

“AT PARBAR...”

1 Chron. 26:18

Have you ever read our Bible and come across a verse like our text and wondered,

No verse in the Bible is there just to fill space. *All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:*” Is our text Scripture? Then it is profitable to instruct us in righteousness.

Jesus said, *“Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God”* (Mt. 4:4). Did our text proceed out of the mouth of God? Then it is a verse we need to live by.

“At Parbar westward, four at the causeway, and two at Parbar” is just as ... and as John 3:16 or Psalm 23.

One pastor announced facetiously 1 Chronicles 26:18 is a verse that would solve all our problems. Of course it worked, because by the time a person found the verse and figured out what it meant, he forgot about his problem!

CONTEXT: David is giving specific instructions concerning the organization of service at the temple. God is a God of order (1 Cor. 14:40).

1. 4,000 Levites were assigned as guards over various posts around the Temple treasury (23:5; 26:20). They were called *“porters”* (v. 1).
: Port (opening as in port-hole; port of entry (Port of Tacoma); a connection point in a computer). A gate keeper / doorkeeper.
2. The porters were posted at specific locations at the Temple around the clock (4 watches).
3. *“Parbar”* was a small inconspicuous suburb (or compartment) adjacent to the west side of the temple mount in Jerusalem. There was a *“causeway”* (raised road) leading from Parbar to the gate of the temple.
porters were stationed at Parbar; were positioned on the causeway leading to the temple gate.

➡ What is God's instruction for us today from 1 Chronicles 26:18?

I. DIRECTION of our attention (vs. 17-18).

➡ Direction = our goal; where you are going.

A. The _____ place to serve.

The porters could not just choose just any place to guard. The “*cast lots*” to determine God’s will for their service (vs. 13-14 cf. Prov. 16:13 *The lot is cast into the lap; but the whole disposing thereof is of the LORD.*”).

Direction is _____ Where does God want me to serve Him? Does God want me to serve Him as a _____? What must I give my attention to?

1. We must not be double-minded here (James 1:8).

ILLUS: _____ found near Richmond, VA. It was taken for study but died. Dr. Willie M. Reams, professor of biology at the University of Richmond said it died from a _____.

2. We must be fully persuaded in our own minds where God wants me to serve Him.

B. The _____ to serve (vs. 4-8). Since these porters guarded God’s treasure, they had to be capable. They were qualified in the following areas:

1. _____ (vs. 4-5) God _____ Obbededom because of his attachment to the ark (cf. 2 Sam. 6:11; 1 Chron. 15:34). God’s blessing of fruit (vs. 4-5 Obbededom was fruitful having 8 sons. He reproduced himself in his sons).

2. _____ (v. 6). “*Valour*” is strength of character... integrity firmness... real energetic They rolled up their sleeves and gave it all they had!

3. _____ (vs. 7-8) The word “*strong*” indicates a persistent strength that would not quit or back down (cf. 1 Cor. 16:13; 2 Tim. 2:1-2; Eph. 6:10-11). Keeping on, keeping on.

4. _____ (v. 14). They were men of wisdom.

II. **DECISION of our alignment** (v. 13).

¹ *The Free Lance-Star*, Fredericksburg, VA, April 25, 1973. [LINK](#)

➡ Who will be the four at the causeway? Which two will serve at Parbar (v. 13)? Who will serve on which shift?

A. Once you've determined God's direction, then you must

B. Making decisions is difficult for some. They just can't decide.

A man knocked on the door of a farmer and asked, "Sir, do you have any odd-jobs I can do to earn some money?"

The farmer said, "Sure. My barn needs painting. It should take you about three days. You can start tomorrow morning." The fellow came back in the morning and painted all day. After the day was over he asked the farmer, "I finished painting the barn. Do you have anything else I can do tomorrow?"

The farmer was surprised. "How did you finish so fast?" The man answered, "Oh, I love to paint!"

"Ok," said the farmer, "I have some wood that needs to be cut. It should keep you busy for two days."

The next day the man finished cutting all the wood and asked if the farmer had any other jobs. Again, the farmer was amazed that he cut all the wood in one day. "How in the world did you get all that wood cut in one day?" The man answered, "Oh, I like to cut wood."

"Well, I have some potatoes on the barn floor that need sorting. Just put the small potatoes in one box; the medium size in another box and the large ones in another box. It should only take you about two or three hours."

The next day the man showed up to sort the potatoes. After the day was over the farmer went out to the barn to see how the man did. He was sitting there in the midst of the potatoes with about ten potatoes in one box. The farmer said, "I don't understand. You're the fastest barn painter and wood cutter I've ever seen. But you've only sorted ten potatoes all day long. What's the problem?"

He answered, "Decisions! I have a hard time making decisions!"

C. We need to learn to make decisions, and the most important decision you must make is to as our Savior. The second most important decision is to the rest of our life in a local church. The third most important decision is I will in all things.

- D. Deciding to do one thing will mean deciding not to do something else.

III. **DIVISION of our authority** (vs. 1, 12-13, 19).

➡ Degrees of responsibilities.

A.

1. Porters were of the tribe of Levi. All priests had to be Levites, but all Levites were not priests. But all Levites needed to be available to serve in some area of God's house.
 - Some were porters (26:1), others were musicians (25:1).
 - Some were chief (vs. 10, 12). Some were small and some were great (v. 13). Some were rulers (v. 24).
2. All Pastors must be Christians, but not all Christians are pastors. But all Christians should serve in some ministry.
 - God calls some missionaries deacons... S.S. teachers.
 - Some are nurser workers... musicians and others are greeters/ushers, custodians and office workers.
 - We must recognize our spiritual gifts and our place in the body of Christ. Hand foot eye ear nose tongue (seen) uncomel parts (unseen), etc.

B.

1. The porters never offered up a sacrifice never burnt incense in the Holy place. A porter might not be considered a big job on the surface, but it was important they guarded the treasures of the house of God (1 Chron. 23:5 cf. 26:20).
2. God has a job for you to do, even if it is in some out of the way, inconspicuous "Parbar" type of place. "Parbar" is only mentioned one time in a King James Bible. But it was important enough to appoint six guards between it and the temple.
 - a) The slightest task can have great significance. A S.S. teacher teaching a few small children is just as significant as a Pastor preaching from a pulpit.

- b) God puts some in a small, out of the way mission station. Others He puts over thousands of members in a large metropolitan area.
- c) But we all have the same responsibility of being faithful wherever God puts us.

IV. DEPENDABLE in our assignment (2 Chron. 35:15).

➡ The four on the causeway and the two at Parbar were dependable.

➡ Regardless, if it rained or if it was sunny, they did their job.

A. They were committed to their job. A porter was not allowed to leave their assigned post until their job/shift was finished.

B. The greatest ability is dependability. Bob Jones, Sr.

1. It would have been no good to appoint the best guards at Parbar and on the causeway if they did not show up for duty.
2. You could have the fanciest, fastest, most fully equipped car in Port Orchard, but if it does not start when you need it, what good is it?
3. You may have the most beautiful singing voice in church, but if you are not using it for God's glory, it's a waste.
4. You may be a great teacher, but if you don't show up to teach a class, it is being wasted.

Question: Where is our "Parbar?" There is a gate at BBC that needs a porter to stand his post. Where is our causeway to serve in? Where is our place in the work of God's house?

Ask yourself: If everybody in our church served the Lord like I do, what would our church accomplish?

Comments are welcomed. Please [CLICK HERE](#).