

In your hands are strength and power
to exalt and give strength to all.

13 Now, our God, we give you thanks,
and praise your glorious name.

As David reflects back over his life, he recognizes God's goodness. He sees that even in the dark and lonely times that God was in control. He knows that even when it seems like things were chaotic, God was still on the throne. Even though some of his biggest dreams and desires weren't fulfilled, God's plan for his life was perfect.

As you think about 2008 and we begin a new year, what things do you choose to focus on and give thanks to God for?

Index Cards - explanation

Communion – Luke 22:19-20

19And he took bread, **gave thanks** and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me."

20In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.

2 King David rose to his feet and said: "Listen to me, my brothers and my people. I had it in my heart to build a house as a place of rest for the ark of the covenant of the LORD, for the footstool of our God, and I made plans to build it.

Ark of the Covenant (Hebrews 9:4-5)

This ark contained the gold jar of **manna**, **Aaron's staff** that had budded, and the **stone tablets of the covenant**.
5 Above the ark were the cherubim of the Glory, overshadowing the atonement cover.

3 But God said to me, 'You are not to build a house for my Name, because you are a warrior and have shed blood.'

[what has been on your heart to do but has not happened?]

[is your dream ahead of God? Or is God ahead of your dream?] **my relationship with Courtney******

[David had a choice to make here... does he focus on what God hasn't done or what He has done?]

4 "Yet the LORD, the God of Israel, **chose me from my whole family to be king** over Israel forever. He chose Judah as leader, and from the house of Judah he chose my family, and from my father's sons he was pleased to make me king over all Israel. 5 Of all my sons—and the LORD has given me many—he has **chosen my son Solomon to sit on the throne** of the kingdom of the LORD over Israel. 6 He said to me: '**Solomon your son is the one who will build my house and my courts**, for I have chosen him to be my son, and I will be his father. 7 **I will establish his kingdom forever** if he is unswerving in carrying out my commands and laws, as is being done at this time.'

[David focuses not on what God hasn't done, but what He HAS done]

[As you look back over 2008, what do you chose to focus on? What do you chose to remember?]

****David wasn't able to fulfill his dream, but he was able to lay the ground work and foundation for those after him to succeed****

**** David realized his 'worst of times' were temporary; his best of times were of God, bigger than himself, and will live on beyond him****

David's Final Prayer – 1 Chronicles 29:10-13

10 David praised the LORD in the presence of the whole assembly, saying,

"Praise be to you, O LORD,
God of our father Israel,
from everlasting to everlasting.

11 Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power
and the glory and the majesty and the splendor,
for everything in heaven and earth is yours.
Yours, O LORD, is the kingdom;
you are exalted as head over all.

12 Wealth and honor come from you;
you are the ruler of all things.

12/28/08 – Heart of a Champion: A Season Ends

<<Life Church 2008 Video>> - thank people for serving them in 2008; seeing them fulfill their purposes
 - Wayne & Marijane w/ Internationals; Terri LeDune w/ work release; Darrin & April w/ food

Over the last 5 weeks we’ve examined David’s life. His high points, his low points and the times when he had no control over what was happening to him. Today we conclude this series and David’s life by looking at one of his last speeches as king and his final prayer. Just like the nation of Israel was ending a season in their history with the passing of David, we also are ending a season in our lives as we close out 2008.

A lot has happened over the last year... “It was the best of times, it was the worst of times...” – Charles Dickens in *A Tale of Two Cities*

<p>Worst of Times</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial crisis & uncertainty - recession • Contentious presidential election • ----- • Health issues • Strained relationships • Job changes 	<p>Best of Times</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lowest unemployment of any recession • Peaceful elections, most smooth transition of power, hope for the future • ----- • Marriages restored & stronger • New additions to families • Ref – LC 2008 video & spiritual family
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As we end this year, what do we choose to focus on moving forward?

<p>Worst of Times – David’s Life</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lost children due to his actions • Had a son turn his back and try to take over • Committed murder & adultery • Large portion of his life running and hiding • Disappointment of not fulfilling his dream and building the temple <p><all the above are temporary></p>	<p>Best of Times – David’s Life</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed a heart for God “man after My own heart” • Personally knew God – relationship → realized God’s character • Discovered and served God’s purposes “For when David had served God’s purpose in his own generation, he fell asleep;” Acts 13:36 • Laid a foundation for the nation of Israel & his son to build on <p><all above are greater than David –will live on past him></p>
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What did David choose to focus on as he looked back on his life?

David’s Speech About the Temple – 1 Chronicles 28:1-10

1 David summoned all the officials of Israel to assemble at Jerusalem: the officers over the tribes, the commanders of the divisions in the service of the king, the commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds, and the officials in charge of all the property and livestock belonging to the king and his sons, together with the palace officials, the mighty men and all the brave warriors. [ref **Obama’s inauguration**]