

## The Eternal King

### Intro:

- After a long life (and a long narrative in Scripture from 13 years old to 70), David reflects on God's faithfulness.
- These are among his final words. He is/has prepared for his succession.
- The Temple (the symbol of God's presence among His people) figures prominently in David's plans and prayers.

### Main text: 1 Chronicles 29:10-20 (NIV)

- David rejoices before the Lord for the provision he has been able to make.
- He's grateful for all God has done.
- "But, who am I...?"
  - David sees himself in light of the Eternal King
  - A "foreigner", a "stranger"
  - Our physical life is like a shadow when compared to an eternal, transcendent God.
  - David had status, stories (Goliath), the loot, and the looks (1 Sam 16:12), but when he gazes upon God, all that fades.
- With his last words, David wants to be known as one who sees himself in light of who God is. What do you want to be remembered for?
- David wasn't just looking at the here and now. He saw everything in light of who God is and what He's doing.
- Those times when David fell away, his worst moments, were the times when he lost that perspective.
- Eternity is to see where God has been, and where God is going
  - God is without beginning and end, but He reveals His eternal self to us.
  - God has been at work long before we came into this world, and He will be at work long after we leave it (John 5)
  - David had a unique perspective on who God is and what He's doing. It fueled him at his best.
  - 1 Chron. 29:10 "From everlasting to everlasting..."
- Genesis 1:1 (NIV) "In the beginning God..."
  - Before anything was, God is.
  - He is above/outside of time (Heb. 13:8)
  - David gets that, and as a prophet/king, his eternal perspective is foreshadowing the revelation of God in Jesus.

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- Jesus' love for us is based on eternity not our temporary life on earth.
  - Before we we're born, God knew us and provided for us a Savior
  - His love is eternal; from His foreknowledge of us before we came to be to what we will become throughout all time.
  - His love recognizes not just what we are now, but what we will be in eternity.
  - Jesus demonstrates his eternal perspective through His temptation
    - Jesus says no to "All the kingdoms..."
    - The world needed a Savior before it needed a King who would rule on earth.
    - Jesus lived for eternity.
  - We are less patient than God: We want Jesus to fix it all now.
    - God is not late, but patient (2 Peter 3:9)
    - We are not ready, but in process as God works His will in and through us.

- Luke 9:23-25 NIV

- In Luke 9, Jesus teaches an eternal perspective
- Jesus talks about the Cross and challenges his followers
- It's an either/or choice—Live for "now" or for eternity.
- It's easy to see David's response to that challenge. As a picture of Jesus, he also lived for eternity

*"The Cross is the ultimate picture of what it means to lose your life to save it for eternity. It's a picture of losing \$1 immediate dollar for the sake of a billion dollars later for the rest of time. It's a picture of choosing God over yourself, and saying no to something temporary to say yes to something eternal. You can't say yes to both the temporary and the eternal; you must say yes to one and no to the other. Jesus said no to a throne in that moment so he could say yes to the throne forever. He said yes to the Cross now, so we wouldn't have to say yes to our Cross for eternity."*

- God gives us an eternal *PERSPECTIVE*

- The "temporary life" and the eternal life do not mix
  - There's a breach between the two, and a battle.
  - An eternal perspective seems foolish to those who embrace the temporary.
  - A temporary perspective leads to **discontent** and **despair**.
  - An eternal perspective doesn't give you full understanding, but it does give you **peace** and **hope**.
- We were made for something greater than this life, and we know that deep in our soul.
- An eternal perspective has a way of changing *us*, not just how we see things.

- God gives us an eternal *PURPOSE* (1 Chron. 29: 18-19)

- David's prayer is that God's people would have wholehearted devotion to Him.
- We all share that purpose, quite apart from any individual purpose God might have for us.
- Jesus' person and work lasted long after He left earth to rejoin the Father
- When we have eternal purpose our lives point others to God.
- When we have eternal purpose our work carries on after us.

