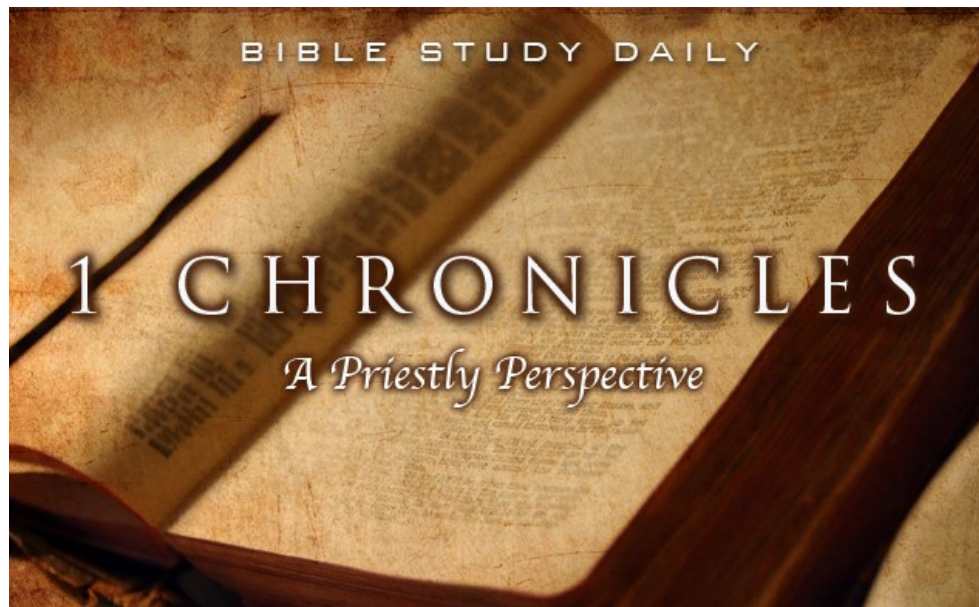




BIBLE STUDY DAILY



This document contains the introduction to the book of 1 Chronicles as well as my study notes for the book.

Name

The title “Chronicles” in Hebrew means an on-going account or record. At one time Chronicles was thought to be one book, but was split into two when it was translated into Greek (the Septuagint).

Author

The authorship of 1 & 2 Chronicles is ascribed to Ezra. As further evidence pointing to Ezra, the last two verses of 2 Chronicles are the same as the first two verses of Ezra. However, since Ezra does not specifically claim to be the author the term “Chronicler” is often used to describe the author.

Genre

History, also often referred to as ‘Writings’

Literary Form

Historical Record in the form of Genealogies

Time Frame

Aside from the genealogies from Adam to David, the record of 1 Chronicles and 2 Chronicles covers a period of approximately 400 years from David to Zechariah.

Emphasis

The four books of 1 & 2 Chronicles along with Ezra and Nehemiah provide a history of the priests of Israel from Adam to the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem. The emphasis of 1 & 2 Chronicles is on:

- God’s connection to the people of Israel.
- The preservation and continuity of the royal line of David.
- The importance of the temple in focusing the people’s worship on God.
- The important role of music in the worship of God.
- The people’s success and prosperity when they obeyed God.
- The inevitable judgment of God when the people disobeyed God.

Outline

- Genealogies 1:1 – 9:44
- The reign of David 10:1 – 29:30

What I Noticed Today (1 Chronicles 1-2)

1 Chronicles 1

1 Chronicles 1:1-27 traces the genealogies of man from Adam to Abraham.

- Verses 1-4 to Noah's sons.
- Verses 5-7 to Japheth (the Japhethites).
- Verses 8-16 to Ham (the Hamites).
- Verses 17-27 to Shem (the Semites).

1 Chronicles 1:28-1:34 lists the genealogy of Abraham.

- Verse 28 the sons of Abraham: Isaac and Ishmael.
- Verses 29-31 the descendants of Hagar.
- Verse 32-33 the descendants of Keturah.
- Verses 34-35 the descendants of Sarah

Note: The section from verses 28-34 listing Abraham's descendants is organized by their mother's names rather than the usual order of birth.

1 Chronicles 1:35-54 lists the genealogy of Esau.

- Verses 38-42 the sons of Esau.
- Verses 43-54 a list of the Edomite kings (see also Genesis 36:31-43).

1 Chronicles 2

1 Chronicles 2 traces the genealogy of Judah, from the sons of Israel to David.

- Verses 1-2 lists Israel's twelve sons.
- Verses 3-4 Judah's five sons ending with Perez and Zerah.
- Verses 5-8 the descendants of Perez and Zerah.
- Verses 9-41 the descendants of Perez's son Hezron.
 - Hezron's sons were Jerahmeel, Ram, and Chelubai.
- Verses 10-16 the descendants of Ram.
- Verses 17-24 the descendants of Caleb (a spelling variation of Chelubai).
- Verses 25-41 the descendants of Jerahmeel.
- Verses 42-55 the descendants of Caleb Mentioned first in verse 17 is now

expanded).

Note: The Caleb mentioned in verse 18 is not the Caleb that was with Joshua

Note: Many of these names we have not encountered before, but many are names we have become somewhat familiar with in our studies thus far.

Note: The purpose of these genealogies is to help the people connect with their roots, to remember who they are in light of what God has done for them.

Note: I think it is worthwhile to notice any names where something extra is said about the person. For example:

- Nimrod was the first man on earth designated as a mighty man (1 Chronicles 1: 10).
- Abram had a name change to Abraham (1 Chronicles 1:27)
- Er, Judah's firstborn was evil in the eyes of the Lord, and the Lord put him to death (2 Chronicles 2:3).
- Achan was known as a troublemaker who broke faith in the matter of the devoted things (1 Chronicles 2:7).

What I Noticed Today (1 Chronicles 3-5)

1 Chronicles 3-5

1 Chronicles 3-5 begins tracing the lineage of David's sons.

1 Chronicles 3

1 Chronicles 3 traces the genealogy of David.

1 Chronicles 3:1-9 lists the sons of David born in Hebron and Jerusalem.

- Verses 1-4 the six sons of David born in Hebron.
- Verses 5-9 the 13 sons of David born in Jerusalem.

1 Chronicles 3:10-16 lists Solomon's descendants; the kings of Judah from Solomon through to Zedekiah.

1 Chronicles 17-24 continues with the line of David following the Babylonian exile.

1 Chronicles 4

1 Chronicles 4:1-43 traces the genealogy of Judah.

Note: The use of the word "sons" in verse 1 refers to descendants. The Chronicler skips generations as he focuses on a few specific people.


- Verses 1-8 the five descendants of Judah are listed.
- Verses 9-10 mentions Jabez without providing genealogy because he prayed to the Lord for His blessing.
- Verses 11-15 continues the descendants of Judah with Recah, Kenaz, and Othniel.

Note: The Caleb mentioned in verse 15 is Joshua's partner (see Joshua 14:6).

- Verses 16-20 continues the descendants of Judah with Jehallelel, Hodiah, and Shimon.
- Verses 21-23 the descendants of Shelah the son of Judah.
- Verses 24-43 covers the descendants of Simeon.

1 Chronicles 5

1 Chronicles 5 traces the genealogy of the Transjordan tribes of Reuben, Gad, and the half-tribe of Manasseh.

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- Verses 1-10 traces the lineage of Reuben's sons.
 - Verses 11-17 includes the descendants of Gad.
 - In verses 18-22 the Chronicler interrupts the genealogies to describe the military exploits of the Transjordan Tribes.
 - Verses 23-26 concludes with a recap of the half-tribe of Manasseh.

Note: Of all these, only a few people had something additional mentioned about them:

- Jabez is described as more honorable than his brothers. He called upon the Lord (1 Chronicles 4:9-10).
- Ge-harashim (means valley of craftsmen) was a craftsman (1 Chronicles 4:6-7).
- Reuben gave up his birthright as the firstborn son because he defiled his father's bed (1 Chronicles 5:1).
- The Reubenites, Gadites, and half-tribe of Manasseh were described as having valiant men, expert in war (1 Chronicles 4:18).
- The numerous heads of the house of the half-tribe of Manasseh who broke faith with God, and "whored" after the gods of the nations they displaced (1 Chronicles 5:23-25).

What I Noticed Today (1 Chronicles 6-7)

1 Chronicles 6-7

1 Chronicles 6-7 traces the lineage of the tribes of Levi, Issachar, Benjamin, Naphtali, Manasseh, Ephraim, and Asher.

1 Chronicles 6

1 Chronicles 6:1-15 traces the genealogy of Levi, beginning with Moses and Aaron.

Note: A comparison with the lists of descendant's in Ezra 7:1-5 is similar, but Ezra does not include six names listed in the 1 Chronicles 6 genealogy. It is not uncommon for genealogies to skip generations to focus on specific people.

1 Chronicles 6:16-30 continues with the descendants of Levi; Gershom, Kohath, and Merari.

1 Chronicles 6:31-47 describes the genealogies of the Levitical musicians appointed by David.

- Verses 31-38 the Kohathite musicians.
- Verses 39-43 the Gershonite musicians.
- Verses 44-47 the Merarite musicians.

1 Chronicles 48-53 lists the descendants of Aaron who served in the Temple.


1 Chronicles 54-81 lists the towns where the Levites settled.

- Verses 54-61 the settlements of the Kohathites.
- Verses 62-76 the settlements of the Gershonites.
- Verses 77-81 the settlements of the Merarites.

1 Chronicles 7

1 Chronicles 7 lists the genealogies of the six northern tribes.

- Verses 1-5 the genealogy of Issachar.
- Verses 6-12 the genealogy of Benjamin.
- Verse 13 the genealogy of Naphtali.
- Verses 14-19 the genealogy of Manasseh.
- Verses 20-29 the genealogy of Ephraim.

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- Verses 30-40 the genealogy of Asher.

Note: Of these, very few are called out with special notations:

- Azariah was the priest in the house of the Lord that Solomon built (1 Chronicles 6:10).
- Jehozadak went into exile when the Lord sent Judah and Jerusalem into exile at the hand of Nebuchadnezzar (1 Chronicles 6:15).
- A list of the men of Levi who ministered in the Tabernacle and the house of the Lord (1 Chronicles 6:31-49).
- A list of Aaron's descendants who ministered in the Most Holy Place (21 Chronicles 6:49-54).
- The sons of Tola who were mighty warriors (1 Chronicles 7:2).
- The sons of Uzzi who were all chiefs (1 Chronicles 7:3).

What I Noticed Today (1 Chronicles 8-10)

1 Chronicles 8-9

1 Chronicles 8-9 traces the lineage of the tribe of Benjamin and the returned exiles.

1 Chronicles 8

1 Chronicles 8 lists the genealogy of the tribe of Benjamin (first covered in less detail in 1 Chronicles 7:6-12):

- Verses 1-5 the genealogy of Benjamin and his five sons.
- Verses 6-28 the genealogy of Ehud (the great-grandson of Benjamin, and the son of Gera).
- Verses 29-40 the genealogy of the Gibeonites (Saul's line).

Note: The Gibeonite line of Benjamites cannot be linked directly back to the genealogy listed in verses 1-28 because the first Gibeonite mentioned is Jeiel, the father of Gibeon, and great grandfather of Saul.

Note: Of these, very few are called out with special notations:

- The sons of Ehud who were heads of houses, and carried into exile (1 Chronicles 8:6).
- The sons of Ulam who were Benjamites, mighty warriors, and bowmen (1 Chronicles 8:40).

1 Chronicles 9

In verses 1-2 the people of Judah were exiled to Babylon because of their unfaithfulness to God.

Note: The reference to Israelites in verse 2 is specific to the people of Judah, Benjamin, Ephraim, and Manasseh.

In verses 3-34 a list of the exiles returned by tribe:

- The sons of Zerah 690 (1 Chronicles 9:6).
- The four lines of Benjamites 956 (1 Chronicles 9:7-9).
- The six families of priests 1,760 (1 Chronicles 9:10-13).
- The seven families of Levites (1 Chronicles 9:14-16).
- The gatekeepers 212 (1 Chronicles 9:17-22).

Note: A similar list of returned exiles is provided in Nehemiah

11:4-9.

- In verses 35-44 the genealogy of Saul is repeated (similar to 1 Chronicles 8:29-40).

1 Chronicles 10

1 Chronicles 10 recounts the death of Saul and his sons.

In verses 1-7 the Philistines fought against the Israelites and killed Saul and his sons, Jonathan, Abinadab, and Malchi-shua.

- Saul was wounded by an arrow, then killed himself so it would not be said that he died at the hand of a Philistine.
- When the army saw that Saul and his sons were dead they fled in retreat.

In verses 8-13 the Philistines cut off Saul's head and stripped off his armor, and put them in the temple of their god Dagon.

- When the men of Jabesh-Gilead heard about what had been done to Saul they gathered up the bodies of Saul and his sons and buried them in Jabesh.
- Ultimately, Saul died for his breach of faith with God; he did not keep God's commands, he consulted mediums, and did not seek God's guidance. Because of these failings, God took the kingdom away from him and gave it to David.

Some thoughts for additional consideration:

- *There is a three-stage progression in Saul's failure. First, he failed to follow God's commands fully. Second, he looked to advice from pagan sources that were outlawed. And third, Saul stopped seeking God and His wisdom.*
- *It seems so obvious today why God would take the kingdom away from Saul and give it to someone more righteous. But it strikes me that it is easy for us to slide into the same progression away from God that Saul experienced. First, we stop trusting and following God faithfully. Then we seek wisdom from sources other than God. Then, we stop seeking God altogether, even to the point of rejecting God's wisdom because of the hardness of our hearts.*

What I Noticed Today (1 Chronicles 11-13)

1 Chronicles 11-29

The next 18 chapters cover the reign of David as king over a united Judah and Israel.

1 Chronicles 11

Note: Some people, like Saul and David, became leaders because God chose them, set them apart, and anointed them for a specific work. Others, like Joab and the mighty men, became leaders because they rose to a challenge.

In verses 1-3 the elders of Israel came together at Hebron and anointed David king, and David made a covenant with them (1 Samuel 16:1-13).

In verses 4-9 David and his army marched to Jerusalem which was still in the hands of the Jebusites who were Canaanites.

- Joab went up against the city first and that earned him the title of commander of David's army.
- David made Jerusalem his headquarters and rebuilt the city.
- David became more and more powerful because the Lord was with him.

In verses 10-49 the balance of 1 Chronicles 11 recounts the exploits of David's mighty men

Note: The list is often referred to as 30 men, but there are perhaps as many as 45 men mentioned. This is because the list spans several decades of time. Some died early on and others were added.

In verses 10-14 the three mighty warriors of David's inner circle are introduced.

- Jashobeam was chief of the 30.
- Eleazar son of Dodo stood with David and did battle against the Philistines.

Note: The three warriors referenced in verse 12 are Jashobeam, Eleazar, and Shammah (2 Samuel 23:11)

In verses 15-22 David and his army were camped at Adullam preparing to do battle against the Philistines. David complained of being thirsty and three of the chief 30 warriors broke through enemy lines to bring David water.

Note: This is a different group of three warriors.

- David refused to drink it because the warriors had risked their lives to get it.
- Instead, David poured the water out on the ground as an offering to the Lord.
- Abishai, Joab's brother was commander of this group of three, but not a member of the other group of three.

In verses 23-25 Benaiah is described as the most honored among the 30 but not a member of the three. David put him in charge of his bodyguard.

In verses 26-47 the fighting men are listed

Note: This list is similar to 2 Samuel 23:24-29 except that there are an additional 16 names listed after Uriah the Hittite.

1 Chronicles 12

Note: 1 Chronicles 12 covers the period of time from when David was hiding from Saul in the wilderness of Ziklag to his coronation in Hebron.

Note: Saul drafted men into his army (1 Samuel 14:52), but the men of David's army came to him voluntarily. Some of David's best men came from Saul's tribe, the Benjamites.

In verses 1-7 the men who joined with David at Ziklag are listed. It includes 23 men who were from the tribe of Benjamin (Saul's tribe).

In verses 8-18 eleven men who were Gadites from the eastern side of the Jordan River joined David.

In verses 19-22 seven men from Manasseh joined David and helped him defeat the Amalekites.

In verses 23-40 lists by tribe the numbers of soldiers who joined with David at Hebron.

- When David was anointed king at Hebron, a total of some 300,000 men had joined with him, including the Levites and the high priest (1 Chronicles 12:23-37).
- The joining of these soldiers from across the tribes brought joy to the people and they celebrated for three days.

1 Chronicles 13

David attempts to bring the ark of God to Jerusalem.

In verses 1-6 the ark of God had been in Kiriath-jearim for several decades and David decided to bring it home to Jerusalem.

- He consulted his leaders, but not the Levites.
- They did their best to honor God by bringing the ark on a new cart pulled by oxen preceded by a large contingent of worshippers, but this was not



according to the directions God had given the people.

- Had David consulted the Levites about how to move the ark they could have told him it was to be carried with poles on the shoulders of the Levites (Exodus 25:12-15).
- Uzzah died when the oxen stumbled and he reached out to steady the ark. God struck him dead.
- The Ark was holy and was not to be touched by anything or anyone who was not also holy.
- At first, David was angry but then became fearful because of God's anger.
- Rather than continuing on with the Ark, David left the Ark in the home of Obed-edom, a Gittite.
- Obed-edom prospered for three months while the Ark was with him.

Some thoughts for additional consideration:

- *Both Saul and David were selected and anointed by God to lead the people of Israel. David's character was such that he was faithful to God while Saul was not. This character of David's is what led the people from all the tribes to come together to support his reign as king.*
- *David's leadership allowed others to rise and develop into strong leaders, and together they were able to take the city of Jerusalem from the Canaanites.*
- *David's heart was in the right place when he decided to bring the Ark of God into Jerusalem, but he went about it the wrong way. He should have consulted with God first, then instead of failing, he would have been successful!*

What I Noticed Today (1 Chronicles 14-16)

1 Chronicles 14

In verses 1-2 King Hiram of Tyre sent cedar logs, stonecutters, and carpenters to build a house for David. David then realized the Lord had established him as king over Israel.

In verses 3-7 David took more wives in Jerusalem and fathered 13 sons (similar to the list in 2 Samuel 5:14-16).

Note: Polygamy was a violation of God's law (Deuteronomy 17:17).

In verses 8-17 when the Philistines heard that David had become king they came up against him.

- David inquired of the Lord and the Lord said he would give the Philistines into their hands. David defeated the Philistines.
- The Philistines came up against David a second time.
- David inquired of God again, but this time, God said do not attack them until you hear the rustling in the trees. David obeyed God and won another victory over the Philistines.

1 Chronicles 15

In verses 1-2 David had completed building houses for himself and decided it was time to bring the ark of God into Jerusalem.

- David decided once again to bring the Ark of the Lord to the tent he had prepared in Jerusalem, but this time, he did it the way the Lord had commanded.

In verses 3-29 David assembled the Israelites to bring the ark of God into Jerusalem

There are four concepts revealed in the story of the Ark being brought into the city.

- The Israelites did God's work biblically (vv. 2-15).
- The Israelites did God's work joyfully (vv. 16-24).
- The Israelites did God's work sacrificially (vv. 25-26).
- The Israelites did God's work enthusiastically (vv. 27-28).

The Levites were consecrated and carried the Ark on poles on their shoulders.

David commanded the Levites to appoint musicians and singers to worship

the Lord joyfully as the Ark was carried.

Saul's daughter, Michal saw David dancing before the Lord as the Ark entered the city and she despised David.

1 Chronicles 16

In verses 1-6 David commanded the Levites to offer burnt and peace offerings to the Lord after it had been placed in the tent.

- Finally, David appointed Levites to minister before the Lord on a continual basis.

In verses 7-36 David offered a song of thanks to God to be sung by Asaph and his brothers. There are three main sections to the song:

- 1 Chronicles 16:8-13 reminds the people of God's works,
- 1 Chronicles 16:14-22 reminds the people of God's words in the form of His covenant with Abraham, and
- 1 Chronicles 16:23-36 reminds the people of the wonders of God.

In verses 37-43 David assigned Obed-edom and his 68 relatives to be gatekeepers.

- David left Zadok the priest with other priests to minister before the Lord in Gibeon.

Note: There were two high priests at this time. Zadok was high priest in Gibeon while Abiathar was the high priest in Jerusalem.

Some thoughts for additional consideration:

- *David's second attempt to bring the Ark of the Lord to Jerusalem was successful because he followed God's instructions exactly. David's two battles against the Philistines were successful because he followed God's instructions exactly.*
- *When we are engaged in ministry we should ensure that we are doing work that follows God's direction and is biblically sound, that we are working joyfully, that we recognize that all our worship and service to God comes through the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross, and because of all that God has done for us we should minister and serve the Lord with enthusiasm. If we expect to have success in any aspect of our lives, we must follow God's directions exactly. God blesses obedience, not rebellion!*

What I Noticed Today (1 Chronicles 17-20)

1 Chronicles 17

In verses 11-15 David was determined to build a house for the Lord.

- Nathan the prophet agreed, but God came to Nathan that night with specific instructions that David was not to build the temple.
- Rather, God said David could provide the materials to build the temple but that the building of the temple itself would be left to one of David's sons.
- God's message in 1 Chronicles 17:3-14 promised David a dynasty of many generations of kings that would follow him.

Note: There are 10 "I wills" in this short section (vv. 3-14) that define all the things that God promised to do for David and his sons (similar to 2 Samuel 7:1-17).

In verses 16-27 when David heard all this from Nathan he went in and sat before the Lord

Note: In this section (vv. 16-27) David refers to himself as "God's servant" 10 times.

- David claimed God's promises by faith, always seeing himself as God's servant following God's commands.

1 Chronicles 18


1 Chronicles 18:1-13 describes battles between David and the enemies of the Israelites.

- Wherever David went he conquered their enemies because the Lord was with him.
- David defeated the Philistines (v. 1), the Moabites (v. 2), King Hadadezer of Zobah (v. 3), and the Arameans (v. 5).
- Abishai (Joab's brother) defeated the Edomites (v. 12).

1 Chronicles 18:14-17 records the key administrators in David's kingdom: Joab was over the army, Jehoshaphat was the recorder, Zadok was the secretary, Benaiah was over the Cherethites and Pelethites, and David's sons were chief officials.

1 Chronicles 19

1 Chronicles 19 recounts the death of Nahash, king of the Ammonites who had been friendly with David.

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- David planned to be friendly with Hanun, Nahash's son, but Hanun humiliated David's sons and insulted him.
 - When Hanun realized his mistake, he hired Aramean mercenaries to serve in his army.
 - David sent Joab and the army who defeated the Ammonites and the Arameans (Syrians) whom the Ammonites had hired to help them in the battle.

1 Chronicles 20

In verses 1-3 (continuing from chapter 19) Joab and the army went out and battled against the Ammonites, besieging Rabbah and overthrowing it.

- David remained in Jerusalem.
- When the Ammonites in Rabbah were defeated David plundered the city and put the people to work for him.

In verses 4-8 after that, Joab went to war with the Philistines whom they defeated, as well as the Gaths.

Some thoughts for additional consideration:

- *David and Nathan both had good intentions in their desire to build a temple for God, but they got ahead of themselves and God had to give them specific instructions about His plan. David took God's instructions to heart, seeing himself as God's servant, prepared to do God's will.*
- *Because of David's willingness to obey God, God was with him and gave him success and prospered David and the people of Israel.*
- *How easy it is for us to run ahead of God with our plans. We have the best of intentions but fail to consult with God to see if our plans align with His. If we maintain a servant's heart, like David, we will see and accept God's plan over our own! His plan is always bigger and better than our own!*

What I Noticed Today (1 Chronicles 21-23)

1 Chronicles 21

In verses 1-6 David's success led to *pride*.

- Satan incited David to number the people of Israel.

Note: The act of conducting a census was not sinful. Moses had conducted a census twice before (Numbers 1:2, Numbers 26:2). The issue here seems to be David's pride and perhaps trusting in himself rather than in God.

Note: The parallel passage in 2 Samuel 24: 1-3 suggests the Lord was angry with Israel and incited David to take the census and here it says Satan incited David to take the census. There is no conflict between the two accounts; the Lord used Satan to accomplish His ends.

- Joab, David's military commander pleaded with David not to conduct the census, and even warned him that this would bring trouble on the people, but David insisted and Joab complied.


Note: David's command to number the people from Beersheba to Dan is a reference to the northern boundary to the southern boundary.

In verses 7-17 David realized he had displeased God.

- The Lord instructed Gad, David's seer to go and tell David to pick one of three punishments: three years of famine, three months of devastation by their enemies, or three days of plague from the Lord.
- David selected three days of plague from the Lord preferring to fall into God's hands rather than the hands of man.
- David *humbled* himself, *admitted* his sin, *submitted* to the Lord's judgment, and *repented* of his sin.
- In verses 18-30 David was *obedient* to everything he was told to do.
- The angel of the Lord commanded Gad, David's seer, to tell David to build an altar to the Lord.
- David offered burnt and peace offerings to the Lord and the Lord accepted his offerings through the fire that consumed them.

1 Chronicles 22

1 Chronicles 22 describes David's *preparation* for the building of the Lord's temple, including his charge to his son, Solomon, to build the temple, and his charge to the leaders to help his son. David left nothing to chance.



In verses 1-5 David gave orders for the stonecutters, metalworkers, and woodworkers to prepare materials for building the house of the Lord.

- David himself gave large quantities of materials for the building of the Lord's house.

In verses 6-12 David claimed God's *promise* that his son, Solomon would build the temple and have a time of peace.

- David summoned Solomon and gave him specific instructions for building the Lord's house, encouraged him, and exhorted him to carefully follow the statutes and ordinances of the Lord.

In verses 13-16 by following God's statutes and commands David enjoyed *prosperity*.

- David personally gave vast quantities of gold, silver and other materials to build the temple.

Note: The quantity of gold was 100,000 talents, or 750,000 pounds, which is 12,000,000 ounces, valued today at \$147 Billion!

In verses 17-19 finally, David commanded all the leaders to join in *partnership* with his son in the building of the temple.

- David ordered the leaders of Israel to come together to help his son, Solomon complete the building of the Lord's house.
- David admonished the leaders to set their hearts and minds on seeking the Lord.

1 Chronicles 23


1 Chronicles 23 explains how David reorganized the ministry of the Levites.

In verses 1-23 since the ark was now in Jerusalem, the Levites who were responsible for carrying the ark and the temple furnishings were re-assigned to caring for the tent of meeting, the sanctuary, and the service of the temple priests.

- David had the Levites over 30-years old counted and found there were 38,000 men.

Note: Levites were not allowed to enter into service to the Lord until they were 30-years old (numbers 4:3).

- He ordered 24,000 of them to be in charge of the Lord's temple, 6,000 to be officers and judges, and 4,000 to praise the Lord with musical instruments.
- David divided them into division according to Levi's sons; Gershon, Kohath, and Merari.
- Arron's descendants (Aaron's father was Amram, a descendant of Kohath) were set apart for service to the most holy things and to minister



before the Lord.

- Moses' descendants (Moses's father was Amram, a descendant of Kohath) were listed among the tribe of Levi.

In verses 21-32 David summarized the Levitical duties and assignments.

- David lowered the age for Levites to enter service to the Lord to those over 20-years old.
- The Levite's duty was to assist the sons of Aaron (priests) in the service of the Lord's temple.

Some thoughts for additional consideration:

- *David enjoyed great success because the Lord was with him. But with that success he became prideful. This allowed Satan to tempt him to number the people and even caused him to ignore the advice of his own commander.*
- *But when he realized his sin, David humbly admitted his error, submitted to God's judgment, repented of his sin, and was obedient in restoring his relationship with the Lord.*
- *How much are we like David today? We attribute our success to our own efforts, become prideful and enter into sin! This sin separates us from God, but our relationship can be restored through admission, submission, repentance and obedience.*

What I Noticed Today (1 Chronicles 24-26)

1 Chronicles 24-26

It is tempting to gloss over these chapters full of names! But in slowing down I came to appreciate just how organized David was as he established himself as king.

In 1 Chronicles 23 David began organizing the Levites. In 1 Chronicles 24-26 David further organized the Levitical priests, musicians, gatekeepers, treasurers, and judges.

1 Chronicles 24

In verses 1-19 the priests were organized under Aaron's two surviving sons; Eleazar and Ithamar.

- A total of 24 groupings of priests were established to serve in the Lord's temple in shifts.
- Eleazar's descendants outnumbered Ithamar's by 2:1, so Eleazar got sixteen shifts, and Ithamar got eight shifts.
- The shifts were assigned by lot and recorded by Shemaiah, the secretary.

In verses 20-31 the Levites who were not priests were also divided into 24 groups.

- Verse 20. Amram with his descendant Shubael, and Shubael's descendant Jehdeiah.
- Verse 22 the descendants of Rehabiah and his son Isshiah.
- Verse 23 the descendants of Hebron.
- Verses 24-25 the descendants of Uzziel.
- Verses 26-30 the descendants of Merari.

Note: In this section the use of ancestral names and the practice of skipping generations in genealogies makes it difficult to determine the succession with precision.

- The roles were assigned by lot.

1 Chronicles 25

David may have been a man of war, but he was also a musician and music played an important part in the daily worship of God.

In verses 1-31 the musicians were assigned from the families of Asaph, Heman, and Jeduthun.

- The music ministry included the gift of prophecy (1 Chronicles 25:1).
- Asaph had four sons, Jeduthun had six, and Heman had 14, for a total of 24 groups.
- Each of the 24 groups was composed of 12 men, for a total of 288 men.
- The shifts were assigned by lot and recorded by the secretary.

1 Chronicles 26

The gatekeepers played an important role in protecting both the temple of God and also the storehouses.

In verses 1-3 the gatekeepers came from the tribes of Kohath and Merari.

Note: The Asaph mentioned in 1 Chronicles 26:1 is not the same Asaph who was a musician. This “Asaph” probably “Ebiasaph” (see 1 Chronicles 9:19).

In verses 12-18 the gatekeepers were assigned not based on shifts, but on which gates they were assigned to guard.

- Lots were cast to assign families to each of the four gates into the temple.
- Shelemiah guarded the east gate.
- Zechariah guarded the north gate.
- Obed-edom guarded the south gate and the storehouses.
- Shuppim and Hosah guarded the west gate and the Shalleketh.

In verses 20-32 treasurers and other Levitical officers were assigned:

- Ahijah, a Levite, was assigned responsibility for guarding the temple treasuries. Ahijah supervised the Gershonites who were assigned to guard the temple treasury.
- The final group to be assigned was the judges and officers who would enforce God’s law in Israel.
- Men were assigned west of the Jordan, but it was not until 40 years later, toward the end of David’s reign, that men were assigned east of the Jordan for the half tribe of Manasseh, the Reubenites, and the Gadites.

Some thoughts for additional consideration:

- *David crafted an organization of leaders who were responsible for every aspect of service to the temple before the temple was even built. Each family head knew exactly what their responsibilities were. David had supplied the materials needed to build the temple, and now he had established an organizational structure that ensured the smooth operation of temple worship.*

What I Noticed Today (1 Chronicles 27-29)

1 Chronicles 27

In 1 Chronicles 27 David established secular position overseeing the military and political structure of the Israelite government.

In verses 1-15 having organized the Levites for their service to the temple of God, David now turned his attention to the army.

- David organized the army into 12 divisions of 24,000 soldiers each.
- Each division would serve for one month during times of peace.
- Several of the 30 mighty men are mentioned in the list of commanders.

In verses 16-22 David also established leaders for each of the tribes (these men were like governors of states).

In verses 23-24 the Chronicler again notes (1 Chronicles 21:2-5) David's census of military aged (over 20-years old) men.

In verses 25-34 David also established men who oversaw a variety of important roles in caring for his personal property. These included men over the king's treasuries, farmers, vineyards, wine, trees, olive oil, herds, camels, donkeys, and flocks.

1 Chronicles 28

In 1 Chronicles 28 David commissioned his son, Solomon to build the temple of the Lord.

In verses 1-21 David then assembled all these leaders together in Jerusalem and gave them his vision for building the temple, God's covenant with the people, and announced Solomon, his son, would be the next king responsible for building the temple.

- David instructed his son to serve the Lord with a whole heart and warned him not to forsake the Lord.
- He encouraged Solomon to be faithful in building the Lord's house and gave him all the detailed plans for its construction.
- He further encouraged Solomon by reminding him that the Lord would be with him, and never forsake him.

1 Chronicles 29

In 1 Chronicles 29 David provided for the building of the temple and prayed to the Lord before the people.



In verses 1-9 David led the people by making significant offerings of gold, silver, precious stones, and other materials for the building of the temple.

- He then challenged the people to follow his lead and give generously.

In verses 10-21 as the offering for the building of the temple was completed, David offered a prayer of thanksgiving on behalf of the people.

- In this prayer David speaks of God's greatness (v. 11), His glory (v. 13), recognition that everything comes from God (v. 14), and that we are just on this earth for a short time (v. 15).
- Following the prayer, the people offered thousands of sacrifices to the Lord and ate and drank with great gladness (vv. 21-22).

In verses 22b-25 for the second time, the people followed David's instructions by anointing Solomon as king. The Lord was with Solomon and made him greater than any king before him (v. 25).

In verses 26-30 the chapter concludes with a record of David's death after reigning as king of Israel for a total of 40 years.

- He reigned in Hebron for seven years and in Jerusalem for 33 years.

Some thoughts for additional consideration:

- *David's organizational skills are apparent in these final chapters of 1 Chronicles. He was never sullen over not being allowed to build the temple himself. Rather, he did everything he could to provide for the building of the temple and set his son Solomon up for success as king. He brought the people together with a common purpose and gave everyone specific roles that contributed to the success of the nation.*