

## Special Message – A Vision For Life

1 Chronicles 22:6-19 | Sunday, May 27, 2018 | By Brian Brookins

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# A VISION FOR LIFE

## 1 Chronicles 22:6-19

1 Chronicles 22. Let's look at verses 6-10: "A Vision for Life." Here's a big idea: **A true vision for life, like all perfect gifts, comes from God.** This is where you get a vision for life and only where you get a true vision for life. Let's read the text, beginning in verse 6.

*Then he (that is David) called for Solomon his son and charged him to build a house for the LORD, the God of Israel. David said to Solomon, "My son, I had it in my heart to build a house to the name of the LORD my God. But the word of the LORD came to me, saying, "You have shed much blood and have waged great wars. You shall not build a house to my name, because you have shed so much blood before me on the earth. Behold, a son shall be born to you who shall be a man of rest (a man of peace). I will give him rest from all his surrounding enemies. For his name shall be Solomon, and I will give peace and quiet to Israel in his days. He shall build a house for my name. He shall be my son, and I will be his father, and I will establish his royal throne in Israel forever."*

I think that the challenge of finding an answer to the Why question of life -- Why am I here? What do I do and why do I do what I do? (something that we might call vision) -- that question is one of the more difficult questions to answer for an individual, regardless of your age. It's interesting that the importance of answering that question now has universal endorsement. Every corporation, every school, every city, every team, everyone understands: Hey, I need a vision. I need a vision statement. If you drive into a new city you'll see a sign, then you'll see a tag line that tells you their vision. "North Lauderdale – Where the Sun Always Shines." I made that up.

We have a vision statement for the church. We see the value of the motivational push behind answering the question: Why? I think sometimes that is out of balance. The push for vision ignores this primary truth: **True vision comes from God.** He made us. He has given us life purpose. To thoroughly, truthfully, powerfully, successfully answer and live out this question, we have to get it from God himself.

What we see in this passage is King David coming to his son in the Lord, Solomon, and imparting vision. He is stirring vision. He is helping Solomon to understand the answer to the Why question of his life. He is letting Solomon know how God has directed his life, his vision, and how he thinks Solomon fits into that. It's a very powerful passage. This is a great

## Special Message – A Vision For Life

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---

passage for dads, for moms, for team leaders, for coaches, for teachers, for business leaders – for everyone, because it helps us to see this in real-time as it's being lived out.

We gave this resource last week to students – Pilgrim's Progress. I shared in that message how this book has been very instrumental in my own life – a classic. I don't think it does a great job of answering the vision question. I think there is a reason for that. You find the life of Christian: he unloads his burden; he is transformed by the gospel; and he is trying to get to heaven. In a sense, that's the quest that we laid out in last week's message. But you can imagine almost 400 years ago that life was difficult. Life was extremely difficult.

So it's understandable that with the freedom and the resource that we have, we are able to, I think, aggressively ask and tackle this question: **What is my vision in life? What is my purpose in life? Why am I doing everything that I do?** I want to give us seven truths to support that today, to help us walk through it. Let's start with #1, which may be at the very heart of the issue and the most significant:

### 1. You are a part of something greater than yourself.

In order to answer the vision question, we have to know that to start with, a true vision for life parallels this truth: You are a part of something greater than yourself. Do you hear David saying that to Solomon in these verses? Do you hear him saying, "Listen I had this dream. I had this desire to build a house for God, to build a temple, a dwelling place for God."

If you've ever heard the biblical story, he actually went to the prophet of God and said, "Hey, I want to build a house for God." And the prophet said, "Yeah! That's great. Go build a house for God. How could God object?" David's statement to the prophet was, "Well, I have a house. In fact, I have a very nice house, but the Ark of the Covenant, representing the presence of God and the literal presence of God with the people of God, dwells in a tent, so I want to build God a house." The prophet said, "Of course God would want that." Then he goes home and he prays. He talks to the Lord and the Lord says, "No, no, no. That's not what I want David to do. It's a great desire, but that's not what I want to happen. In fact, I want to build a house *for David*. I want to build a kingdom. I want to bring my kingdom, and a Son of David will sit on the throne of David forever and ever." And that's fulfilled in Jesus.

You can imagine the excitement. David is saying to Solomon, "Man, I thought I was going to do something for God, but when I went to do that God said, 'No, no, no, no, no. Listen very carefully. **That's not how your relationship is built with me. It's what I do for you. You must receive from me.**'" This is the cardinal truth in terms of a relationship and an ongoing relationship with God.

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## Special Message – A Vision For Life

1 Chronicles 22:6-19 | Sunday, May 27, 2018 | By Brian Brookins

---

Once in a while people will say things to me like, “In my prayers I’ve just been telling the Lord, ‘I don’t need anything. You’ve done enough. I don’t want anything from you. It’s about what I’m going to do for you.’” And I’m saying, “You knucklehead! Really? You told God you need nothing? And that you’re going to do for God?” Can I just tell you that you need everything from God?! Newsflash: God needs nothing. Right? Nothing.

There is this place where I’m convinced people don’t pray, don’t read their Bible, and don’t spend time alone with God because they see it as this “work I have to do.” They don’t understand that’s where we go to begin receiving. So, Jesse got up and shared today. He said, “I just got up to pray and when I felt a battle to pray, God met me and reminded me of my identity.” We receive in those places.

David is doing that for Solomon. I linger here on this first point because I want to say, especially to our young adults, if you can take this away from today, you receive vision from God. There is a place where we say that in one way that vision is the same for everyone. **We live to glorify God.** In fact, 1 Corinthians 10:31: “So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.” We could go to a lot of verses that teach this truth, that this is our great purpose in life. This is the way we navigate through life. This is due north on the compass. Whenever we face a decision, whether it’s small or great, we can just simply ask the question: What will glorify God the most? And that helps us orient ourselves as we try to navigate through life.

This truth of understanding our vision and our purpose is a vast topic. I can exercise that test as I’m making decisions, “But really, Lord, how do I lay out a map and a plan for life? Is this something you speak into? Is it something you reveal? Is it something I choose?” I understand in a general sense it’s true for everyone. What I want to help us understand is that the foundations, the basics of it are the same for everyone, but **God really does personally interact with us to help us grab ahold of what we are personally doing.**

I made this statement that the vision in one sense is the same for everyone. Let me just illustrate that with this temple. David is saying to Solomon: “You’re going to build a house for God, a dwelling place for God.” We know in the New Testament that Scripture tells us there is a great spiritual theme being revealed there, that God deeply desires to be with his people, to dwell with his people for personal, intimate relationship, and to manifest himself in our lives. Jesus comes, saying to everyone, “I am the temple of God. Destroy this temple and in three days God will raise it up.” He is making this declaration: “I am the place where you meet God.” So if you don’t know God, you meet him in Jesus. And everything you need you receive in Christ.

Then, Jesus opens that up and tells us, “And I’m going to make you the temple of God – you individually and you, Riverside, as a church family – God wants to dwell in you, in your marriage in your family, in this church. “I dwell in the

## Special Message – A Vision For Life

1 Chronicles 22:6-19 | Sunday, May 27, 2018 | By Brian Brookins

---

midst of my people and I'm going to make you holy by the sacrifice of my Son." So we come to him, we receive forgiveness because of what Jesus has done, and God dwells in us.

Now, we could preach a long, long sermon here. Maybe I will. Maybe I'll just preach a long, long sermon on this one point. But I want you to grab ahold of this. David says to Solomon: "I was a man of war, but you are a man of peace. You are a man of rest. I can't build the temple because of the bloodshed that's in my history. Your life will be characterized by peace and rest for this nation, and that's what it takes to be a temple builder."

So, if God is going to dwell in you, you must have peace with God, your sin must be removed, paid for in full because of what Jesus has done, and you receive that as a gift. But then, the experience of the presence of God in life has a lot to do with how you love other people and walk in the peace of God. It's just the reality of what scripture teaches. Your marriage, husband and wife (we'll just start there) – that's the foundation of your family, your love for one another, God's peace that dwells in that relationship. **You really do have to fight for what you receive from God.** But that's true in all of our capacities. Our eldership in this church – we believe and fight for unity amongst our eldership because we believe that the church, the people of God will only be blessed if that is what we are experiencing in Jesus.

It's pretty amazing how David takes all of that and puts it into context. You are a part of something greater than yourself. Okay. I told you this point would be long. It's just not made yet. Let me give you some false visions. "I want to be a doctor." Really? Why do you want to be a doctor? First of all, that's not a vision. That's a vocation. It could be the means to vision. It could be an important part of vision. Why do you want to be a doctor? Well, because doctors make a lot of money. Okay, that's actually a good thing. I'm going to go with: That's good. Any of my sons want to be a doctor? Go for it.

But going back to the first point, or where we still are: You are a part of something greater than yourself. That statement, "I want to be a doctor because I want to make a lot of money," is about you, right? It's not greater than you. "Tell me, what's your vision for life?" "You know, I want to get married and have a lot of kids." It's been good for me. I recommend it; one of the great joys of my life. But that's not bigger than me. That statement is not bigger than me. Why? How will God be glorified? **How does this fit into the bigger story of God's glory?**

Now, I'm looking at faces, and I'm looking at the pursuits and I actually think I could express some of your life visions. I see how God is glorifying himself and others are being blessed through your life and how you are living it out. #1 -- It comes from God. It's greater than who we are.

Let me just move on to the second point here.

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## Special Message – A Vision For Life

1 Chronicles 22:6-19 | Sunday, May 27, 2018 | By Brian Brookins

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### 2. Nothing is more important than your relationship with God.

**If we get a life vision from the Lord, it's all about relationship with him. And it's through understanding this life purpose and living it out that our relationship grows with the Lord.** So David actually says to Solomon in verse 11:

*“Now, my son, the LORD be with you, so that you may succeed in building the house of the LORD your God, as he has spoken concerning you. Only, may the LORD grant you discretion and understanding, that when he gives you charge over Israel you may keep the law of the LORD your God. Then you will prosper if you are careful to observe the statutes and the rules that the LORD commanded Moses for Israel.”*

David tells Solomon: “Live a life that glorifies the Lord. Live a life that pleases God, and you will have success in that which God is calling you to, because God will give it to you.”

I grew up as a pastor's child. My mom has gone to be with the Lord. My dad is in his mid to late 80's, a great man of God. I'll meet pastors' kids sometimes and they'll have this deep resentment towards growing up in a pastor's home. That was just not my experience. Now, my dad was a very stern man, very strong. Whenever he would discipline me, I never heard him say, “Well, you can't act like that because I'm a pastor, and you're a pastor's kid, and that's a bad example.” It was never about that. But I heard him say many times in many different ways: “You can't do that because it doesn't glorify God. I'm not going to allow in my house God to be dishonored in this way.”

I got this central truth: I'm here for the glory of God. And if I don't glorify God, Dad is not going to be okay with it. There were some things that I knew in my dad's mind really didn't glorify God, and I just didn't want to go there. Like a lot of kids, I went there at times. Nothing is more important than our relationship with God. A vision, a life purpose, knowing where you're going to go to school, knowing who you're going to marry, knowing what you are going to do, having everything -- it will never substitute for God himself. In fact, God will often remove those things so that he can be God in your life and you'll look to him and grow with him in a way that you never could otherwise. So, #2: Nothing is more important than your relationship with God.

### 3. Be strong and courageous.

This is what he tells Solomon. You know you're on track when it seems like you're not going to succeed. It's just too difficult. It's too impossible. We have too many educators in Haiti and there are too many obstacles and not enough resources. This is impossible. Be strong and courageous.

## Special Message – A Vision For Life

1 Chronicles 22:6-19 | Sunday, May 27, 2018 | By Brian Brookins

---

I love the passage in Joshua 1 where Joshua, who is a man of warfare, is going in to take the land and four or five times in a matter of 12 verses, the angel of the Lord tells Joshua: “Be strong. Don’t fear. Be courageous.” After the third time, I’m really afraid. You know? When the pilot comes on the plane: “Everything’s okay,” and he does that over and over and over again, I’m thinking, “This plane is going down.” Be strong and courageous. The journey is not immediate.

### 4. Be practical.

Then David says something very interesting. David is fascinating. God tells him, “You can’t build the house,” but he does everything *but* build the house. He hires the architect, gets all the plans, gets all the workers. Solomon gets one of those models where all the pieces are pre-done and there is a whole plan, or the paint by numbers. This is the way you want to be a temple builder. **His father set him up for success.**

When you read these two or three verses, he goes through the details about the workers and the provisions, I think he is helping us see the practical side of living out the vision. Let me give you a little parenthesis here. From a biblical standpoint, if you say, “What is biblical vision?” I would say sometimes you find that word and we think of God giving us a vision. We just see something. And God does that.

But a vision for life, as we are using it here in this sense, is parallel to the biblical idea of wisdom. It has some of that revelatory vision aspect to it, but **if you want to pray for biblical vision, pray for wisdom.** Pray, “Lord, help me understand why and how to apply it.” We talk about wisdom as skillful living, living with an understanding of what I do right now and how it applies to the long-term goal.

In parenting, for example, I can get caught up in the emotion of the moment as a parent with young children or teenagers, or whatever it may be. And I can actually work in a way where it’s contrary to the long-term goal of God’s glory in their lives and through their lives. Wisdom is the ability to see how what we are doing is working and not working, how it glorifies God and doesn’t glorify God, and how it fits into a long-term goal. So there is applied truth.

I’m just saying that as we move through these points: be courageous, be practical – we still have to live all of this out in life. We still move through trusting the Lord to provide all that we need.

### 5. Arise and work.

## Special Message – A Vision For Life

1 Chronicles 22:6-19 | Sunday, May 27, 2018 | By Brian Brookins

---

He tells Solomon: “Just go. Get out of bed and go to work. Do the job.” That sounds like a dad, doesn’t it? If your ambition outpaces your work ethic, your vision will remain unfulfilled, because **God is after you. You are his vision. You are his temple, his glory in you.** He is molding and shaping you. And work is pre-fall. Before everything went wrong, God had instituted for us to be contributing in meaningful ways. We were made to do that. We need to do it. So we arise and do the work.

### 6. Be shrewd when it comes to people.

Verses 17 and 18: David then brings the leaders of Israel together and gives them instruction. He is understanding that it’s not just about Solomon getting the vision and Solomon doing the work, but that there are people that can make or break the success of this project and Solomon’s rule. If you look at David’s life, he was very shrewd when it came to people and knowing who would help him and who would not help him and how everything fits.

There is a place where as you live your life and you are living out the vision that God gives you, some people just come to you as a gift. I can give you the names of the people here in this church, here in this city, in Church United and in other places where God has called me and given me the privilege of living and working. I see my little part, if I could even call it a part. Vision. There are people that just help me. They pull out better things in me and they affirm the vision. They affirm that God’s doing something. They are just tremendous.

Then there are other people in your life. You know what? This person is a block to the vision and there is a wisdom there that we need to understand. We don’t just discard those people, but we need to see and be shrewd. David is doing that.

### 7. Embrace the visual inspiration.

Verse 19: “Now set your mind and heart to seek the LORD your God. Arise and build the sanctuary of the LORD God, so that the ark of the covenant of the LORD and the holy vessels of God may be brought into a house built for the name of the LORD.” This is how David ends this exhortation and teaching time with his son. The leaders are still there at this point. He gives him a picture of the ark of the Lord being carried into the temple. They have all these amazing, holy vessels, and he gives him a picture of them now having an amazing place to be displayed.

He does this in other places, but he is giving them a visual picture of the future that they are moving toward. “Won’t this be a glorious day when we move into the temple and the ark of the covenant has a permanent resting place?”

## Special Message – A Vision For Life

1 Chronicles 22:6-19 | Sunday, May 27, 2018 | By Brian Brookins

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I give this last point here because there are aspects to this message where we are talking about the practical side, the people side, the wisdom, the courage. It can sound like all nuts and bolts. But **there is a place where the promise of God comes to us and the inspiration becomes visible in our hearts. It's so powerfully motivating.**

I find for myself God inspiring life in a way that I will lack motivation without that vision. If it just comes down to: "Brian, here are the dos, here are the don'ts, here are the practical things," I just kind of run out of gas. I could say to a young person: "You know, God wants you to abstain from moral impurity, from sexual impurity. This is the gift that sex is. This is what God made it to be and what it looks like." It's very difficult to motivate a young person or any person without that being in the context of a life lived to the glory of God. A life of purity becomes beautiful because it glorifies the Lord, right? Are you with me?

God has given me an amazing wife, amen? Right, you had no choice. In all my relationships, I don't know anyone that works as hard and as effectively as my wife. She is amazing. And we have this joke. I say, "Sweetheart just think of how much I could get done at church if you came to work for us. You do the work of 12 people." And she'll say, "That's good, because 12 people will probably quit if I do."

I'm just trying to illustrate this in a silly, little, personal way before we close out the message. She's just no-nonsense, right? So, the neighbors are having a party at 4:00 am and she's out the door to knock on the neighbor's door. That hasn't happened in years and years and years, but it has happened. There's enough of a chivalrous spirit in me to say, "Gee, that's not appropriate, is it?" "Hey honey, would you go next door and see what's going on?" If that's you, see me afterward. But, I've got to tell you, there are times where I probably, if you fill out the illustration, lay in bed and didn't do what I should have done when I lacked vision. But as God began to breathe into my heart more and more a vision of his glory in our marriage, it was so motivating.

Young people, I want to give you a gift today. It's not just for young people. I want to say: **Fight for vision. Get alone with God. Read his word. Let his word and his promises fill you. And when you know right and wrong and you know what to do, but you don't know how to fit it into the vision, go to the Lord and ask him, "How does this fit? Inspire me with who you are so that I can live a great life for your glory."**