



THE CHRONICLES Series • Sermon Recap

Under the Hand of God - Saul & David

“People inspect the image, but God inspects the engine.”

— Pastor Bo • October 4, 2026

Bible Texts: 1 Chronicles 10:13ⁱ; 11:1–9ⁱⁱ; 1 Samuel 16:7ⁱⁱⁱ; Psalm 51:10–12^{iv}; 2 Chronicles 16:9^v; 1 Peter 5:6^{vi}; Zechariah 4:6^{vii}; Psalm 20:7^{viii}; 1 Chronicles 4:9–10^{ix}

Pastor Bo continued The Chronicles by returning to Israel as the people came home from exile carrying the consequences of failure. Chronicles reminded them that their past had not canceled God's covenant or His purposes. Saul and David then become a study in two heart postures: Saul looked like a king but hardened his heart; David was overlooked, yet repeatedly returned to God. The question for us is simple: What kind of heart are we giving God for what He wants to do next?

1. People Inspect the Image, but God Inspects the Engine

Saul had everything people notice: appearance, strength, status, and the bearing of a leader. David was so overlooked that his own family left him in the field when Samuel came to anoint the next king. Yet God reminded Samuel that people look at outward appearance while the Lord looks at the heart.

Pastor Bo compared the two men to vehicles. One may have beautiful paint but a failing engine; another may have dents and miles yet be sound where it matters. David was not sinless. He committed serious sins and made painful mistakes. The difference was what happened when sin was exposed. Saul defended himself, blamed others, and tried to preserve his image. David cried, "Create in me a clean heart, O God." His heart remained repentant - willing to turn back to God and be changed.

God is not asking us to pretend we have no dents. He is asking for hearts that remain soft, honest, and responsive. When we fail, we do not need to run away from God; we can run toward Him.

Reflection: Where am I protecting my image instead of letting God examine my heart?

Notes: _____

2. The Wilderness Is Not the End; It Is the Training Ground

Before David wore a crown, he carried a shepherd's staff. In the wilderness there were no crowds, promotions, or applause. Yet those hidden years taught him to pray, worship, trust God, protect what had been entrusted to him, and bear responsibility.

Pastor Bo pictured this through the construction walls at Disney World. Guests see a wall, but behind it builders are doing foundational work that must be finished before anyone can



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enjoy what is being built. God often works the same way. Hidden seasons are not wasted seasons.

First Peter 5:6 tells believers to humble themselves under God's mighty hand so that He may lift them up in due time. Do not curse the wilderness. God may be building a heart strong enough to carry the weight of the assignment ahead.

Reflection: What hidden season might God be using to prepare me?

Notes: _____

3. Divine Anointing Is Greater Than Human Authority

First Chronicles 11 says David became more and more powerful because the Lord Almighty was with him. His strength was not ultimately position, strategy, or human approval; the hand of God was upon him.

Pastor Bo contrasted a motorboat with a sailboat. A motorboat depends on its own fuel; when the tank runs dry, it stops. A sailor cannot manufacture the wind - he raises the sails and lets the wind move the boat. Saul wore himself out trying to control and preserve what he had. David repeatedly returned to God and depended on Him. Zechariah 4:6 gives the principle: "Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord."

There is nothing more exhausting than trying to imitate God's power through our own strength. Instead of forcing doors, we can wait for God to open them. Instead of demanding our plan, we can surrender. And instead of becoming unteachable, we can remain coachable before the Lord - willing to listen, learn, repent, and obey.

Reflection: Where am I relying on my own strength instead of the Holy Spirit?

Notes: _____

Closing Thought

David ultimately points beyond himself to Jesus, the greater King from David's line. Jesus bore the judgment of sin so that sinners could be reconciled to God. That makes the call to a clean heart a message of hope, not fear.

Chronicles also begins with long genealogies that declare something easy to miss: God remembers His people. He knew the exiles by name and had not abandoned His covenant. Even Jabez, whose name was associated with pain, asked for God's hand to be upon him, and God heard him.



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Our failures do not have to define the next chapter. Stop managing the image and let God work on the heart. Do not despise the wilderness. Do not manufacture what only the Spirit can provide. Remain humble, repentant, teachable, and surrendered. The God who sees the heart still places His hand upon lives that keep coming back to Him. His grace is greater than our failures, and His purposes remain.

ⁱ **1 Chronicles 10:13 International Standard Version**

¹³ So Saul died for his transgressions; that is, he acted unfaithfully to the Lord by transgressing the message from the Lord (which he did not keep), by consulting a medium for advice,

ⁱⁱ **1 Chronicles 11:1-9 - International Standard Version**
David is Anointed King

¹¹ Later on, all of Israel gathered together at Hebron in order to tell David, “Look, we’re your own flesh and blood! ² Even back when Saul was ruling as king, you kept on leading the army of Israel out to battle^[b] and bringing them in again. The Lord your God told you, ‘You yourself will shepherd my people Israel and will be Commander-in-Chief over my people Israel.’” ³ So all the elders of Israel approached the king at Hebron, where David entered into a covenant in the presence of the Lord. Then they anointed David to be king over Israel, just as the Lord had sent word through Samuel.

David Captures Jerusalem

⁴ Later, David and all of Israel marched to Jerusalem (then known as Jebus, where the Jebusites lived when they inhabited the land). ⁵ The inhabitants of Jebus told David, “You’re not coming in here!” Nevertheless, David captured the fortress of Zion, now known as the City of David.

⁶ David had announced, “Whoever first attacks the Jebusites will be appointed chief and commander.” When Zeruiah’s son Joab went up first, he became chief. ⁷ David occupied^[g] the fortress, so it was named the City of David after him. ⁸ He built up the walls surrounding the city in a complete circle from the terrace ramparts,^[h] and Joab repaired the rest of the city. ⁹ David became more and more prestigious because the Lord of the Heavenly Armies was with him.

ⁱⁱⁱ **1 Samuel 16:7 International Standard Version**

⁷ The Lord told Samuel, “Don’t look at his appearance or his height, for I’ve rejected him. Truly, God does not see^[b] what man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord sees the heart.”

^{iv} **Psalms 51:10-12 International Standard Version**

¹⁰ God, create a pure heart in me,
and renew a right attitude within me.

¹¹ Do not cast me from your presence;
do not take your Holy Spirit from me.

¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and let a willing attitude control me.

^v **2 Chronicles 16:9 International Standard Version**

⁹ The Lord’s eyes keep on roaming throughout the earth, looking for those whose hearts completely belong to him, so that he may strongly support them. But because you have acted foolishly in this, from now on you will have wars.”

^{vi} **1 Peter 5:6 International Standard Version**

⁶ Therefore, humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, so that at the proper time he may exalt you.

^{vii} **The Lord’s First Charge to Zerubbabel**

⁶ Then he replied to me, “This is this message from the Lord to Zerubbabel: ‘Not by valor nor by strength, but only by my Spirit,’ says the Lord of the Heavenly Armies.

^{viii} **Psalms 20:7 International Standard Version**

⁷ Some boast in chariots,
others in horses;
but we will boast in the name of the Lord our God.

^{ix} **1 Chronicles 4:9-10 International Standard Version**

⁹ Jabez enjoyed more honor than his relatives—his mother named him Jabez, she said, “because I bore him in pain.”



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¹⁰ Later on, Jabez called on the God of Israel, asking him, "...whether you would bless me again and again, enlarge my territory, keep your power with me, keep me from evil, and keep me from harm!" And God granted what he had requested.