenly warriors to forsake evil and run to do good, so their hearts may be circumcised and exalt You as King and wait watchfully for your coming.

**1 Ch 13 / Ro 3**

**Main theme: Not be creating any credit but by faith and grace to be justified and righteous**

**-Rely on man / By grace (man's work/God's work)**

Golden verses: 1 Ch 13:14 Ro 3:23-24

A discussion on relying on man and by grace - on one side it concerned David led all his people to bring back the ark. But he did not inquire of God's will and did not follow God's pattern. Instead he used a new cart and used man's idea and hands, thus God was angered. On the other side it concerned that no one would be declared righteous in God's sight by observing the law. Only by faith and the grace of redemption of Christ may we be justified. Thus we must receive the ark (the holy word) into our heart by faith and by grace, so we may understand God's will deeply and accomplish his task.

**A. Not by man's work and self intention but seek the holy word and God's will**

Men's work is involved (1 Ch 13:1-8) - Swerve from the right path (Ro 3:1-18)

1.【Bring back the ark】1-5 David loved God and the ark of God. So he led the whole nation to serve God as the center. Thus he conferred with the officers and gathered the whole assembly to bring back God's ark (representing God and His Word) from Kiriath Jearim. (Ps 132:1-8)

※【Value God's holy word】1-11God had entrusted the words of God to the Jews. But they did not have the faith and relied on the laws. They did not take God as righteousness. Jews and Gentiles alike are all under sin. There is no one righteous, not even one. Everyone is a liar. There is no one who understands, no one who seeks God. Only God is faithful and righteous. Therefore we ought to value the words of God and learn from David to lead all people to bring back the ark of God and receive it in our heart. Then we will know Christ and accept Christ as our Savior. David led his people up to bring back the ark that is called by the Name. This was a good intention. But he did not seek in advance what method he should use to bring it back. He focused on the conference with the leaders which was wrong.

2.【Involve men's work】6-8 David did not pay attention to seek God's will and used men's work. He followed the method of the Gentiles and placed the ark on a new cart. (2 Sa 6:7-9) Uzzah and Ahio who guided the cart were not Levites. David and all his people danced and sang before God. But it was not according to the pattern on the mountain shown to Moses. God would not be pleased if men's hands and labor were added on the spiritual ministry and work.

※【Swerve from the right path】12-18 The Jews and the Gentiles have turned away. There is no one righteous, not even one. They are full of cursing, bitterness, deceit and homicide. There is no fear of God before their eyes. All they do is evil. Though David had good motive, he had turned away as he did not seek God's pattern and used human labor. He violated against God's will and did not arrange the Levite to carry the ark. David used the new cart and the Jews relied on the law. They could not be righteous and be accepted.

**B. Not by men's hand, be justified by faith without boasting**

Encounter wrath (1 Ch 13:9-14) - Be justified (Ro 3:19-31)

1.【God is angry and David is angered】9-11 The ark of God the Lord, who was enthroned between the cherubim - the ark that was called by the Name. It could never allow man's desire and labor to minister. When the new cart came to the threshing floor of Kidon, the oxen stumbled and Ezzah reached out his hand to steady the ark. The Lord's anger burned against Uzzah and he died before God. David was thus angry and called the place Perez Uzzah. (outbreak of Uzzah) The purpose of the discipline of God was to let him know he would fail completely if he relied on himself. He would surely be discouraged if he relied on his flesh.

※【God redeems and we are justified freely】21-25 No one in the flesh can be justified before God by observing the law. Rather, through the law we become conscious of sin. Therefore God's righteousness is apart from the law and it has been made known, so that men may be justified by Christ's redemption. It is by His blood and our faith. Jesus became our sacrifice of atonement to forbear our past iniquity. This is God's great love. God was angry at Uzzah and He disciplined David. This was also God's love so he might receive the ark (the Word of God) into his heart to seek God's will without using man's labor. He would then turn sadness to joy!

2.【Receive the ark and is blessed】12-14 David was afraid of God and would not bring back the ark. Thus it was taken to the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite. God blessed his house and everything he had for three months.

※【Is justified by faith and favored】26-31 Thank God who let us be justified due to faith and not by observing the law. Then there is no boasting. It is not by observing the law but on that of faith. God will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through the same faith. God's grace has come upon the Gentiles that was the house of Obed-Edom. So whoever receives the Lord will be favored. Nothing can be boastful. (Jn 1:12; Eph 2:8-9)

**Ps 131 / Rev 17:17 Main theme: The enemies unite to attack, be firm in heart and trust in the Lord to seek and obey God's will**

**-Be still / The enemies unite**

When the enemies unite and darkness is in control:-

(1)【Our heart and eyes turn to the Lord without acting presumptuously】1 Our heart ought to turn to God and our eyes ought to delight in the Lord's path. (The Lord Jesus came before the Lord before He was nailed on the cross to plead God's will be accomplished on Him. So do not act wantonly.

(2)【Obey the will firmly and be at rest】2 The Lord will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast. Daniel had a spirit to die to obey the will by the Lord. Thus when he learned of the decree, he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to God three times a day, just as he had done before. (Dan 6:10) His heart was full of rest.

(3)【We ought to put hope in the Lord forever】3 Do not fix your eyes on the environment, on men, or on oneself. Only put your hope in the Lord's promise like Abraham who was fully persuaded that God had power to do what He had promised. Then lead people to the ends of the earth to put hope in the Lord and they will be saved.

**Central point of the wheels: Do no involve man's hand, believe and obey God's will and rest by grace**

Dear Lord, may You let me not use any man's intention or man's work but obey your holy word and work by grace and receive You into my heart forever!

**1 Ch 14 / Ro 4**

**Main theme: Obey the Word due to faith and by grace, overcome the enemy and gain the land**

**-By grace / By faith**

Golden verses: 1 Ch 14:15-17 Ro 4:19-22

A discussion on by grace and by faith - on one side it concerned King David reigned and was firmly established by God. Thus his kingdom prospered. In everything he inquired of God and overcame the enemies. On the other side it concerned the example of righteousness by faith of Abraham. This teaches us we ought to act by faith and by grace, so we will be justified and blessed. We also have to be watchful and tremble lest we may lose God's grace.

**A. Be justified by faith, keep the Word in trembling and be established and blessed**

Be blessed (1 Ch 14:1-10) - Be justified (Ro 4:1-16)

1.【Ought to tremble when blessed and established】1-7 After David became king, Hiram king of Tyre sent cedar logs, messengers, stonemasons and carpenter to him to build a palace. Then David knew that God had established him as king over Israel and that his kingdom had been highly exalted for the sake of his people Israel. In Jerusalem David took more wives and became the father of more sons and daughters. But he did not tremble in grace. Thus he sinned and fell. After he was deeply contrite, he was shown mercy by God to give him two sons Solomon and Nathan. Both had a share in the genealogy of Jesus. (Mt 1:6; Lk 3:31) The rest of his sons had been leaders in his kingdom, but regret they all lost their integrity and participated in the betrayal of Adonijah without following their father king to the end. (1 Ki 1:9)

※【Be justified by faith without boasting】1-10 Abraham the forefather of Israel was not justified by work but because he believed God and it was credited to him as righteousness. Since it was by grace, then there was no boasting just like David was favored to establish his kingdom after he became king. Nothing was to boast about. Blessed is the man to whom God credits righteousness apart from works. (Ps 32:1-2) This blessing is given not only for the circumcised, but also for the uncircumcised. Thus whoever is favored ought to tremble and be careful lest he is led astray by sin just like David. But David was also blessed after he was deeply contrite. Abraham believed to the end and became the example of being justified by faith. Many sons of David finally lost their integrity and became a warning.

2.【Inquire of God's will to attack and overcome the enemy】8-10 The Philistines represented Satan who were against the power of God. When they heard David had been anointed king over all Israel, they went up to search for him. David inquired of God's will and was answered to go out to meet them.

※【Gain the whole land by faith and grace】11-16 The law brings wrath. Where there is no law there is no transgression. It is by faith and grace that the promise is guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring. In everything David did, he did by faith and by grace. He did not attack the enemy by his own will. But he inquired of God's will and he trusted in God to contend for him. Paul taught the saints not to be justified by law but by faith and to follow Abraham's footpath of faith to act to inherit the world. Both Abraham and David gained God's promised blessings by faith. We too ought to overcome our inner and outer enemies by faith and grab the souls to inherit the whole land.

**B. Obey the command to destroy the enemy, gain the property and God's words will be fulfilled**

Believe and listen (1 Ch 14:11-17) - Believe and do (Ro 4:17-25)

1.【Do not be led astray and burn the idols】11-12 David trusted God and defeated the enemy as waters broke out. After his victory he exalted God and ascribed the glory to God. When the Philistines ran in their defeat, they abandoned their gods in the battlefield. But David was not led astray. He saw them as detestable and burned them in the fire.

※【Be firm due to faith and gain the promise】17-22 Abraham was made a father of many nations. He also experienced a lot of spiritual warfare and tests of faith, so that against all hope, he in hope believed. His body was as good as dead and Sarah's womb was also dead, but due to hope in God's promise, his faith was strengthened. He was fully persuaded that God had power to do what He had promised. David overcame the Philistines and burned their gods. This was also the result of his faith in God's promise. If we thoroughly burn away what we love and be established in faith, we will finally see the fulfillment of God's promise.

2.【Obey and see God deals with the enemy】13-17 The Philistines came again and raided the valley. David did not act by his experience. He again humbled to inquire of God's instruction. This time God told him not to go straight up but circle around them, to hide and pray, be obedient in every step and attack them in front of the balsam trees. God had already gone ahead to attack the enemy; only be attentive to the Lord's words and hear the sound of marching of God's steps in the tops of the balsam trees and move out to battle. David obeyed to go to battle and he personally saw God led the fight against the enemy. God made all the nations feared David and his fame spread throughout every land.

※【Believe in God's power of resurrection】23-25 The promise of being justified by faith was also for us who believe in God had raised Christ from the dead. God is the God of Abraham, the God of David and also our God. By faith David obeyed and destroyed the enemy. We also overcome death due to faith in the resurrection of Christ. Jesus was crucified not only for our transgression. He was raised from the dead so we may be justified. We ought to pay attention to God's words to experience the power of God's resurrection to overcome all inner and outer enemies.

**Ps 132 / Rev 17:18 Main theme: Escape from the power of sin, swear to build the temple and radiate with overflowing grace**

**-Build the temple / The power of sin**

All the kings of the earth are under the control of the sinful power of the evil one. Their bodies are comfortable but their spirits are in bondage and misery. Only by receiving the Lord and pursuing in Him may they be released and rejoice because the Lord comes to deliver us from sin and evil.

(1)【Determine to seek and rest with joy】1-10 We must have a spirit to suffer, be determined in our oath without considering our flesh and be diligent to seek until we find the ark of the Lord, that is the word of God. We ought to receive the ark to a well prepared dwelling so the Lord may rest and all people will be favored. We also pray to be always in the Lord's grace.

(2)【God gives promise to those who love Him】11-18 God also swore to give great blessings so your descendants may have power. God is willing to dwell in the Holy Mountain forever, so there will be abundant provisions, the priests and saints will rejoice, the enemies will be ashamed and those who love God will shine all over the earth to glorify God and benefit men.

**Central point of the wheels: Be freed from sin due to faith, seek the Lord's Word and God is with him**

Dear Lord, may You let me put hope in your promise so I may overcome the enemies and be freed from the domination of sin to overcome by grace and rejoice.

**1 Ch 15 / Ro 5**

**Main theme: Consecrate by grace, extol His grace watchfully and exalt the Lord as King**

**-Receive the Ark / The Lord reigns**

Golden verses: 1 Ch 15:13 Ro 5:20

A discussion on receiving the ark and the Lord reigns - on one side it concerned David prepared according to the pattern of God and led the whole nation from top to bottom to receive the Ark joyfully. On the other side it concerned God's promise of His blessings on justification by faith. Not only may we reconcile with God, we will have joy in trouble and let Christ reign in our lives. To bring back the Ark of God is to let God's Word and God's love fill our heart and that is to exalt the Lord as King.

**A. Consecrate and prepare, carry back the Ark and delight in God**

Consecrate (1 Ch 15:1-15) - Progress (Ro 5:1-11)

1.【Consecrate and prepare】1-15 During the three months when the ark of God was with Obed-Edom, David repented deeply before God and sought His will. He did not only prepare a place to pitch a tent for God, he also gathered the descendants of Aaron and the Levites. He ordered them to consecrate themselves so they might bring back the ark according to God's pattern because without holiness no one will see the Lord. (Isa52:11; Heb 12:14)

※【Progress in grace】1-11 Paul encouraged the saints that since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through Christ and gain the grace in which we now stand. We also have to advance in grace and to rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. Even in our suffering we also rejoice just like David, he still positively seek and prepare in his frustration. We ought to consecrate in the heart and prepare a place for the Lord in come. We ought to learn to persevere in suffering to produce character and be mature full of hope.

2.【Be humble to take lesson】1-15 From the discipline of God, David humbled to take the lesson. He deeply understood God's love and knew God's ark ought to be carried by the Levites according to His order. No foreign ways may be used for spiritual ministry. Therefore we ought to be careful and everything has to be according to the pattern on the mountain. (Exo 25:40; Num 4:15)

※【God pours out His love】1-11 Suffering will enable us to advance in our life to produce character and maturity, then the Holy Spirit will pour down His love. We too ought to consider the love of denial of Christ as when we were still sinners or were against Him, His love came upon us. Similarly, when David failed in his weakness, he was shown mercy by God. Thus he understood the love of God deeply. He was given a chance to repent and return. So he humbled and took the lesson. He obeyed God's order and received God's ark. He delighted in God!

**B. Be watchful and sing, serve with holiness and exalt the Lord as King**

The Lord reigns (1 Ch 15:16-29) - Righteousness reigns (Ro 5:12-21)

1.【Sing and watch over the gate】16-24 In order to receive the ark of God, David appointed Heman, Asaph and Ethan the Levite leaders to play the harps and sing and sound the bronze cymbals. Seven priests blew the trumpets before God. Doorkeepers were set to watch before the ark to guard against the enemy.

※【Be favored with a double portion】12-16 In Adam we all are condemned and die. But in Christ, much more grace come upon us from God. How could we not sing of the great love of Christ like David rejoiced before God? Paul and David were faithful and watchful. They were doorkeepers and kept hold of the deep truths of the faith. (1 Ti 3:9) They were watchful for themselves and all the flock.

2.【Carry the Ark back joyfully】25-28 So David and the leaders went to the house of Obed-Edom and carried the ark back with rejoice. God blessed the Levites who carried the ark. They gave thanks and sacrificed. They were redeemed by grace. David, the Levites and the musicians all wore holy robes of fine linen. All the people rejoiced and blew the trumpets. They played the harps and lyres and carried the ark of God back. (Ps 24:7-10)

※【Extol Christ as King】17-20 Our forefather trespassed and sin entered the world, thus death reigned through that one man. But when we receive the abundant provision of grace, we ought to let Christ rule in our life just like David led all his people to carry the ark and rejoice at God to be their king. If we let Christ and His Word fill our heart, we will sing in rejoice.

3.【Despise God's grace】29 When the ark of the covenant of God entered the City of David, all the people rejoiced and sang except Michal daughter of Saul. She watched differently from a window. When she saw King David dancing and celebrating, she despised him in her heart. Apparently her attitude toward God was self-righteous and she despised God's grace. Her nature had not changed and forever she belonged to Saul. Thus she was barren to death. How shameful!

※【Sin still reigns】21 Sin reigned in death but grace reigned through righteousness to bring eternal life through Christ. Though Michal was the wife of David, her heart was Saul as king. She did not unite with David and was forever barren and unfruitful.

**Ps 133 / Rev 18:1 Main theme: Be holy and united, grace is like the falling rain and whole the earth is illuminated**

-**United / Illuminated**

(1)【How good and pleasant it is to be holy and to love one another】1 Brothers love each other just like the brothers Ornan and Araunah who cared and were compassionate to each other. This was wonderful.

(2)【To be holy and love one another will glorify God and benefit me】2 It is like precious oil poured on the head of the high priest. This oil is the love of purity. This love comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and sincere faith. So the heart of the Lord is satisfied and grace is poured like rain down to all the nations. The prayers in one accord in the Upper Room will result in pouring of spiritual shower and the gospel is preached to the ends of the world.

(3)【There is the commanded blessings】3 Where there is truth and love, the Lord is there to bless as if the dew falls on Mount Zion. Abraham risked death to save the captured Lot and Melchizedek came to bless him. The blessings of God is true blessings and everlasting blessings which men cannot seize away.

**Central point of the wheels: Exalt the Lord as King, be holy and in unity and illuminate to serve the Lord**

Dear Lord, may You make my heart be emptied to let You come to be my King so I may be fruitful to glorify your name!

**1 Ch 16 / Ro 6**

**Main theme: An obedient and righteous servant is dutiful to serve the Lord and fully bears righteous fruit**

**-Praise / Be sanctified**

Golden verses: 1 Ch 16:37 Ro 6:13-14

A discussion on praises and sanctification - on one side it concerned David appointed the priests and Levites to serve and praise before the Ark of God. They observed their duty everyday and simultaneously David wrote psalms to praise the Lord. On the other side it concerned that through the cross of Christ, we might die to sin and live to God by faith so that the body of sin might be done away with to be sanctified to serve the Lord and triumph in praise.

**A. I die and the Lord lives, extol and praise**

Praise God (1 Ch 16:1-22) - Live to God (Ro 6:1-12)

1.【Be blessed and abundant】1-3 The Israelites brought the ark of God and set it inside the tent that David had pitched for it. Then they gave thanks and presented offerings and sacrificed to atone for their sins. Thereafter David blessed the people in the name of God. He gave man and woman a loaf of bread and a cake of dates showing the abundance of David's life. He enjoyed God's abundance with the people. The Lord's word is the bread of life and flesh so we may pay attention to obey and thus our life will grow and be guarded in God's love. (Jn 6:53-63)

※【Do not sin again】1-2 Since grace reigned in our life through righteousness, how can we still live in sin so that grace may increase? By no means! Those who die to sin shall certainly not live in sin. The Israelites brought back the ark of God was to let the glorious God reign and be blessed in the grace of God. Through the words of the Lord, their live would grow and be abundant without sinning.

2.【Serve and praise】4-22 David appointed some Levites to minister before the ark to praise and give thanks to the God of Israel. He also wrote psalms to praise God. He called the chosen people to seek God's power and His face, to remember His deeds and his covenant forever which was made with Abraham. God would gave the land of Canaan to them as their inheritance without letting others to abuse them.

※【I die and the Lord lives】3-12 We who are baptized into Christ ought to live a new life. The church is chosen as the kingdom of priesthood to minister and praise God. Our old self should be crucified with Christ so that the body of sin might be done away with. Due to faith we die to sin and live to God. The old self would not praise God. Only those who die to oneself and live to God and unite with Him will seek, praise and proclaim God like David. If we do not allow sin to rule in our mortal life, God promises He will not allow anyone to bully us. We no longer follow the selfish desire to sin and God will care for us.

**B. Be released from sin and proclaim salvation**

On duty (1 Ch 16:23-43) - Be holy (Ro 6:13-23)

1.【Proclaim salvation】23-36 Sing to the Lord, all the earth; proclaim His salvation day after day. Declare His glory and marvelous deeds among the nations. Worship the Lord in the splendor of His holiness. Let the heavens and earth rejoice. The Lord reigns! He comes to judge the earth and save us from the foreign nations. Glory in His praise! (Ps 106:47)

※【Experience salvation】13-19 We ought to offer ourselves to God as instruments of righteousness. Do not offer your body as instruments of wickedness. Obey Him as slaves and be slaves to righteousness. Be set free from sin leading to holiness. In this way we may tremble in grace and worship God in the splendor of His holiness and rejoice that God reigns and proclaim God's salvation to the nations. Both David and Paul suffered for long and their old self died completely. They experienced the sanctification and led men in holiness to serve the Lord, to praise God and proclaim the salvation which they experienced.

2.【Be on duty everyday】37-43 David left Asaph and his associates before the ark of the covenant to minister there regularly, according to each day's requirement. He also left Obed-Edom and his associates as gatekeepers. He appointed Zadok the priest and his fellow priests to present burnt offerings regularly, morning and evening, in accordance with everything written in the Law of the Lord.

※【Be holy and reap fruit】20-23 Before we were slaves to sin. Now we find the things as shameful. Those things result in death. Now we are set free from sin due to Christ, we reap the benefit to holiness so we may minister before God day after day to offer spiritual sacrifices pleasing to God. (1 Pe 2:5; Heb 13:15-16) We too have a good result of eternal life. Paul was like the gatekeeper who was watchful for the church and he encouraged others by his experience of sanctification.

**Ps 134 / Rev 18:2 Main theme: Stand firm in truth, warn with a mighty voice and God will bless**

**-Lift up the hand / A mighty voice**

(1)【Minister by night in the house of the Lord faithfully】1 Old Eli slept in the night. Samson, Saul and Balaam got drunk in the night. Do not be a wicked and lazy servant. We ought to be the Lord's faithful servant and learn from Moses to be faithful in all God's house.

(2)【Pray watchfully and proclaim the Word with a mighty voice】2 Lift up our hands and pray watchfully, then we will overcome. When we lower our hands, the enemy will overcome. (Exo 17:11) Be watchful over yourself and all the flock. This is the Lord's desire and the need of the age. (Eze 22:30)

(3)【Then we will receive blessings from the Almighty God】3 Those who are watchful for the Lord and faithful to Him will receive help, rich reward and blessings from God.

**Central point of the wheels: Pray watchfully and be holy, destroy sin and praise**

Dear Lord, I am willing to die and to live with You and not be a slave to sin again, that I may be holy by You and serve watchfully to triumph with praise!

**1 Ch 17 / Ro 7**

**Main theme: Grab the promise, plead boldly, and escape from sin to be blessed by the Lord**

**-Grab the grace / Escape from sin**

Golden verses: 1 Ch 17:7 Ro 7:18

A discussion on grabbing the grace and escaping from sin - on one side it concerned David humbly obeyed God's will and did not build the temple by his own intention. He boldly pleaded God to strengthen His promisethrough Nathan the prophet. On the other side it concerned the laws of good and evil contended. It is in vain to struggle by ourselves. We will end with failure and misery. Only through Christ may we be rescued from this body of death, so that we can serve the Lord no longer by the old way of the written code but according to the new way of the Spirit and work under God's will.

**A. Not by one's intention, know your sin and be contrite, and serve the Lord in the Spirit**

By one's intention (1 Ch 17:1-15) - According to the Holy Spirit (Ro 7:1-14)

1.【Not by one's intention but obey the will to build the temple】1-6 David lived in his palace. When he thought of God's ark was still under the tent, he intended to build a temple for God. He loved God and God's ark. He had in mind of God's matters! Nathan the prophet did not inquire of God and casually agreed. But God had His own will and plan. God was pleased with his heart but would not let him build the temple. That night the word of God came to Nathan. This teaches us we should not act by our own will but to learn from our Lord only to do by the will of the Father when He was on earth.

※【Serve according to the new way of the Spirit】1-6 Paul only had the mind of Christ. He deeply understood the mystery of the gospel. Thus he taught us that not only we could not be justified by the law, nor could we gain God's delight by the law. Through the death of Christ, we also die to the law. Then we are released from the law and we may serve Him not in the old way of the written code but in the new way of the Spirit. The motive of David was good, but he wanted to build the temple by his own intention. Nathan originally replied David by men's idea. But that night he was instructed by God, so he replied according to the words revealed to him. We must die to our 'own intention', then we may serve the Lord in the new way of the Spirit.

2.【Promise to destroy the enemies】7-15 God revealed His heart to David through Nathan. He did not only accepted David's love for God, He also promised to cut off all his enemies. He would build a house for him so his offspring might succeed him to be king and build a temple for God. God would set him over His house and His kingdom forever. Nathan told all this to David.

※【Know the sin and be contrite】7-14 Through the law we become conscious of sin. (Ro 3:20) The law itself is holy, righteous and good. But sin through the law and the commandment produced every kind of evil in men to instigate men and make men die. This shows that sin is utterly sinful! We are unspiritual and sold as a slave to sin. So we need the light of God's law to shine on us that we may know we are sinful and hate sin. We also need faith to receive God's promise to remove our sins so we may serve the Living God. Both Paul and Nathan were faithful to declare God's revelation and truth according to His vision.

**B. Escape from sin by the Lord and plead for blessing boldly**

Plead for blessing (1 Ch 17:16-27) - Escape from sin (Ro 7:15-25)

1.【Give thanks and praise God】16-22 David heard God's words revealed by the prophet and was grateful in his heart. He sat before God and praised God gratefully, 'Who am I and what is my family, that You have brought me this far?' David humbled before God like a naive child. He counted God's grace, honor and promise and thought he was unworthy of it. Thus he praised God was beyond comparison. He performed great and awesome wonders. He saved the Israelites to be His people.

※【Experience the suffering of contention】15-23 Paul straightly declared his wretchedness with the two law of evil and good waging war against each other to make him do what he did not want to do. "I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out." Further it made him a prisoner of the law of sin at work within his members. David also experienced the same struggle of the spirit and the lust. Then he was able to give thanks and praise God. After we have gone through these wars, we know that nothing good live in our sinful nature. We will certainly fail by ourselves. We can overcome the sinful nature only by the Holy Spirit and by grace to be sanctified to give thanks and praise to glorify God. (Gal 5:16-17)

2.【Plead for blessing boldly】23-27 David valued God's revelation and promise. So he was bold to grab the grace before God to establish His words to be done as He promised to bless him and his house.

※【Escape from sin by grace】24-25 The personal experience of Paul, "What a wretched man I am. Who will rescue me from this body of death?" Thank God, he was able to be released by Christ and His cross. We too, have to go through the war between the spirit and the lust and gain the sanctification experience. We ought to learn from David and Paul to plead boldly for God's promise of salvation by faith to realize in our life so we and our family may be sanctified and be blessed forever! How God released David from all his enemies, He too will save us from the sting of death and the power of evil. Thank God, His promise is forever faithful!

**Ps 135 / Rev 18:3 Main theme: Be led astray and fall; give thanks and pray watchfully, overcome the enemy and gain the land**

-**Pray watchfully / Fall**

Those who unite with the world like Solomon, Saul, Samson and Balaam will have a falling ending.

(1)【Those who believe and follow the Lord's name will minister in Him】1-4 Call on the name of the Lord and we will be saved. The Lord's name is the Word of God. (Rev 19:13) The Lord's Word cleanses those who believe Him so we may be sanctified to be God's servant to stand firm in the truth and be watchful for the whole house of God. This is the chosen people of God.

(2)【God works great deeds for those who believe and follow Him】5-14 He will remove all the inner and outer strong enemies for them so they may gain the land as their inheritance. God's words are forever established and His name endures forever. God's people had been led astray and failed, but after God's discipline, He still has compassion for them and vindicate His people.

(3)【To worship idols will become a living dead man】15-18 Idols are wrapped by gold and silver. They shine and tempt men. If we do not pray watchfully, we will be led astray resulting hearts become calloused. We can hardly hear with our ears and our eyes are closed. We have a mouth but we cannot pray, not to speak of God's words. We become a living dead person and can only harm ourselves and others.

(4)【Ought to praise God when favored】19-21 God's children fell in the desert due to sin and violation. But those who fear the Lord and shun from evil and obey Him to the end by the Lord will always be in the Lord's grace. Thus we ought to praise the Lord's name.

**Central point of the wheels: Do not be led astray, escape from sin by the Lord and praise God's will**

Dear Lord, may You save me from the bondage of the law and my idea but obey your will only so I may pray for the promised blessings and praise your name.

**1 Ch 18 / Ro 8**

**Main theme: Attack and defend against the enemies by the Spirit and love the Lord as strong as death**

**-Triumph / Boast of the victory**

Golden verses: 1 Ch 18: 11 Ro 8:35, 37

A discussion on triumph and boasting of the victory - on one side it concerned David overcame the Philistines, the Moabites, and the Arameans and also put garrisons in the land of the Arameans and Edomites. He was always on the alert to guard. He also set the plunder apart and sacrifice them to God. On the other side Paul taught us to overcome the flesh by the Holy Spirit to be the Lord's fighting warrior so we might love Him with a firm heart and be more than conquerors to praise and boast of the victory. The triumph of David represented the triumph of Christ. All our victory is in the victory of Christ and the Holy Spirit.

**A. Put the body to death by the Spirit to overcome and guard against the enemies**

Overcome the external enemies(1 Ch 18:1-6) - Destroy the internal enemies (Ro 8:1-13)

1.【Subdue the enemies by God】1-4 All the regions of the Philistines were originally in the inheritance promised by God. (Jos 13:1-2) All the while the Israelites did not have the faith to destroy the enemy to gain the land according to God's promise. As such the Philistines had long been their obstacle. David trusted in God and overcame them many times. This time he defeated them and took Gath their capital and its surrounding villages. David also defeated the Moabites. Hadadezer king of Zobah wanted to establish his control. David attacked them and captured their chariots and charioteers. He hamstrung the chariot horses and destroyed the fighting power of the enemy forever.

※【Be set free by the Holy Spirit】1-6 Our sinful nature is a great enemy so we are bound and not free. Only by the law of the Spirit to save us from the law of sin and death so we may be free in Christ just like David defeated all his enemies by God. God sent His own Son to be a sin offering in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us. Only if we will live according to the Spirit, set our minds on what the Spirit desires and grab back God's promised inheritance by faith without living according to the sinful nature or set our minds on the sinful nature, we will have life and peace. The king of Zobah whose name was Hadadezer, (Hadad is his help) relied on Hadad's (idol) help and finally failed. We trust in the help of the Holy Spirit and will be ever victorious like David.

2.【Overcome and guard against the enemies by God】5-6 David also defeated the Arameans who came to help the king of Zobah. He struck down twenty two thousand of them. He did not only overcame the enemy by God, he also put garrisons in the Aramean kingdom to keep watch and guard against them all the time so the Arameans became subject to him. The Lord gave David victory everywhere he went.

※【Put the body to death by the Spirit】7-13 The sinful nature and the Spirit are in conflict with each other. (Gal 5:16-17) The former makes us hostile to God and does not submit to God's law. Therefore we have to not only set our mind on what the Spirit desires, we also have to let God's Spirit fill us and to possess us so we will not belong to the sinful nature in our all actions but belong to the Holy Spirit. David overcame the enemies and guarded against them by God. He was ever victorious. We too ought to put the sinful nature to death by the Holy Spirit to pray watchfully, to keep the Lord's Word, to guard our heart against the enemy any time lest we may be broken through to be obligated as slaves to live according to the sinful nature. (1 Pe 5:8-9; Jude 1:20-21)

**B. Give thanks and offer, be more than conquerors, and righteousness be firmly established**

Overcome (1 Ch 18:7-17) - Boast of the victory (Ro 8:14-39)

1.【Give thanks and offer】7-11 David loved God more than anything. He dedicated all the articles of gold and silver and bronze that he won to the Lord. He ascribed all the glory and thanks to God. He loved God and God's temple. So he took all that he won from the battles and dedicated them for the building of the temple to give thanks and repay God's kindness. (1 Ch 22:13-15; 29:3-5) Tou king of Hamath had always been at war with Hadadezer. When he heard that his adversary was defeated by David, he sent his son to greet David and congratulate him. He also sent him all kinds of articles of gold and silver and bronze. Through long period of refinement in suffering and wars, David grew in faith, love and hope like the precious articles of gold, silver and bronze. He was grateful and dedicated them to God.

※【Share in the sufferings and share in the glory】14-25 We are led by the Holy Spirit to become the sons of God and co-heirs with Christ. How blessed it is to enjoy the future glorious hope! Therefore we ought to be like David to give thanks and offer willingly to God and also be willing to suffer with the Lord. We also have to wait patiently in faith, love and hope for the redemption of our bodies, and be liberated from its bondage to decay, and to enjoy the glorious freedom of the children of God. We too will gain the glory with the Lord just like David. For the present benefit, the king of Hamath was grateful to David. We too ought to be more grateful and repay the kindness for being released forever from the frustration and groan promised by God.

2.【Be invincible】12-13 Edom was the offspring of Esau. He was irreligious and adulterous. He was hated by God and an enemy of God's children. (Heb 12:15-17) Abishai boldly struck down eighteen thousand Edomites. His victory was under the guidance of David's victory. David also put garrisons in Edom to pray watchfully and guard against the enemy. He would not compromise with the sinful nature and secular as friends. They became subject to David. He was God's anointed one and wherever he went, God made him invincible.

※【The help of the Holy Spirit】26-30 Our sinful nature is weak and godless just like Edom. There is nothing good in us. Only by the help of the Holy Spirit and praying in the Holy Spirit just like Abishai was under the guidance of David, we may overcome. The Holy Spirit pray for us according to the will of God so we may overcome and guard against the enemy to be protected forever without being overcome by our weakness. David loved God, so God made everything work for the good of it and let him be invincible. We ought to learn from David to love God all our live and to learn from the model of the Son of God to pursue truth, righteousness and holiness so those who are called and justified will overcome and gain glory.

3.【By righteous and faithful to the end】14-17 David reigned by doing justice to his people. All his officials were being tested for long to do just and right. They were faithful in their duty just like Zadok, Jehoshaphat and Benaiah. The Kerethites and Pelethites followed David firmly from the beginning to the end. They were faithful till the end and had a share in the glorious kingdom of Solomon. (1 Ki 1:38-40; 4:3-4) Only Joab was arrogant and domineering. He was jealous and homicide. In his old age he committed treason and his result was tragic. David's sons were chief officials at the king's side. But they were also invited by Adonijah and participated in the treason without being faithful to the end.

※【God's love is more than conquerors】31-39 Paul was the apostle of Christ, a victorious warrior because he 'beat his body to make it his slave'. Everyday he died to sin and lived to God. He personally experienced the salvation that Christ rose from the dead. Therefore no matter it was trouble or hardship or persecution or danger, they could not separate him from the love of Christ. Those officials and warriors who followed David to the end were also faithful to love David. They had a common destiny with David without turning their coat. Only Joab loved himself and his power and status. As a result he became a scum and received his deserved ending. Though the sons of David were chief officials, they were not faithful till the end. We ought to be like the warriors of David and Paul who were righteous and holy to follow till the end and to love the Lord above everything. Then we will be more than conquerors in everything and glory in His praise. (Ps 106:47)

**Ps 136 / Rev 18:4 Main theme: By the everlasting love and almighty of God, abstain from the world and overcome to take possession of the land**

**-Everlasting love / Take possession of the land**

We ought to hear the voice from heaven. God's children should come out from the worldly power which is filled with the cravings of sinful man, the lust of the eyes and the boasting of what we have, lest we will be afflicted by sin. But we may come out only by trusting in the Lord.

(1)【Hear completely from the Lord and seek goodness for God is Almighty】1-20 Be favored due to faith. We ought to give thanks for God's enduring love. Believe in the Lord's words and seek good zealously. Love the Lord wholeheartedly and you will see the almighty of God. He created everything and turned something from nothing. He made the great lights. If we believe in the Lord's words and are willing to consecrate ourselves, we will become precious instrument used by God. Believe in God and we may walk through the Red Sea which could not be walked through. God will make the terrific enemies surrender and destroy them.

(2)【Be humble to obey the Word, take possession of the land and benefit men】21-26 If we truly obey the Lord's Word, we are truly the people of God. Then we will gain the land as our possession. If we will humble and tremble at the Lord's words till the end, God will protect us and keep us. He will send us out to save the thirsty souls of all the world. We ought to give thanks to the Lord who gives us help from heaven so we may glorify God and benefit men.

**Central point of the wheels: Turn from evil and seek goodness, overcome by the Spirit and proclaim God's everlasting love**

Dear Lord, may You let me turn from all evil and do good by your Spirit and share in your sufferings and in your glory to overcome and take possession of the land.

**1 Ch 19 / Ro 9**

**Main theme: Do not be self-righteous and go against God, be humble and trust in the Lord's words will receive the promise**

**-Reject the grace / Be ungrateful (be stubborn/disbelieve)**

Golden verses: 1 Ch 19:12-13 Ro 9:16

A discussion on rejecting the grace and being ungrateful - on one side it concerned Hanun, the Ammonite king believed in the words of his officials and rejected the consolation sent by the envoys of David. Instead he repaid good with evil and requited kindness with enmity. Finally they were subdued by the valiant troops of David. On the other side it concerned the stubbornness and unbelief of the Israelites. They rejected salvation and thus it was brought to the Gentiles so that whoever believed in Him would be justified. We ought to imitate Paul who loved his kindred deeply. He willingly denied himself to suffer the disgrace took by Christ and brought His love to all who disbelieved. We ought to understand the sovereignty of God and even His mind to let the Jews and the Gentiles gain the blessing of eternity.

A. Consider God's love, willing to bear the disgrace and the will of God will be accomplished

Reject the grace (1 Ch 19:1-9) - Be ungrateful (Ro 9:1-15)

1.【Comfort the delegation】1-2 David reigned full of God's mind. He sent a delegation to Hanun to express his sympathy on his father's death. He wanted to show kindness to him as his father had shown to David. A delegation was sent to the land of Ammon to see Hanun to comfort him.

※【The ambassador of the gospel】1-3 Paul was appointed a herald for the gospel just like a delegate of comfort so he might share in the blessings of the gospel. Though he was an apostle of the Gentiles, he did not forget to preach the gospel to the Israelites. For the sake of the people of Israel, he was even willing to be cursed and cut off from Christ. The mind of Paul reflected the mind of God, 'not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.' (2 Pe 3:9) Therefore he had great sorrow and unceasing anguish for the unbelief of the chosen people as confirmed by the Holy Spirit. David was full of compassion not forgetting the kindness Nahash king of Ammon had shown him. He also revealed the love of God.

2.【Repay good with evil】3-5 Hanun heard the instigation of the nobles and thought David's men came to explore and spy out the country and overthrow. So he insulted David's men and shaved them, cut off their garments and sent them away, such that they felt greatly humiliated. When David heard this, he sent messengers to meet them, comforted them and showed consideration for them. He let them stay at Jericho till their beards had grown and then come back.

※【Reject salvation】4-8 The Israelites freely enjoyed the adoption as sons, the divine glory, the covenants and the law, the temple worship and the promises and even the human ancestry of Christ. (Jn 4:22) But they were ungrateful, obstinate and unbelieving. They rejected salvation and were self-righteous. They did not understand Christ is over all and forever praised. The king of Ammon also did not know David. He rejected his comfort. He repaid kindness with evil and abused God's grace. God's words never fail. It is not the natural children who are God's children. (Jn 1:13) Only those born from Isaac might be the promised children of God. Though Paul had been enduring the unceasing persecution and insult from the chosen people, he was willing to suffer. He took suffering as glory and gained the comfort of God just like the abused delegates had the full comfort from David.

3.【Victory or defeat is in God】6-9 The Ammonites rejected the rich grace of David and even became an adversary of David. They thus recruited and united the kings of Aram together to go to battle. The Ammonites were extremely arrogant. They wantonly and stubbornly resisted and were against God. But victory rests with the Lord. (Pro 21:30-31) David sent Joab out with the entire army of fighting men to battle.

※【The will of God will be accomplished】9-15 God's promise and the will of His choice on men will be accomplished and not of human behavior. God's promise of Isaac would be born when the time came and no one could hinder or destroy. Therefore, do not be afraid of the united struggle of the enemies, only be brave to attack them. Victory and failure depends on God and not on the great number of chariots and horses. (Ps 20:7) Jacob was loved by God but Esau was hated by God. (Mal 1:2-3) Similarly, David was loved by God and Ammon was hated by God. God will have mercy on whom He has mercy, and He will have compassion on whom He has compassion.

B. Destroy the enemy completely and lead men to be justified by faith

Be stubborn (1 Ch 19:10-19) - Disbelieve (Ro 9:16-33)

1.【Be bold to fight】10-15 Joab selected some of the best troops and formed his battle line against the Arameans. The rest of the troops he gave to his brother Abishai who formed his battle line against the Ammonites. They supported each other for God's will and their people. They were strong and fought bravely for the people. As a result the enemies fled before them. The enemies united to contend. God's people should even fight alongside.

※【Expound the truth】16-29 Paul was called to be assigned as the fighting man of Christ to expound salvation and the truth. He stressed that the Most High God has the sovereignty! It does not depend on man's desire or effort, but on God's mercy. On one side the fighting warriors have to submit to God's power and on the other side they have to help one another. Then they will overcome by the merciful God. God gave Pharaoh over to his stubbornness and He gave the Ammonites and Arameans over to resist stubbornly. The purpose was to manifest the power of God. Therefore whether the Jews or the Gentiles who reject God, they become the objects of destruction. If they receive the salvation, they will become His loved one and objects of glory. God endures and tolerates to wait for men's repentance! And even the stubborn Jews, God will keep the remnant. We are a lump of clay and God is the potter. How can we talk back to God? We ought to tolerate the sinners with love and also be strong to make men surrender their heart to be the Lord's fighting warrior!

2.【Punished for stubbornness】15-19 Joab saw the enemies flee and thought he had a great victory. He hastily withdrew the army and returned to Jerusalem quickly. The Arameans were unwilling to fail. Once again they deployed forces and prepared to go to battle. David led his troops and crossed the Jordan and exterminated the enemies. He killed their commander. The Arameans were stubborn and punished. They were forced to surrender.

※【Fall for disbelieving】30-33 The Israelites were stubborn and unbelieving just like the Ammonites and Arameans were self-righteous and arrogant. They only pursued a law of righteousness and not by faith. They had not attained it. The Gentiles , who did not pursue righteousness, have obtained it. The Israelites did not believe and stumbled over the 'stumbling stone' . The Arameans were stubborn and resisting. They were also punished. Only those who trust in God will not be put to shame. David trusted God and destroyed the enemies completely. He saw the full glory of God. Paul fought for the truth to the end. He led men gain righteousness by faith and not be destroyed. Joab hastily withdrew the army and could not save the people from the enemies. Though David overcame the Arameans, he did not continue to attack and guard against the enemies. Thus he was complacent and sinned. Only Paul beat his body and kept the Word watchfully. He was guarded till the end.

**Ps 137 / Rev 18:5 Main theme: Blessed is he who loves the Lord above everything and hates sin to the utmost**

**-Love the most / Hate fully**

Do not think that God does not mind that we are guilty of monstrous crimes and full of unrighteousness, and we may still enjoy luxurious pleasures. This is God's tolerance. Where can you stand on the date of His recovery?

(1)【Worry what God worries】1-4 It is not to kneel down to drink by the rivers of Babylon but to remember the holy mount. When we are taken captive, how can we sing and have fun?

(2)【Love the Lord above everything】5-6 God's mind wanted to send salvation to all the nations through Jerusalem. We ought to learn from Daniel to focus on God's plan all the time and plead for the holy city three times a day. Do not stop even if you may be thrown into the lion's den. This is truly to love God above everything.

(3)【Hate sin to the utmost】7-9 That is to hate your enemy to the utmost. This is because the enemy kills God's people through sins. Therefore, do not fix your eyes or be afraid of the prosperous power of Babylon. Her end will come soon. Edom who stood beside the enemy will also receive his retribution. We must be thorough to remove evil. Do not have compassion on their infants but to dash them on the ground to death. Just like Peter who showed affection to the Lord to urge Him not to take the suffering of the cross. The Lord rebuked him publicly 'Get behind me, Satan!' The Lord said again that an adulterous or evil thought will drag us to the hell. Therefore we must have a determination to die to remove unrighteousness by the Lord.

**Central point of the wheels: Love God and hate sin, destroy the enemy and save men**

Dear Lord, may You let me be willing to bear the cross and be your fighting warrior to defeat evil resolutely and restore men's heart to You.

**1 Ch 20 / Ro 10**

**Main theme: Trust in God and overcome the enemies, attack and subdue men's heart and proclaim the salvation extensively**

**-Attack the enemies / Save men**

Golden verses: 1 Ch 20:2 Ro 10:14-15

A discussion on attacking the enemy and saving men - on one side it concerned David and his warriors completely overcame the Ammonites and defeated the Philistines thrice. Three huge men of the Philistines were killed by David and his servants. On the other side it concerned the Israelites did not understand the end of the law was Christ, that there might be righteousness for everyone who believed. Whoever calls on the Lord's name will be saved. Therefore we must attack and overcome the inner and outer enemies, exalt Christ and proclaim His salvation extensively.

A. Attack and overcome the stubborn enemies and believe in God will gain righteousness

Failure (1 Ch 20:1-3) - Victory (Ro 10:1-8)

1.【Covet complacency and fail】1 When kings went to war, David sent Joab to lead the army to attack the Ammonites and besiege Rabbah (great). But he was complacent and stayed in his palace. Nor was he watchful for the front. Thus he indulged and sinned. (2 Sa) He violated against God greatly.

※【Pray what God prays and triumph】1 Paul suffered all his life to be faithful. He fought watchfully and besieged the strong walls of men's heart. David coveted for complacency and did not go to battle. Nor did he deal with his inner Rabbah. As a result he sinned and failed. Paul had no desire for himself. His desire was the Israelites be saved. He was full of God's heart and could overcome the inner and outer enemies.

2.【After being contrite, attack and overcome the stubborn enemy】1-3 Rabbah the Ammonite city was taken by David personally after he had repented from his sin. This Rabbah represented the stubborn enemy (the flesh) inside David and required thorough repentance to beat his body. Then he might overcome the stubborn enemy and seize the golden crown of the Ammonite king and lots of plunder and forced the enemy as slave.

※【After being contrite, do not establish our own righteousness】2-8 Paul besieged the Israelites' inner Rabbah. They sought to establish their own righteousness and did not submit to God's righteousness. Though they had the zeal for God, their zeal was not based on knowledge. They failed in the righteousness of the law. Christ is the end of the law. Only by believing in Christ, there may be righteousness. As David was contrite, he was able to defeat the stubborn enemy. The Israelites must be contrite and look on the one they have pierced, then Christ will be in their heart and mouth without establishing their own righteousness.

B. Be courageous to overcome the strong enemies and gospel is spread throughout the world

Overcome the enemies (1 Ch 20:4-8) - Proclaim universally (Ro 10:9-21)

1.【Be courageous to subdue the strong enemies】4-5 The Israelites fought with the Philistines. Sibbecai the fighting warrior of David attacked the enemy courageously. He killed the son of Anak and subdued the Philistines. There was also Elhanan (whom God favors) who fought with the Philistines. He bravely killed the strong enemy who was the brother of Goliath, a Gittite. This man was the same as Goliath the opponent of David who had a spear with a shaft like a weaver's rod. He also had no way to save himself from the hands of the warrior of David.

※【Lead men to turn to Christ】9-21 If we confess with our mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in our heart that God raised Him from the dead, we will be saved. The Lord's Word is in our heart and in our mouth. Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. On one side we ought to be like the warriors of David to be courageous to subdue the strong enemy and to make men surrender their heart. On the other side we have to be like Paul to lead men to Christ. The Philistines represented the unbelief of men's heart and the power against God. We must use the spiritual power to destroy and subdue. (2 Co 10:3-5)

2.【Defeat the enemies for thrice】4-8 The Philistines had attacked the Israelites for the third time. A son of Anak with twenty four fingers and toes in all taunted the Israelites. He was also killed by the warriors of David. These three sons of Anak were killed by David and his servants. We too ought to put the three big enemies, our flesh, our world and the devil to death and triumph by the cross! (Col 2:15)

※【Proclaim the gospel universally】9-21 Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is from preaching. "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" May God raise heavenly warriors to beat their bodies and overcome the three worldly enemies (1 Jn2:16), to attack crime courageously and destroy Satan's anti- God power, and to preach the gospel extensively to the ends of the earth. We too have to consider the mind of God to seek the disobedient and obstinate people. May they be strong as the Anakites, we will not be afraid. They will be subdued by God's love. We as heavenly warriors, ought to obey in humility and be filled with God's heart to lead back the rebellious sinners to Christ!

**Ps 138 / Rev 18:6 Main theme: Sin brings double retribution; pray watchfully and obey the Word, and blessings exceed the promise**

**-Double reward / Double punishment**

The great prostitute led astray all the people of the world. She was drunk with the blood of the saints and would receive double portion of the punishment timely.

(1)【Your name and your word exalt above all things】1-2 Those who keep the Lord's words, God will treat them with love and faithfulness and even more than what the Lord promised. Were not Joseph and Job gained more than they thought?

(2)【Call humbly and be stouthearted to obey the Word】3-6 If we call humbly, God will make us bold and stouthearted to obey His Word to glorify God and benefit men. But if we do not seek God or overcome evil by the Lord like Esau and Samson, we are arrogant people. We will end with failure and shame.

(3)【The Lord will save me and protect me】7-8 If we obey the Word by the Lord, though we are in distress, the Lord will save us and fulfill His purpose for me. I will lift up my hope for the Lord's mercy and accomplish His work in trembling. May the Lord do not abandon me so I may be favored, loved and protected.

**Central point of the wheels: Subdue one's heart, attack and overcome the stubborn enemies and proclaim His salvation extensively**

Dear Lord, may You let me attack and overcome all my inner and outer stubborn enemies and to consider your mind to seek the sinners to restore them under your name.

**1 Ch 21 / Ro 11**

**Main theme: Be arrogant in grace will be punished; tremble to obey the Word will be shown mercy**

**-Do not be arrogant / Ought to tremble**

Golden verses: 1 Ch 21:8 Ro 11:25-26

A discussion on do not be arrogant and ought to tremble - on one side it concerned David was arrogant and boastful. He ordered to number his people. Thereafter he prayed to God to confess and was shown mercy. Then he obeyed to build an altar to offer and repented for himself and his people by grace. Thus he was instructed with the ordained place to build the temple. On the other side it concerned Paul expounded the salvation plan of God who did not forsake His people. The Gentiles were favored as the Israelites rejected His salvation. Thus we cannot be arrogant, instead we should tremble. Further we ought to consider God's mind to accomplish the mission to save men and assist in the salvation plan of God's mystery. The threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite was Mount Moriah where Abraham sacrificed Isaac which also became the foundation of the holy temple. This was where God's Lamb was slain and sacrificed. (2 Ch 3:1; Gen 22:1-2)

**A. Tremble in grace and do not be arrogant**

Remorse (1 Ch 21:1-19) - Be stubborn (Ro 11:1-22)

1.【Be arrogant and glorify oneself will fall】1-2 Satan attacked the Israelites because in the various treason, they forsook David and followed the rebellious trend. (2 Sa 15-20) There was also a breach in David's heart. His old self had not died completely and he still longed for vanity and felt complacent. As such he was incited by Satan to order to number his people. He sat at God's position and stole His glory.

※【Be boastful and accuse will fail】1-4 Paul the apostle kept the Word humbly. He was inspired by God's love and saw God's intention on the chosen people. He was certain God did not abandon His people. When Elijah won on the top of Mount Carmel, he also had a gap in his heart. He was arrogant and condemned God's people that only he himself was zealous for God. In fact God had reserved for Himself seven thousand who had not bowed the knee to Baal. David numbered the people and gave them to himself. He was also arrogant and thought himself was terrific like Elijah made himself outstanding. He violated God's intention and could not stop to boast of himself and failed.

2.【Sin and be remorseful】3-8 The Israelites were the property of God and He promised them to be like the sand. But David did not listen to the prevention of Joab. He insisted to number them. Thus God was displeased and punished the people. But afterwards he was remorseful and he prayed to God and acknowledged 'I have sinned greatly by doing this.... I have done a very foolish thing.'

※【Hardened】5-10 Only a remnant of Israel was chosen to have a share in salvation. The others were hardened. God allowed their hearts to be calloused and deluded without understanding. As such they received their deserved retribution. David was arrogant and numbered the people. God was displeased and punished the people, showing His righteousness. But he was willing to be contrite and remorseful. God's grace came to him again. We too ought to repent humbly lest we become hardened.

3.【Take lesson humbly and plead for grace】9-19 David sinned for numbering the people. Though he confessed to God, he had to bear the punishment. Gad the prophet was ordered to let David take a choice. Thus the land had three days of plague. When the angel of God was ravaging the city, God was grieved and stopped the angel, showing God is abounding in compassion. He kept His covenant of love with Abraham and his descendants. Then David and the elders grieved and clothed in sackcloth and fell facedown to confess to God humbly. They interceded for the flock and were instructed to build an altar to offer on the threshing floor of Araunah. Then David went up in obedience.

※【Humble and tremble in grace】11-22 The Jews rejected salvation just like the branch was broken down. The Gentiles were unworthy of the grace like the wild olive was ingrafted to gain the juice from the olive root. This was to arouse the chosen people to envy so they might be accepted due to God's abundant compassion like rising from the dead. We Gentiles received the grace freely should not boast. Nor should we be proud; instead we should tremble. David took the lesson humbly and was instructed by God to build an altar to atone for his sin at the destined place. Therefore we ought to tremble in fear in God's grace all the time lest we may fall. David was proud and sinned. God was strict with him. When he humbled to take the lesson, God was gracious to him. Gad and Paul were faithful to declare and they respected their duty.

**B. Redeem by grace, pay the full price and is shown mercy by God**

By redemption (1 Ch 21:20-31) - Is shown mercy (Ro 11:23-36)

1.【Pay the full price to redeem for the people】20-25 Araunah was originally a Jebusite, unworthy of grace. When he saw David came, he humbled and bowed down before David. He was willing to offer his threshing floor and the threshing sledges. David was unwilling to take the free gift as offering. He preferred to pay for the full price and thus became the place of the temple. (2 Ch 3:1)

※【The Savior redeemed us and all people are saved】23-29 If the chosen people did not persist in unbelief, they would be grafted into the tree. Though they were hardened in part, when the full number of the Gentiles has come in, all Israel will look to the Savior they had pierced and be saved. (Zec 12:10-13:1) God's mystery will be accomplished. David paid the full price to atone for the sins of the people. Christ paid the price of His life to redeem us. God's gifts and His call are irrevocable. Though the whole house of Araunah and we Gentiles were unworthy, we have a share in God's grace and nothing to boast!

2.【Build an altar and is granted】26-31 David built an altar to the Lord and sacrificed offerings to redeem the sins of himself and the people. God answered him with fire from heaven on the altar. Thus God was no longer angry and ordered the angel to put back his sword into its sheath. David was awakened in the spirit. He would not inquire of God in Gibeon but sacrificed at the place where God instructed him. Thereafter it became the place of the temple. The foundation of the church is Christ and His cross. There is no other foundation. (1 Co 3:11)

※【Praise the perfection of God's will】30-36 The Jews and the Gentiles were disobedient, but they were shown mercy by God just like David was shown mercy when he sacrificed to God. God's anger stopped and He ordered the angel to put back the sword into its sheath. David was also instructed to sacrifice at the placed destined by God which was also the place where the Lamb of God was slain. He was to get ready to build the temple. Paul was revealed by God to understand the mystery of the gospel deeply so the Jews and the Gentiles might receive salvation together. (Eph 3:3-8) How deep is God's abundant wisdom and knowledge! We ought to learn from Paul to pay the full price to accomplish the gospel mission at an early date and ascribe the glory to our Almighty God!

**Ps 139 / Rev 18:7 Main theme: To honor oneself and be self-deceiving will be destroyed; to judge oneself and consecrate will live forever**

**-Consecrate / Be self-deceiving**

The prostitute glorified herself and was self-deceiving, thus her ending was doomed to destruction. We ought to consecrate completely and walk an everlasting life.

(1)【God discerns and is familiar with me】1-6 God is all knowing. Thus we ought to live before God in all our action and words. God's unsearchable love and eyes will fix on His children.

(2)【I have no place to flee from God】7-12 God is everywhere. Even if we escape to the heaven, or hide in the depths, or fly to the ends of the earth or hide in the darkness, we cannot hide from God's hands.

(3)【I am fearfully and wonderfully made】13-18 God is Almighty. If we humble to be contrite before the Lord's words, we will be edified to be an instrument fit for His use to be one who loves God and understands how wide and long and high and deep is His love. At the end Job understood the intention why God allowed him to suffer. How precious it was!

(4)【Hate evil】19-22 The result of the wicked is to be cut off. They speak with evil intent and misuse God's name. They misinterpret the Lord's words and lead others to the wrong path. We ought to hate the enemies of God.

(5)【Purify the inner filth and walk an everlasting way】23-24 Men look at the outside, but God sees the heart. May God search and test me and remove all my offensive ways so I may be in God's grace persistently and lead me in the way everlasting.

**Central point of the wheels: May God search, be contrite deeply to understand God's will and proclaim His mystery**

Dear Lord, may You let me be in grace to humble and tremble forever to proclaim the gospel extensively and accomplish your plan of mystery.

**1 Ch 22 / Ro 12**

**Main theme: Make every effort to prepare, be holy and united, and build the temple in one heart**

**-Prepare / Sacrifice**

Golden verses: 1 Ch 22:18Rro 12:1-2

A discussion on preparation and sacrifice - on one side it concerned David prepared the materials with all his heart and strength to build God's temple. He ordered Solomon to be strong and courageous to observe God's laws and build a temple for God's name. Then God would be with him. On the other side it concerned Paul urged the saints to sacrifice completely, so each member belonged to all the others, to care for one another and form the body of Christ. All saints ought to imitate David and Paul in distress and be established in faith, hope and love. We may then undergo refinement to rejoice and endure by the Lord, to overcome evil with good and be abundant in life and thus become precious material to build the temple.

**A. Sacrifice completely, prepare with every effort and everyone be dutiful**

Order to build the temple (1 Ch 22:1-9) - All be dutiful (Ro 12:1-10)

1.【Prepare a lot for God's temple】1-3 David loved God's temple. He offered and prepared everything for the temple. He appointed the foreign stonecutters to prepare dressed stone and provided a large amount of bronze, iron and a large number of cedar logs.

※【Sacrifice everything and be fit for God's use】1-2 Paul was also full of God's love like David. He urged the brothers with God's mercy to offer all of themselves with a spirit to die and live for the Lord (1 Co 15:30-31) to be holy and be materials pleasing to God. (Ro 14:7-8; Php 1:21) Paul as an apostle for the Gentiles was like a stonecutter. He used the Lord's words to edify the church so they might set apart to be holy to become living stones being built into a spiritual house. (1 Pe 2:4-5) Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind to test and approve the pleasing will of God. This is like the well prepared materials which are bitterly dealt with and refined to be fit for the Lord's use. If we follow the world and are unwilling and not diligent to enter the narrow gate, then even a nail will not be fit for use.

2.【Proclaim God's name and glorify Him】4 As Solomon was still young, David prepared a lot of materials for God's temple. The house to be built had to be of great magnificence and fame and splendor in the sight of all the nations. The church which was built to be a spiritual house was meant for proclaiming God's glory and praises till the ends of the earth. (1 Pe 2:9)

※【Love one another will glorify God】3-5 The church is the house of God. Through the love in the members' life, it exhibits God's beauty. The church is the body of Christ and each of us will be a member. Thus we should not think of ourselves more highly than we ought. The function of each member is different and each member belongs to all the others matching with one another, then we have a good witness to become a dwelling in which God lives by His Spirit. (1 Co 12:14-27; Eph 2:22)

3.【Give order to obey to build the temple】5-9 God subdued all the enemies through David, so when Solomon reigned he would not be disturbed . David called for Solomon (peaceful) and charged him to build a house for God. God promised He would establish his throne forever. This also represents Christ and His Kingdom.

※【Urge to be dutiful】6-10 Paul urged the church to prepare for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up (Eph 4:11-12) just like David charged Solomon to obey to build the temple. Each one has to be faithful and dutiful according to the grace given us. Conclusively we ought to love God and love men, hate evil and love good, and to obey to build our own temple. Then we will not be like Solomon who fell in his old age.

**B. Sacrifice more even in distress, serve the Lord with one heart and overcome evil with good**

More sacrifices (1 Ch 22:10-18) - Walk the Way (Ro 12:11-21)

1.【Obey the Word and sacrifice more even in distress】10-13 David charged Solomon seriously to observe the decrees and laws of God. God would be with him so he ought to be strong and courageous to obey to build the temple. If he were careful to keep the Word, he would have success. David suffered a lot in his life. He had gone through many battles and he had offered the most for God's temple. Even in his great pain, he provided a hundred thousand talents of gold and a million talents of silver for God. The quantity of bronze and iron were incalculable. He also prepared wood and stone showing his love for God. He offered everything without reserve. This also showed his refinement in suffering. His life was abundant full of faith, love and hope!

※【Obey the Word and walk the Way even in hardship】11-14 Paul declared to the saints to build the temple according to the Lord's order - to keep the spiritual fervor and zeal to serve the Lord just like David had charged Solomon. Then God will be with them. The saints ought to be joyful and patient in affliction to produce the fruit of the Holy Spirit. They also have to share with those in need and practice hospitality. They ought to bless those who persecute them and walk the loving path of the Lord. In David's affliction, he kept the Lord's Word and acted justly and loved mercy. He had spared the life of Saul for two times without avenging on him and became the most precious material of God's temple and an eternal example.

2.【Supplement each other in one heart to build the temple】14-18 To build a temple requires a lot of stonecutters, masons and men skilled in every kind of work and different gifts to match to build together (1 Co 12:28-31) so the ark of God and the consecrated articles may be placed in the temple.

※【Do good to overcome evil in one heart】15-21 Paul also urged the church to love one another. They ought to rejoice with those who rejoice and mourn with those who mourn. Do not be proud but be in one heart to be willing to associate with people of low position. Be in one spirit to build the temple. Do not repay anyone evil for evil but to overcome evil with good. David did not take revenge for himself. He left room for God's wrath. Further, he heaped burning coals on Saul's head. He waited for the Lord to avenge for him. This kind of person can receive the ark of God and God's Word into his heart. He will be chosen by God like David and Paul who was an expert builder. They accomplished God's assignment faithfully.

**Ps 140 / Rev 18:8 Main theme: The evil will be punished; plead to escape from the enemy's plot and obey the Word to save men**

**-The enemy's plan / The Lord's might**

(1)【Discern the enemy's plot and plead to escape from his snare】1-5 May the Lord rescue us from evil men. They devise evil plans and their tongues as sharp as a serpent's and the poison of vipers is on their lips. They hide a snare, and cords of net and set traps.

(2)【Cry to the Lord for protection and to destroy the enemy】6-10 It is not by flesh in the day of battle. May the Almighty God increase my strength and shield my head in His salvation so I will not fall into the deceit of the evil one. May God's words be like burning coals to destroy the enemies so they may never rise up.

(3)【The Lord will secure justice for the poor】11-13 If I am hit by the evil plan and sinned, I will be in disasters and hunt down. But I am a needy men who pray for myself and others. So the Almighty God will vindicate for me and rebuke Satan for me. He will clothe me with the righteous robe. God will shed light on the righteous so we may keep the Lord's Word firmly to dwell and walk with Him. We will reap in rejoice and favor will come to all the nations.

**Central point of the wheels: Pray to escape from sin, sacrifice everything to prepare the temple**

Dear Lord, I am willing to offer myself and be refined by You to pursue faith, love and hope, so my life will be abundant and be fit for your use!

**1 Ch 23 / Ro 13**

**Main theme: Be submissive to power and do good, be holy and love one another to serve the Lord watchfully**

**-Be faithful to the duty / Do good**

Golden verses: 1 Ch 23:26-30 Ro 13:12-14

A discussion on being faithful to the duty and doing good - on one side it concerned that before David died, he divided the priests and Levites into groups, each according to their different duty. They were to serve faithfully and lead the whole nation to worship God and become a kingdom of priesthood. On the other side it concerned Paul urged the saints to submit to authorities, be holy, love one another and be watchful to wait for the Lord's coming.

A. Submit to God's power, take turns to be on duty and be strong to do good

Be faithful (1 Ch 23:1-16) - Be zealous (Ro 13:1-7)

1.【Submit to God's power】1-6 David gathered all the leaders , the priests and Levites and ordered them to number the Levites thirty years old or more to group them into four groups according to their duty: (1) twenty four thousand were to supervise the work of the temple, (2) six thousand were to be officials and judges, (3) four thousand were to be gatekeepers and (4) four thousand to praise God. They submitted to God's power and obeyed the king's order to perform their duty according to their groups.

※【Submit to the authorities】1-3 We ought to submit to the authority above for there is no authority except that which God has established. His kingdom rules over all. Unless it is to keep your faith not to submit to the authority, just like Daniel and the apostles of the New Covenant, (Dan 6; Ac 4:19; 5-29) otherwise rebelling against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted and we will receive judgment on ourselves. Rulers are God's servant to punish the wrongdoer. Then do what is right and He will commend you. The Levites represented the Israelites to set apart to serve God. They should all the more glorify God and benefit men. They should submit to authority and also the one on high. The party of Korah rebelled and did not submit to authority. They attacked the leader and brought destruction on themselves. (Num 16)

2.【Be faithful to the duty】7-16 The three tribes of Levites namely Gershon, Kohath and Merari performed their duty accordingly and served faithfully. The descendants of Aaron were specially chosen among the descendants of Kohath, They were set apart to burn incense before God and to bless the people in God's name. The sons of Moses, the man of God were also counted as part of the tribe of Levi. The descendants of Gershon who was the son of Moses became the priests of the idols of the tribe of Dan till they were captured. (Jdg 18:30-31) The rest of the descendants of Gershon were chosen by God to be Levites and they performed obediently and faithfully. They were remembered by God.

※【Be zealous to do good】4-7 Rulers are God's servants. They ought to reward the good and punish the evil. They do not bear the sword for nothing. So because of conscience we ought to pay taxes and revenue without violation. (Mt 17:24-27) The church is also the kingdom of priesthood. We ought to be on one side, be dutiful before God like the Levites and on the other side be zealous to do good before man, then we may silence the ignorant talk of foolish men and glorify God on the day He visits us. (1 Pe 2:12-17)

B. Maintain the inheritance, be holy and love one another, and serve the Lord watchfully

Maintain the inheritance (1 Ch 23:17-32) - Keep the Word (Ro 13:8-14)

1.【Maintain the inheritance】17-23 Eliezer the son of Moses had a lot of descendants. They were also counted in the tribe of Levi. Eleazar the grandson of Merari died without having sons. He only had daughters. According to the decree of God, the cousins, the sons of Kish married them. Thus they were able to maintain their inheritance. (Num 27:1-11)

※Keep the Word of love】8-10 We ought to keep the Word of love to pursue holiness and love one another. Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another. Love does no harm to its neighbor and this fulfills the law. The tribe of Eleazar, the descendants of Merari was full of the heart to love God and love man. They cared for others more than themselves. They denied themselves to obey the Word and married their daughters and kept the inheritance of their forefathers. This is also to keep the Word of love. We also ought to keep the holy word of God to be our most precious inheritance. (Deu 33:4; Ps 119:111)

2.【Serve the Lord diligently】24-32 Before David died, he was fervent for God's temple. Thus he ordered that the Levites were counted from twenty year old or more to minister God's temple. Their duty was to help Aaron's descendants, to purify all sacred things and be in charge of the bread set on the table. Every day in the morning and at night, they were to stand to thank and praise God and to offer during the Sabbath and the feasts diligently to serve the Lord.

※【Serve the Lord watchfully】11-14 The night is nearly over and the day is almost here. Let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light to practice four 'No'. Before David passed away he was fervent for the temple. He ordered that the Levites to serve the Lord be changed from thirty years old to twenty years old. Now the day of the Lord's coming is even nearer. We ought to redeem our time to be clothed by Christ, be diligent and zealous to serve the Lord watchfully. We also ought to be bright and clean to bring more souls to meet the Lord.

**Ps 141 / Rev 18:9 Main theme: Pray watchfully, do not be led astray and the Lord will use mightily; to love the world will turn to mourning**

**-Pray watchfully / Be led astray**

Whoever pursues the worldly pleasures and unites with the world, his ending will be wailing and mourning because he only gets smoke and is meaningless.

(1)【Cry for goodness and sacrifice your choice possessions】1-5 Pray watchfully and plead fervently to become mature. Do not turn our heart to evil or release any evil words but walk in the good Word of the Lord. May the Lord let me reject the delicacies from the wicked. Do not refuse the rebuke or strike of the righteous. This is the anointing oil from the Lord. I still have to pray unceasingly for the evil generation like Esther had turned the crisis.

(2)【Obey the Word and proclaim eloquent words】6-7 The unrighteous rulers will be thrown down. They harm themselves and others and make them become withered bones and a heap of rubble. (Mi 3:9-12) Those who pray watchfully and obey the Word may proclaim beautiful words. They are the messages from the most holy place which can make the bones come out of the grave and become a fighting warrior.

(3)【Fix your eyes and take refuge in the Lord and pass by in safety】8-10 The eyes ought to be like Elisha to fix on Elijah. That is on the prophecy of the prophet and follow silently so we may be kept from the snares of sin to avoid mourning and death. Instead we may have double portion of the spirit to accomplish God's mission.

**Central point of the wheels: Escape from evil and adultery, keep the Word of love and be faithful to serve the Lord**

Dear Lord, may You let me escape from evil and adultery, to keep your Word of love, be watchful and faithful in my duty, to consecrate and prepare to see You with calm and confidence.

**1 Ch 24 / Ro 14**

**Main theme: Accept the weak, pursue harmony and serve the Lord with one heart**

**-Perform the holy duty / Walk the Way of love**

Golden verses: 1 Ch 24:19 Ro 14:17

A discussion on performing the holy duty and walking the Way of love - on one side it concerned that before David died, he set the roster for the priests. They obeyed according to their appointed order and entered God's temple to serve and minister. On the other side it concerned Paul urged the saints to observe the way of love without judging others or to stumble others. Since we are being chosen to be the royal priesthood, we ought to live for the Lord and die for the Lord. We ought to accept with love and carry the burden of the weak but not to make your brothers stumble.

A. Do not judge, live for the Lord, enter the holy temple and perform the duty

Perform the duty (1 Ch 24:1-19) - Accept (Ro 14:1-13)

1.【Take turn to perform the duty without boasting】1-4 David reigned and he served God as the center. He brought the whole nation to worship and serve God to be a kingdom of priesthood. David grouped the descendants of Aaron into divisions so they might take turn to perform their duty. Aaron had connived the people to worship the gold calf. Two of his sons Nadab and Abihu had offered unauthorized fire and died before God. Thus Eleazar and Ithamar continued the duty as priests. Aaron and his descendants were specially chosen to perform their duty before God and had nothing to boast. It was all by grace. Thus they ought to put all their heart and strength to offer sacrifice for the people and burn incense to intercede.

※【Accept with love without judging】1-4 Paul was originally the worst of sinners but he was favored. He was chosen to be the priest of the gospel and had nothing to boast. He had consideration for God's heart to encourage the saints not to judge those who were weak in faith but to accept them with love just like Aaron who had failed. He was able to deal gently with those who were ignorant and going astray. (Heb 5:1-4) Christ is the everlasting priest. He can all the more understand and bear. Therefore we as priests should not stand on the master's position to judge others. Rather, we should bear and accept others.

2.【Serve before God】5-19 The sixteen heads of families of Eleazar's descendants and eight heads of families from Ithamar's descendants divided them impartially by drawing lots. They served before God and were remembered by God.

※【Live and die for the Lord】5-13 Every one ought to be convinced in his own mind. Whether he regards one day as special or eats or does not eat, he does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God. Whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. Therefore we ought to live for the Lord and die for the Lord. The descendants of Aaron who were priests took turn to perform their duty. They all served before God and were alike without high or low. And they should not judge their brothers or look down on them to stumble them.

**B. Observe the Way of love and serve the Lord in harmony**

In one heart (1 Ch 24:20-31) - In harmony (Ro 14:14-23)

1.【Unite with God】20-30 The character of Levi (joined) was brutal and cruel. (Gen 34:25-31) Now his descendants joined with God not only as priests, the rest of the descendants also drew lot according to their tribes to take turn to serve God.

※【Observe the Way of love】14-18 To the pure, all things are pure, but to those who are corrupted and do not believe, nothing is pure. (Tit 1:15) Therefore the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, the most important is to pursue righteousness and peace, then we will gain the joy in the Holy Spirit. We ought to be like the descendants of Levi to join with God, do not judge others or cause your brother to be distressed because of what we eat. We ought to practice the ministry of the kingdom to join with God and keep the Way of love. Then we will be pleased by God and approved by men.

2.【Serve the Lord in harmony】31The descendants of Levi cast lots in the presence of king David and the heads of families of the priests and the Levites to take turn in their duty. The families of the oldest brother were treated the same as those of the youngest. They were in one heart and served the Lord in harmony.

※【Do not make others stumble】19-23 We must make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification like the various tribes of the descendants of Levi with no difference of old or young or high or low. It is better not to eat meat or drink wine or to do anything else that will cause your brother to fall. Everything that does not come from faith is sin. We are sinful if we cause our brother to fall! Though Paul was an elder in the church, there was not one thing he sought for his own benefit. He denied himself to love men. He was the example of harmony of the church.

**Ps 142 / Rev 18:10 Main theme: Do evil will be punished, plead the Lord to be freed from the enemy's harm and enjoy His goodness**

**-Goodness / Be punished**

Be led astray by the world and fall into the snare, be surrounded by wickedness and the ending is punishment

(1)【Cry to be freed from the snare】1-5 I pour out my complaint before the Lord. When my spirit grows faint and the enemy has hid a snare for me, no one can help me except to cry aloud to the Almighty God for He is my refuge and my portion.

(2)【Cry to be freed from the strong foe】6-7 May the Lord deliver me from my distress so I may repay His kindness and proclaim His name. He will be good to me and the righteous will gather about me.

**Central point of the wheels: Cry to escape from the snare, serve the Lord in one heart and do not make others stumble**

Dear Lord, may You save me from the sinful snare, to obey your Way of love and live for You, and in everything to consider others' weaknesses.

**1 Ch 25 / Ro 15**

**Main theme: To bear the weak, serve the Lord with one heart and proclaim widely to all nations**

**-Extol / Proclaim (teach/bear)**

Golden verses: 1 Ch 25:7-8 Ro 15:13

A discussion on extolling and proclaiming - on one side it concerned David set apart the Levites who sang at their appointed duty. They extolled and praised God in the temple day and night. On the other side it concerned Paul was the priest of the gospel. He proclaimed the gospel extensively and urged the saints to carry each other's burden. They urged one another and served the Lord in one heart. Irrespective of praising or proclaiming the gospel, we ought to be in one heart and accept one another to glorify God with one heart and mouth. Yet You are enthroned as the Holy One; You are the praise of Israel. (Ps 22:3)

**A. Bear one another and be in one heart to obey the will and praise**

Obey the will to sing (1 Ch 25:1-13) - Bear other people (Ro 15:1-13)

1.【Obey the King's will and sing praise to God】1-2 David had appointed the descendants of Asaph, Heman and Jeduthun for the ministry of prophesying accompanied by harps, lyres and cymbals of the temple,. The four sons of Asaph were taught by their father to obey the king's will to sing and praise God. We ought to let the Word of God dwell richly in us so we may obey God's will to sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in our hearts to God and admonish one another. (Col 1:16-17)

※【Imitate Christ to bear with the others】1-3 Paul urged those who are strong to bear with the failings of the weak. (Gal 6:1-2) Do not please ourselves but learn from Christ to take up our infirmities and carry our diseases. (Mt 8:17) This kind of life can praise and glorify God. On one side was to obey the king's will to sing. On the other side was to the example to learn from Christ to deny ourselves and carry others' burden. Then we will be able to sing the most beautiful song.

2.【Obey the King's command to learn to praise】3-6 The six sons of Jeduthun were also taught by their father to prophesy using the harp in thanking and praising God. Heman had fourteen sons and three daughters. They were also under the supervision of their father for the music with cymbals, lyres and harps. All of them were under the supervision of the king to learn to praise God.

※【Follow the Scriptures to glorify God with one heart】3-6 The Scriptures were written to teach us so we may have endurance, encouragement and hope as we follow Christ in affliction to sing on the Mount Olive. (Mt 26:30) In His greatest sorrow with heavy burden to the point of death, He prayed to crush the oil in the garden of Gethsemane. He obeyed the Father's will and overcame to the end. On one side was to obey the king's order. On the other side was to obey the Scriptures, then we may praise God and glorify Him with one heart and mouth.

3.【Young and old alike will serve the Lord】7-13 David grouped two hundred eighty eight of them skilled in music into divisions. Whether they were young and old alike, teachers as well as students, they cast lots together for their duties to praise God. They had to go through hard practice like David, then they would be skilful in music to praise God.

※【The Jews and the Gentiles will sing praise together】7-13 The church ought to accept one another, just as Christ accepted us. Christ not only became a servant of the Jews, He also made the Gentiles be favored due to His mercy, just as the Scriptures said , 'rejoice and praise the Lord, O Gentiles, with His people.' (Deu 32:43) Similarly, whether they were young and old alike, teacher as well as student in the temple, they praised God together. May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace as we trust in Him, so we may sing of how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ together with all the saints. (Eph 3:18-19)

**B. Take turns to perform the duty, intercede from all parties and proclaim the gospel to far away**

Minister (1 Ch 25:14-31) - Intercede (Ro 15:14-33)

1.【Excel in singing】14-18 The Levites whom David had appointed for the duties in the temple were skilled in music just like Paul and Sila sang to praise in the prison. They shook the prisoners and even their chains came loose.

※【Competent to instruct】14-19 Paul was a servant of Christ for the Gentiles and a priest of the gospel. How humble, denying and suffering was he! Paul was skilled in teaching various types of people in the church just like the singers were skilled in singing. He was full of the love of Christ and the wisdom and power of the Holy Spirit. He had an abundant life. He suffered a lot for Christ and was able to sing in distress by God. He was bold to write to urge the saints in Rome so they might be sanctified by the Holy Spirit and be accepted by God. We too ought to experience various kinds of suffering and refinement, then we will be skilled in singing and teaching.

2.【Be faithful to serve】19-31 The Levites who sang cast lots into twenty four divisions. There were sons and brothers in each division of twelve. They were faithful and watchful day and night giving praise to God. They brought blessings to the people. We ought to offer to God a sacrifice of praise. (Heb 13:15-16) Not only do we learn to sing in distress, we also ought to learn to sing in the night till the restoration comes like Habakkuk the prophet. (Hab 3:17-19)

※【Request to intercede】19-33 Paul was determined not to preach the gospel on someone else's foundation. He obeyed the will to preach afar. Though he was prevented for many times and could not go to Rome, he fully believed God's will would be accomplished. He also wanted to go to Spain through Rome. He was not only watchful day and night, he prayed faithfully to sing and praise. He also invited the saints to pray for him.

**Ps 143 / Rev 18:11 Main theme: To thirst for the world is miserable; to thirst for the Lord's words and obey His will to act will be rewarded**

**-Thirst for the Lord / Thirst for the world**

To trade with the world will bring tears and misery

(1)【I am crushed and grow faint】1-4 I will confess and cry for God is righteous and faithful. He will come to my relief. Though I am crushed by the enemy like those long dead, God has the power to restore me.

(2)【Spread out your hand and thirst for the Lord】5-12 Remember the works of God of long ago. Thirst to hear the gracious words of the Lord so I may know the way I should go to be freed from the enemy. Teach me to do the will of God so I may become a slave for righteousness to accomplish the Lord's work.

**Central point of the wheels: Thirst for the Word and obey the will, praise and proclaim extensively**

Dear Lord, may You let us be in one heart mutually to praise and serve according to your will, to proclaim the gospel to satisfy your heart!

**1 Ch 26 / Ro 16**

**Main theme: Brave warriors keep hold of the faith and unite in holiness**

**-Keep the gate / To greet (to guard / to strengthen)**

Golden verses: 1 Ch 26:12-13 Ro 16:20

A discussion on keeping the gate and greetings - on one side it concerned David set apart the turns for gatekeeping and those in charge of the treasuries of the house of God and the important posts of the officials and judges. On the other side it concerned Paul greeted the saints intimately. He urged the church to unite in holiness to guard against any false teaching and be strengthened by faith. May God raise brave warriors and wise counselors who are willing to control their temper and be courageous to guard the truth against any breaches watchfully day and night like Paul.

**A. Able warriors keep the gate watchfully and greet intimately**

Be watchful (1 Ch 26:1-19) - Be concerned (Ro 16:1-16)

1.【Keep the gate watchfully】1-11 David appointed four thousand to be gatekeepers among the Levites. The three tribes of Korah, Obed and Hosah took the position. They carried important duty (1 Ch 9:17-27) and had to be faithful and watchful to guard against all the gates without error. They were to stand in the gap spiritually. (Eze 22:30) Obed-Edom was blessed by God. He had sixty two descendants and they were leaders in their duty. They were very capable men who kept and guarded the Word courageously.

※【Recommend and greet】1-9 Paul was worthy of the gatekeeper of the churches just like Moses was faithful in all God's house. He was watchful for the church day and night. He interceded fervently. In his letters he greeted each and everyone and placed them in his heart. He invited the saints in Rome to receive Phoebe, a servant of the church in Cenchrea and to give her help for she had been a great help to many people, including Paul. His commendation was also to keep the door of the church so they might receive at ease.

2.【Able warriors】12-19 The descendants of the three tribes were chief men of the gatekeepers. They were also very capable men and wise counselors. They were courageous, witty, and skilled in their duty. They guarded the temple watchfully. They were all in the temple taking turns in their duty and were faithful to God.

※【The heavenly warriors】10-16 Among the co-workers that Paul had greeted, there were Priscilla and Aquila who were brave and dared to sacrifice. They risked their lives for Paul. He also greeted Andronicus and Junias who had been in prison with Paul. They were also heavenly warriors who suffered with Paul just like the chief men of the gatekeepers in the temple. As a gatekeeper, Paul was full of God's heart. He was watchful for the saints every moment. Whether old and young gatekeepers alike, they all kept the gates. In Paul's greetings, he named each and everyone, no matter male or female. He remembered every saint who loved God and suffered for the Lord. At the end he sincerely asked them to greet one another with a holy kiss. Holiness and loving one another are the important principles for the unity of the church. (Heb 12:14)

B. Be faithful to keep hold of the faith and be watchful to guard against temptation

On guard (1 Ch 26:20-32) - Strengthen (Ro 16:17-27)

1.【In charge of the treasuries of the house of God】20-28 Taking charge of the treasuries of the temple is more important. This is to be in charge of the treasuries for the dedicated things and the plunder that was set apart to be dedicated to God. This requires faithfulness, caution, honesty and brilliance. Shelomith (peaceful), a descendant of Moses was in charge of the treasuries which were set apart to be holy and dedicated by king David and the heads of the families. They were watchful in trembling. Workers ought to keep in faith and love and guard the good deposit that was entrusted to us with the help of the Holy Spirit. (2 Ti 1:13-14)

※【Keep hold of the deep truths of the faith】17-24 Paul was courageous to guard the Word. He kept hold of the deep truths of the faith (1 Ti 3:9) just like the Levites who were in charge of the treasuries. He was cautious for himself and also for all the flock. He admonished the saints to pay attention to guard against the come-between and deceit of the wayward. (Ac 20:28-32) They did not serve Christ but their own appetites. By smooth talk and flattery they deceived the minds of naive people and made them fall. Therefore we ought to have great assurance in the faith in Christ (1 Ti 3:13) to be wise about what is good, and innocent about what is evil so we may guard day and night and be faithful till death. The God of peace will be with us and will soon crush Satan under our feet. Those who are in charge of the treasuries of God's temple must be discerned in the Holy Spirit of Satan's deception without bribery or partiality. Then they will be protected till the end.

2.【Minister faithfully】29-32 From the Izharites and the Hebronites, some were officials and judges. They used God's words of judgment to judge the people on one side (Deu 17:8-13) and on the other side, they were in charge of the people. They were warriors responsible in the east and west of Jordan for all the work of God and the king's service. David had in mind of God's heart, so in his old age he sought for a lot of capable men to take care of God and the king's matter for Solomon.

※【Faithful to God's important assignment】25-27 Paul was faithful to his assignment. On one side he established and encouraged the church through the gospel and Christ that he preached and the mystery hidden for long ages past. On the other side he carried the heavy burden to preach the gospel to all nations so they might believe and obey Him. Before David died, he sought for the capable men to carry the mission to govern the whole nation. God had edified a lot of intercessors and warriors for the Word through Paul. Heavenly warriors ought to 'beat their bodies and make them their slaves' to proclaim the mystery of God to all nations to expedite the coming of the kingdom of Christ so glory be to the only wise God forever through Christ!

**Ps 144 / Rev 18:12 Main theme: Overcome the enemy by the Lord, do not crave for the worldly treasures and God bestows real treasure**

**-Real treasure / Worldly treasure**

Worldly treasures will become empty by the turn of the eye. David escaped from the worldly temptation by the Lord and became a precious instrument full of righteous fruit. This is real treasure and his people may be blessed.

(1)【Triumph by the Lord with authority】1-4 The Lord's words train me for war so the people will subdue under me. The Lord cares for and think of those who take refuge in Him.

(2)【Cry to God to attack the enemy and save me】5-11 May the Lord rend from heaven so the enemies will scatter and save me from the lies and false oath of the enemies for the smooth talk of the prostitute is deadly sword. (Delilah had shaved the hair of Samson.)

(3)【Bear righteous fruit fully and all people are blessed】12-15 If we overcome by the Lord, then we will bear fruit. Our sons are like well-nurtured olive and our daughters are carved according to the Lord's pattern. They are precious materials for building the church and fit for the Lord's requirement so food is abundant, the sheep increase by thousands, and the land is peaceful and prosperous to lead all the people to God. How blessed is it!

**Central point of the wheels: Be watchful to keep the Word, overcome and be abundant, and be blessed with songs**

Dear Lord, may You make me overcome and be abundant, be watchful to keep my gate for myself and the people, be faithful to your assignment and sing the new song!

**1 Ch 27 / 1 Co 1**

**Main theme: Do not contend but boast of your lowliness in the Lord and serve Him together**

**-Divide the work / Be in one**

Golden verses: 1 Ch 27:23 1 Co 1:18

A discussion on dividing the work and being in one - on one side it concerned the divisions of the Israelite army of David. They were on duty month by month throughout the year. He also set the officials of each tribe to be in charge of different duties. But they all served the king in one. On the other side it concerned the Corinthian Church was all gifted but it was jealous, contentious, in different cliques and factions. Thus they could not serve the Lord in one. We ought to be in Christ and in the Spirit and serve the Lord with an undivided heart. We ought to boast of the Lord only and preach the gospel with one heart and lead men to Christ.

**A. Do not contend and serve the Lord in one**

Undivided (1 Ch 27:1-15) - In cliques (1 Co 1:1-14)

1.【Take turns to rotate to serve the king】1-15 The army of Israel were grouped into divisions serving the king on duty month by month throughout the year. The in-charge of the divisions were warriors who were tested for long. (1 Ch 11:1-12) Each of them were in charge of 24,000 men.

※【Gifted in every way and serve the Lord together】1-9 Paul was called to be an apostle by the will of God. He was also a heavenly warrior with a lot of bitter refinement. He carried important assignments and he cared for all the churches. He wrote letters to encourage the church of Corinth to be sanctified in Christ so they might be given grace and peace. Paul thanked God for the church was enriched in every way and also in all their gift. But he encouraged them to confirm them to the end. The divisions of the Israelite army were all well equipped. They took turns to serve the king. Asahel a warrior of David was originally in charge of the fourth division. Though he had bravery, he acted by the flesh and died unnaturally. He could not hold on to the end. His son succeeded him. (Rev 3:11) Thus we ought to take this warning, so when the Lord comes, we are faithful to the end without blame.

2.【Serve in one】1-15 Every division in-charge was the chief of all the army officers. The divisions were different and their gifts were also not the same. But they were all in one heart, one division after another and served the king in unity on a monthly duty.

※【Do not be divisive】10-14 The church of Corinth was perfect in all their speaking and knowledge, but they had dissension. Paul exhorted them not to have any divisions among them that they might be perfectly united in mind and thought. Is Christ divided? He had put the hostility to death on the cross and accomplished peace. How can we form any clique and quarrel? (Eph 2:14-15) The twelve divisions of Israel's army belonged to David and they served the king in unity on a monthly duty. But there were divisions in the church of Corinth; some followed Paul, some followed Apollo, some followed Cephas and still another claimed they followed Christ. Our gifts are different, we ought to be dutiful and establish the body of Christ together.

**B. Faithful housekeeper has nothing to boast**

By God (1 Ch 27:16-34) - By oneself (1 Co 1:15-31

1.【Be faithful to take charge of the king's property separately】16-31 Each tribe of Israel was governed by an officer except the descendants of Aaron. They were directly under Zadok, the faithful priest. Further, those in charge of the king's property and recording were assigned different areas according to their expertise. They were the overseers of David's house.

※【By God's power and wisdom】15-25 Paul was the faithful servant of Christ entrusted with the secret things of God. He himself was the example. He presented everyone perfect in Christ. (Col 1:28) He deeply knew what he was entrusted. He was sent not to baptize but to preach the gospel, to exalt Christ and His cross. Men treated it foolish but it is the power of God and wisdom. The various leaders of each tribe of Israel who were appointed to be in charge of the king's property were not by men's intelligence and ability but by God's power and wisdom.

2.【Rely on oneself will fail】32-34 Among the officials of David, Ahithophel was the king's counselor and Joab was the commander of the royal army. They acted by their cleverness and bravery and finally betrayed the king. Their ending was tragic. Hushai was courageous and dared to sacrifice. He destroyed the enemy's plot and became the king's friend. Benaiah was not boasting. He followed humbly till the end and finally replaced Joab as the commander.

※【Boast in the Lord】26-31 We all are foolish, weak, lowly and the things that are not. We are chosen by God and have nothing to boast just like the officers of David did not boast. They did not do by themselves. God has made Christ become for us wisdom, righteousness, holiness and redemption. Ahithophel had great wisdom while Joab had bravery. But they finally betrayed David. They were arrogant and boasting. They fell and were destroyed and became the warning of the world.

**Ps 145 / Rev 18:13 Main theme: Do not be the slave of the world, be the Lord's slave forever and proclaim His grace extensively**

**-The righteous slave / The worldly slave**

Let us not be attracted by the fragrance of the world and do not work for food that spoils. Do not be the slave of the world. As an alien on earth, be contented with the food and clothing we have. However we should be attracted by the Lord's love everyday and offer to Him our fragrant choice possessions. We ought to work for food that endures to eternal life and be a righteous servant to proclaim the Lord's awesome grace everyday till eternity.

(1)【Tell of the Lord's abundant goodness】1-7 Those who are favored exalt the Lord as great and exalt His word as holy. Every day they tell of His mighty acts, His awesome works and His abundant goodness till everlasting.

(2)【God loves righteousness and rich in love】8-17 He is good to all. He upholds those who fall and lifts up all who are bowed down. He wants everyone to enter His glorious kingdom.

(3)【Call on Him in truth will be saved】18-21 He is good to those who call on Him. Those who obey His orders by the Lord's strength will be protected by Him. Those who are stubborn and rebellious will be destroyed. We ought to proclaim the Lord's unfailing love and righteousness forever.

**Central point of the wheels: Forsake everything, serve the Lord in one and proclaim His salvation forever**

Dear Lord, may You make my old self die completely, be humble and faithful to proclaim your salvation forever and serve You undividedly till You come!

**1 Ch 28 / 1 Co 2**

**Main theme: Seek to obey the Word, understand the pattern of the temple and let the Lord's heart be your heart**

**-Seek / Discerned (understand the pattern/discerned in the spirit)**

Golden verses: 1 Ch 28:20 1 Co 2:9

A discussion on seeking and discerning - on one side it concerned that before David died, he urged Solomon to seek God and be unyielding to build the temple for God. He instructed Solomon with the pattern of building the temple as inspired from the Spirit. On the other side it concerned Paul deeply understood the mystery of the gospel and the pattern of building the church. He witnessed himself not with eloquence or superior wisdom but by the Spirit's power to proclaim Christ and His crucifixion on the cross. He also urged the church to pursue for the wisdom of God's mystery and be discerned in everything in the Holy Spirit.

A. Obey the Word persistently to build the house of God by the Holy Spirit and based on the will of God

Build the house of God (1 Ch 28:1-10) - Proclaim the cross (1 Co 2:1-8)

1.【Obey God's will to build the house of God】1-8 Before David died, he summoned all his officials to declare his son Solomon had to obey God's will to build the temple. God did not allow David to build the temple because he had subdued a lot of enemies and had shed many people's blood. He bore the mind of God and prepared the materials for the temple positively to repay God's grace of choosing. God also chose his son Solomon to sit on the throne over Israel. God promised Solomon that He would establish his kingdom forever if he was unswerving in carrying out His commands. David also encouraged the assembly to seek and obey all of God's commands, then they would possess the good land and inheritance them forever.

※【By the Holy Spirit proclaim the cross】1-5 Paul witnessed for himself he did not come with eloquence or superior wisdom when he proclaimed the testimony about God but by the Spirit's power. David witnessed he did not build the temple by his own intention but by God's promise and he encouraged Solomon to obey God's will to build the temple. Paul resolved to know nothing while he was in Corinth except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. David knew nothing except to obey God's will and to please Him. How trembling was Paul! He saw himself was weak and nothing. If Solomon had trembled as such and persisted to obey the Word, he would be strengthened and kept by God.

2.【Seek God and build the house unyieldingly】9-10 David fervently told Solomon to serve God with wholehearted devotion and a willing mind and to seek Him and He would be found. If he forsook Him, He would reject him forever. Therefore we ought to be careful to build the temple with a spirit of power. (Php 2:12; 2 Ti 1:7)

※ Plead for wisdom to understand God's mystery】6-8 To those who were mature, Paul also spoke of the wisdom of God's mystery which He has destined before time began so we might gain the glorious wisdom, (Ro 8:30) but not the wisdom of those who were coming to nothing. We ought to pursue the heavenly wisdom (Jas 3:14-18) and continue to pursue the abundance of life. Then we may pay attention to build the temple with a spirit of power just like David sought God and he encouraged Solomon to seek God.

**B. Love the Lord and be discerned in the pattern, let the Lord's heart be your heart**

Understand the pattern (1 Ch 28:11-21) - Understand the mystery (1 Co 2:9-16)

1.【Inspired by the Spirit to understand the pattern】11-19 When David was old, he advanced in the spirit and sought God face to face! He had in writing from the hand of the Lord of the plans of all that the Spirit had put in his mind for the pattern of building the temple, the divisions of the priests and Levites, the weight of all the articles of gold and silver. He gave all these instructions to Solomon.

※【Discerned in the spirit of the mysterious matters】9-13 "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love Him". Just like David, he loved God all his life and he was revealed by the Holy Spirit to make him understand the whole pattern of building the temple and none of men's idea was mixed in it. Only if we will read the Scriptures and pray in the Spirit to seek in advance, we may be able to understand the mystery of God's matters like Paul. He retreated to the desert of Arabia and deeply knew the mystery of Christ. (Gal 1:11-17; Eph 3:6-8) He himself became the precious instrument full of spiritual weight and value.

2.【Be firm without fear】20-21 Again David encouraged Solomon to be strong and courageous. God would be with him and not forsake him till he had finished the work of the temple. The divisions of the priests and Levites were ready for the duty, and all the officials and the help from everywhere were in one heart to build the temple.

※【Not by natural instinct】14-16 The man without the Spirit lives in the flesh. He will do according to the desire of the world without understanding the matters of the Holy Spirit. Only the spiritually discerned will have in mind of the Holy Spirit, then he may make judgments about all things without fear. God is with him and he will be filled with the mind of Christ. Therefore we have to eat solid food without taking milk like mere infants and complete the work of building the temple according to the instructions of God. Only if we are mature and have been trained to be able to distinguish, then we may work together to build the spiritual house.

**Ps 146 / Rev 18:14 Main theme: Do not covet on worldly delicacies, walk righteously by the Lord and lead men to God**

**-Do righteously /Love the world**

To covet on the worldly pleasure and to turn to one's own way will become empty by the wink of the eye. We ought to walk a righteous path by the help of the Lord. Though it may be narrow and miserable, it glorifies God and benefits men. Further, when the Lord comes, we will reign with Him.

(1)【We ought to exalt and praise God for all our life】1-4 Let God be the center and exalt and serve God all your life without trusting in princes and mortal men. Do not think of gaining anything on earth for all the worldly labor is chasing after the wind. They are all worthless.

(2)【Blessed is he who walks a righteous path by the help of God】5-10 By the help of God lift up to the Lord so our sins may be forgiven and our spiritual thirst may be filled. We will be sanctified by the truth and gain freedom. The blind will see without begging from the world. Instead they will see the heavenly beauty and be justified to be righteous.

**Central point of the wheels: Be discerned by the Holy Spirit, obey the Word and build the house of God, put hope and God helps**

Dear Lord, may You let me eat up the scroll to build the spiritual house, exalt the cross, proclaim the gospel and praise your name!

**1 Ch 29 / 1 Co 3**

**Main theme: Love God and be willing to offer, be careful in your work and lead men to God**

**-Offer / Build (be willing / be careful)**

Golden verses: 1 Ch 29:14-15 1 Co 3:7-9

A discussion on offering and building - on one side it concerned David loved the Lord's temple and prepared a lot of precious material with every effort for it. He also inspired the leaders to offer willingly. On the other side it concerned Paul had set the foundation of the church. He encouraged God's workers to be careful and to build with gold and silver and lead men to belong to Christ completely just like David led the whole nation to love God when he was old and offer everything for the house of God.

**A. Love the Lord, be willing to offer and no longer belong to the flesh**

Offer completely (1 Ch 29:1-9) - Deny oneself completely (1 Co 3:1-7)

1.【Offer everything for God's house】1-5 David loved God and God's temple. He saw that his son Solomon was young but the task was great. Thus he made every effort to prepare for all the materials of gold, silver, bronze and all the precious gems for God's temple. He also gave his personal treasures of gold and silver. David deeply knew God valued not on the material offering but his own person as the precious instrument and material. He called, 'Now who is willing to consecrate himself today to the Lord.'

※【Deny oneself completely for the church】1-3 Paul was the same with David. He loved God and God's temple. He made every effort to prepare everything and paid the price to cry in tears for the church of Corinth. (2 Co 2:4) There were jealousy, quarreling, delicate spirit and belonging to the flesh just like mere infants in the church. We ought to learn from David and Paul to offer and deny everything and be diligent to eat solid food, so we may be refined by God to become precious instrument of gold and silver, not according to the image of the world. Then we may build the temple in one heart and accomplish the gospel mission.

2.【Be of one heart with the king】6-9 David's love and dedication to God greatly inspired the leaders and officers. They also offered their gold, silver and precious gems willingly and were accepted by God to be placed in treasury of the temple. The basic build up of the church is the build up of faith, hope and love. The leaders and the king were in one heart and so the king and the people rejoiced greatly.

※【Work together with God】4-7 The church is God's field and God's building. Workers are God's fellow workers and they are the work of God's hands. So there is nothing in the one who plants or the one who waters but God who makes things grow. Paul's encouragement also inspired all workers not to see themselves as anything. We ought to work with God in one heart and be willing to offer all ourselves like the leaders had offered and gave to the treasury and were remembered by God. The workers themselves ought to be the precious material of God's temple so the church may grow to be fruitful.

**B. Lead men to give thanks and praise, be careful to work will be rewarded**

Praise (1 Ch 29:10-30) - Be careful (1 Co 3:8-23)

1.【Give thanks and praises】10-21 When David saw the leaders were very willing to offer, he was full of thanks and praises. He extolled God's glorious name. 'Who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from You, and we have given You only what comes from your hand.' David knew his grace and was thankful. He deeply knew the meaning of offering and he led the assembly to praise God and sacrificed the fellowship offering. Then they ate before God together and enjoyed the abundance of God.

※【Be careful to build】8-16 Paul was like an expert builder. He set the foundation according to God's will. He reminded the workers to be careful how to build so they may praise the glorious name of God just like David had set a foundation to love God and deny everything. He also inspired the leaders to give thanks and offer to praise God. We ought to be careful to use gold, silver and costly stones to build like David was thankful to repay God's love. If we are selfish and not willing to be dealt with, our work is wood, hay and straw. It will be burned and we will suffer loss. The work of Paul and David all their life was like gold, silver and costly stones and would be retained forever and fully rewarded by God. We are aliens and the days of our life are like a shadow. We ought to grab the chance to give thanks and offer, love God and love men and do the work of the gold, silver and costly stones.

2.【Ought to keep the Word in trembling】22-30 When the days of David were full, he enjoyed abundant glory and passed away. Solomon obeyed God's will and was anointed as king. He was prosperous in every way and blessed by God. But he did not keep the Word in trembling and learn from his father David. He did not exalt God as king. As such, he sinned when he was old and provoked God to anger.

※【No more boasting about men】16-23 Paul reminded the saints that the church is the temple of God and His Spirit lives in us. If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. (1 Co 6:18-20) Solomon was led astray by the foreign women to sin, that was to destroy God's temple and he himself was destroyed. Therefore do not deceive yourselves and think you are wise and boast about men. We ought to fear in trembling and learn from David and Paul to lead men to love God and return to Him. All things are for the church and of Christ and of God!

**Ps 147 / Rev 18:15 Main theme: Do not trade with worldly things, be humble to thirst for the Word and will be blessed greatly**

**-Thirst for the Word / Love the world**

If our hearts are like the robber's den and trade with the world to pursue fame and wealth, we may prosper for a while but will finally wail. There is an everlasting value to build in the Lord and we will gain great reward from Him.

(1)【To build in the Lord will be full of praises】1-4 Build yourselves up in the most holy faith and return to God with all your heart and all your mind and all your strength so the exiles may be gathered. After we are beaten, we will return like the Prodigal son. God will bind up our wounds so we may lead men to righteousness and shine like stars. We will be loved by God.

(2)【To fear and trust in the Lord will be established firmly】5-15 We will be established if we can humble in grace and not by power or ability, except by the awesome deeds of God and wisdom to pray for the spiritual shower to restore the world. Then we may produce choice fruit with abundant spiritual food to spread the Lord's words quickly.

(3)【When the Lord sends His command everything will be turned】16-20 When the Lord sends His words, the land will turn to spring. The horrifying environment will change so God's children may go to all nations to preach the gospel. Then all peoples will obey the Lord's Word and gain everlasting blessings!

**Central point of the wheels: Fear God and obey His Word, be careful to build and give thanks to offer**

Dear Lord, I am willing to offer myself to repay your love, to be careful to keep your Word and be the work of gold, silver and gems.