



# Before the THRONE

## The Devotional

Volume 1

Books of the Law & History

2 Chronicles 31:4

“In addition, Hezekiah required the people in Jerusalem to bring the prescribed portion of their income to the priests and Levites, so they could devote themselves fully to the law of the LORD.” 2 Chronicles 31:4 NLT

The full time ministry is often one of the most thankless of jobs. The stubbornness and hardheartedness of even a few of the people bear tremendous pressure, as well as pain, upon the minister’s heart. Discouragement and loneliness lurk in the shadows.

While a mature minister of the Gospel has learned to encourage himself in the LORD, even as King David did, there are other substantial ways the LORD sends encouragement to His servant. When the people wholeheartedly give of their time and talents, not to mention their finances, the encouragement is substantial. This wholeheartedness in the people’s giving in turn releases the servant of the LORD from the anxiety and efforts of the natural realm that he may focus on the spiritual aspects of the ministry. “But we will *now be able* to give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the Word.” (Acts 6:4 emphasis added). “Since the people began to bring the offerings into the house of the LORD, we have had enough to eat, and have plenty left – for the LORD has blessed His people, and that which is left is this great store.” (2 Chronicles 31:10).

It is with these thoughts in mind that the apostle Paul could say to his partner church in Philippi – “your care of me has flourished again... no church shared with me concerning giving and receiving, but you only... have sent me once and again what was necessary.” Paul called this giving a “sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, well pleasing to God.” And because of this abundant giving to a servant of the LORD, he declared boldly that, “My God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:10-19)

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