



Like an Army of God

If you enjoy tales of adventure, heroism, and valor, then 1 Chronicles 11-12 are for you! These chapters briefly tell of David's mighty men and some of their great deeds. Perhaps there has never been a band of warriors quite like the men that joined David. In fact, the Chronicler says, "For from day to day men came to David to help him, until there was a great army, like an army of God" (1 Chr. 12:22). The tales of David's mighty men are interesting, but they're also helpful. They teach us

lessons about following, leading, and serving God.

One of the impressive features of David's mighty men is where they were from. This group of elite soldiers was not just comprised of close kin, but men from various backgrounds. There were even those from the tribe of Benjamin—the tribe of king Saul—who joined themselves to David. Perhaps these men recognized David was God's anointed, or perhaps they simply recognized David's faithful leadership. Either way, it took courage for these men to take a stand with David. These men overcame great odds as they fought for David, and more importantly, for God. They faced impossible odds, yet just as God had promised in Lev. 26:8, they overcame hundreds and thousands of enemies even though they were just a few.

Unlike David's mighty men, the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, yet we are still called to courage and bravery (2 Cor. 10:4). We serve an even greater king than David—King Jesus. While we may be few, if we will be courageous and faithful; if we will put on the Christian armor; if we will faithfully fight the good fight; then we too can be mighty men and women. We are not just like an army of God—we are the army of God, fighting the good fight for our Lord, Savior, and King!

Questions

1. Whose genealogy is given first: Isaac's or Ishmael's? _____
2. Which son of Israel's genealogy is given first? Is this Israel's firstborn son? _____
3. How many sons were born to David while he reigned in Hebron? _____
4. How long did David reign in Hebron? How long did he reign in Jerusalem? _____
5. The first son of Judah that is mentioned in chapter 4 is Perez. Who was Perez's mother, and what was her relation to Judah?? (See 1 Chron. 2:4 and Gen. 38) _____
6. Why did God have the Assyrians take the half tribe of Manasseh, along with the Reubenites and the Gadites, into exile? _____
7. According to 1 Chronicles 10, why did Saul die? _____
8. Which city was "the city of David"? _____
9. Who died because he touched the ark? _____

"That You May Grow Thereby..."

A weekly Bible reading plan



First Chronicles 1-14

Chronicles of God's People: From Adam to David

Overview

Modern readers are often perplexed by the books of First and Second Chronicles. In many ways, they retell the events recorded in First Samuel through Second Kings. So, why read the same story again, especially right after one finishes the books of Kings? First of all, the books of Chronicles were not originally placed right after the books of Kings. In the Hebrew Bible, Chronicles (1 book) is actually the very last book. Thus, it serves as a capstone and a summary of the Old Testament, and it also looks forward to the New Testament. While Chronicles is similar in many ways to the books of Samuel and Kings, there are some key differences as well. Some things recorded in Samuel or Kings are not recorded in Chronicles. Conversely, some material covered in Chronicles is not found in the other books. Chronicles was not written to simply repeat the story of Samuel and Kings—it was written to provide hope to the nation of Judah after she returned from exile. The nation had returned to Jerusalem, but things weren't quite right. The new Temple was a mere shadow of what Solomon originally built. The kingly line of David wasn't enthroned, and while the nation wasn't under bondage, they were still a province overseen by a larger, Gentile nation. Had God abandoned them? Was the Messiah still coming? If so, when? The Chronicler penned a retelling of Israelite history to highlight God's faithfulness and promises. All hope was not lost. On the contrary, God had been with His people all along, and His promises were still coming to fruition. Reminding the people of God's promises, Chronicles calls God's people to remember the past in order to be faithful in the present, while awaiting God's promises for the future!

Suggested Reading Schedule

- Monday: 1 Chronicles 1-2
- Tuesday: 1 Chronicles 3-5
- Wednesday: 1 Chronicles 6-7
- Thursday: 1 Chronicles 8-10
- Friday: 1 Chronicles 11-14

Why the Genealogies?



The first nine chapters of First Chronicles are genealogies. Initially, this might seem like a pointless and boring section. This section, however, was surely important to the original readers. These genealogies helped remind the Jews of God's promises. They traced back all the way to Adam, and thus God's first promise to redeem mankind (Gen. 3:15). If you pay attention, you'll also see how they highlight the tribe of Judah, David, and the priesthood. Also, Chronicles is the last book in the Hebrew Scriptures. How fitting that the first book of the New Testament would begin with a genealogy—one that lead finally to the Messiah!

Outline of First Chronicles

I. Genealogies (1-9)

1. Adam—Esau (1)
2. Sons of Israel (2:1-2)
3. The Tribe of Judah (2:3—4:23)
4. The Other Tribes of Israel (4:24—8:40)
5. The Returned Exiles (9)

II. The Reign of David (10-29)

1. David's Accession (10:1—12:40)
2. David and the Ark (13:1—16:43)
3. The Covenant with David (17)
4. David's Battles (18:1—21:17)
5. Preparations for the Temple (21:18—29:22)
6. David's Death (29:23-30)



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