

## 1 Chronicles 14-16

Good evening and thank you for joining us. Would you please turn in your bibles to 1 Chronicles 14? We continue to follow the exploits of king David, as he has taken the throne as king of Israel.

Remember 1 Chronicles is written AFTER the Jews have been released after Babylonian captivity. This and 2 Chronicles serve as a reminder of Israel's history and the spiritual issues that had molded and would mold their destiny. These reminders would guide them as they sought to reestablish Israel in the Promised Land after the Babylonian Captivity.

Last week we saw how God demands to be worshiped.

Remember how Israel had improperly transported the ark from Kirjath Jearim? The oxen stumbled, the ark wobbled, and Uzza touched the ark and died.

Tonight we'll continue see the events surrounding the ark of the covenant traveling to Jerusalem and Gods requirements for worship, and we'll study chapters 14-16

The title of tonights message is Wonderful Worship

Let's pray

**1 Now Hiram king of Tyre sent messengers to David, and cedar trees, with masons and carpenters, to build him a house.** Once David solidified his control of the nation of Israel, a neighbor, Hiram, king of Tyre, wanted to make peace. He sends enough cedar wood to build David an elaborate palace...

**2 So David knew that the LORD had established him as king over Israel, for his kingdom was highly exalted for the sake of His**

people Israel. David's years of difficulty from fleeing from Saul had certainly humbled him. His trials helped him realize that this sudden success and rise to power wasn't because of his own doings – but rather it was a work of the Lord.

It's wisely been said that most people can handle difficulty, but few can properly handle success. Point being that more success brings more temptation

3-7

3 Then David took more wives in Jerusalem, and David begot more sons and daughters. 4 And these are the names of his children whom he had in Jerusalem: Shammua,[fn] Shobab, Nathan, Solomon, 5 Ibhar, Elishua,[fn] Elpelet,[fn] 6 Nogah, Nepheg, Japhia, 7 Elishama, Beeliada,[fn] and Eliphelet. In Jerusalem David's harem begins to grow. This could've been the result of peace treaties signed with neighboring nations. Often a peace treaty was solidified with a marriage, the idea being that it's more difficult to attack your inlaws. Which may or may not be true - depending on your in laws!

Whatever the reasoning, perhaps it was political or just plain old lust, David was in direct disobedience to **Deuteronomy 17:17** "Neither shall he multiply wives for himself, lest his heart turn away; nor shall he greatly multiply silver and gold for himself.

Most of the trouble that comes into David's life came as a direct result from his relationships with multiple women and problems with his children.

8-10

8 Now when the Philistines heard that David had been anointed king over all Israel, all the Philistines went up to search for David. And David heard of it and went out against them." 9 Then the

Philistines went and made a raid on the Valley of Rephaim. 10 And David inquired of God, saying, "Shall I go up against the Philistines? Will You deliver them into my hand?"

The LORD said to him, "Go up, for I will deliver them into your hand." Notice, David seeks God before he takes action. David didn't say 'hey I'm the giant killer, I'm now the king-let's forge ahead'. No, he went and prayed.

11 So they went up to Baal Perazim, and David defeated them there. Then David said, "God has broken through my enemies by my hand like a breakthrough of water." Therefore they called the name of that place Baal Perazim.[fn] A name that means "Lord of the breakthroughs." Our God specializes in breakthroughs.

12 And when they left their gods there, David gave a commandment, and they were burned with fire. When the Philistines lost this battle evidently they must've dropped their idols. What kind of god gets captured? Although the enemy was defeated, you can be sure the philistines aren't done trying!

13 Then the Philistines once again made a raid on the valley. The philistines are defeated and try to do the same thing again. Notice this is the same enemy - the same strategy, the same circumstances as in verse 9.

How quickly would we all say 'hey, I've already prayed about this – why would God's answer be any different this time than it was last time?'

Our tendency is to forge ahead. But David didn't assume. He again inquired of the Lord.

14-17

14 Therefore David inquired again of God, and God said to him, "You shall not go up after them; circle around them, and come upon them in front of the mulberry trees. 15 And it shall be, when you hear a sound of marching in the tops of the mulberry trees, (the wind rustling the tops of the trees) then you shall go out to battle, for God has gone out before you to strike the camp of the Philistines."

16 So David did as God commanded him, and they drove back the army of the Philistines from Gibeon as far as Gezer. 17 Then the fame of David went out into all lands, and the LORD brought the fear of him upon all nations. It's interesting that God gave David two different strategies for the same circumstances. Rather than lead by some formula, God told David to wait on the wind. David was to circle behind the enemy and wait for the sound of marching in the treetops – literally, the wind rustling the branches of the mulberries. Then they would surprise the enemy and defeat them.

If you and I want to be effective witnesses - and win battles for Jesus, we must resist the urge to buy into a program, or a pattern. God is a Spirit, and following the Holy Spirit is like listening to the wind. No one commands the wind - or the Spirit. We adjust, and bend, and adapt to His course.

God wants His people led by the Spirit not a formula.

Chapter 15 we now see the Ark is brought to Jerusalem  
(2 Sam. 6)

1-2

1 David built houses for himself in the City of David; and he prepared a place for the ark of God, and pitched a tent for it. 2 Then David said, "No one may carry the ark of God but the Levites, for the LORD has chosen them to carry the ark of God and to minister before Him forever." David has learned his lesson from Uzza's death. He's read up on God's methods.

3-10

3 And David gathered all Israel together at Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the LORD to its place, which he had prepared for it.

4 Then David assembled the children of Aaron and the Levites: 5 of the sons of Kohath, Uriel the chief, and one hundred and twenty of his brethren; 6 of the sons of Merari, Asaiah the chief, and two hundred and twenty of his brethren; 7 of the sons of Gershon, Joel the chief, and one hundred and thirty of his brethren; 8 of the sons of Elizaphan, Shemaiah the chief, and two hundred of his brethren; 9 of the sons of Hebron, Eliel the chief, and eighty of his brethren; 10 of the sons of Uzziel, Amminadab the chief, and one hundred and twelve of his brethren. There were 862 Levites

11-15

11 And David called for Zadok and Abiathar the priests, and for the Levites: for Uriel, Asaiah, Joel, Shemaiah, Eliel, and Amminadab. 12 He said to them, "You are the heads of the fathers' houses of the Levites; sanctify yourselves, you and your brethren, that you may bring up the ark of the LORD God of Israel to the place I have prepared for it. 13 For because you did not do it the first time, the LORD our God broke out against us, because we did not consult Him about the proper order."

14 So the priests and the Levites sanctified themselves to bring up the ark of the LORD God of Israel. 15 And the children of the Levites bore the ark of God on their shoulders, by its poles, as Moses had commanded according to the word of the LORD. This time they are transporting the ark the proper way-the way that God commanded.

And a skeptic may say-who cares about how they carry an old box-why does all of this matter? See, so much time is dedicated to this topic because it's a picture for us that can't have a free-wheeling, cavalier, nonchalant attitude toward God. He is holy, we are sinners covered by the blood of the lamb.

This is why I'm convinced we can't be running around on stage, whooping and hollering, making a spectacle and making light of the things of God. There's a reverence that's needed as we consider Who it is we're worshiping.

Here David has learned his lesson.

16 Then David spoke to the leaders of the Levites to appoint their brethren to be the singers accompanied by instruments of music, stringed instruments, harps, and cymbals, by raising the voice with resounding joy. I love the expression at the end of verse 16, "resounding joy." This is biblical worship in two words. True praise is the echo of the joy God puts in our hearts. God fills us with His joy - then praise is the re-sounding of that joy back to Him.

Verses 17-24 list the names of the singers, musicians, and attendants who were recruited for the moving of the Ark.

25-28

**25** So David, the elders of Israel, and the captains over thousands went to bring up the ark of the covenant of the LORD from the house of Obed-Edom with joy. **26** And so it was, when God helped the Levites who bore the ark of the covenant of the LORD, that they offered seven bulls and seven rams. **27** David was clothed with a robe of fine linen, as were all the Levites who bore the ark, the singers, and Chenaniah the music master with the singers. David also wore a linen ephod. **28** Thus all Israel brought up the ark of the covenant of the LORD with shouting and with the sound of the horn, with trumpets and with cymbals, making music with stringed instruments and harps. As the Ark came into Jerusalem, incredible worship pours forth.

**SHOW PIC** This trumpet that's mentioned is the horn, the shofar. It signaled the presence of the Lord coming into the city of Jerusalem. **CLOSE PIC**

Psalm 132 speaks of this scene.

**29** And it happened, as the ark of the covenant of the LORD came to the City of David, that Michal, Saul's daughter, looked through a window and saw King David whirling and playing music; and she despised him in her heart. Now 1 Chronicles doesn't give us all the details of David's marriage to Michal. Remember, Michal is Saul's daughter. She's learned how a king was to act based on how her dad acted.

Michal has taken a seat at the window of criticism. Not a good place to be. She's looking down, watching David, feeling superior and she despises her husband.

Now back in 1 Sam 19 we saw that as David fled, Michal took one of her images and laid it in her bed-she was an idolater. And you know what idolater's lack-it's joy.

David's coming with all the joy in his heart, and she despises him.

Chapter 16 describes the Ark being placed in the Tabernacle  
**1 So they brought the ark of God, and set it in the midst of the tabernacle that David had erected for it. Then they offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before God.** This wasn't the Tabernacle of Moses – nor the Temple of Solomon. This was a tent David manufactured for this purpose.

2-3

**2 And when David had finished offering the burnt offerings and the peace offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the LORD. 3 Then he distributed to everyone of Israel, both man and woman, to everyone a loaf of bread, a piece of meat, and a cake of raisins.** David feeds the worshippers. Hey, real worship can work up an appetite. David follows up the moving of the Ark with sacrifices to God and a box lunch for the people – bread, meat, and raisins

**4 And he appointed some of the Levites to minister before the ark of the LORD, to commemorate, to thank, and to praise the LORD God of Israel:** Notice the threefold function of music in the Temple... commemorate, thanks, and praise. Music needs to memorialize God's work – show gratitude – and give praise.

Too often Christians come into their local church with a critical attitude about the worship style. Too much guitar, not enough guitar. Too many hymns, not enough hymns. Worship wars have been going on for decades. But the real question in my mind is,



does the music commemorate, thank and praise God? If so, everything else is preference...

5-7

5 Asaph the chief, and next to him Zechariah, then Jeiel, Shemiramoth, Jehiel, Mattithiah, Eliab, Benaiah, and Obed-Edom: Jeiel with stringed instruments and harps, but Asaph made music with cymbals; 6 Benaiah and Jahaziel the priests regularly blew the trumpets before the ark of the covenant of God. Praise matters to God!

7 On that day David first delivered this psalm into the hand of Asaph and his brethren, to thank the LORD: In 2 Samuel 23 we're told that David was known as the sweet psalmist of Israel. And evidently he wrote the following psalm to thank the LORD on the day the ark of the covenant was brought to Jerusalem.

This psalm is actually a compilation of several other songs David had written at different times.

**SHOW PIC** Compare verses 8-22 with Psalm 105:1-15 – then verses 23-33 with Psalm 96:1-13 – and finally verses 34-36 with Psalm 106:1, 47-48. **CLOSE PIC**

8-9

8 Oh, give thanks to the LORD!

Call upon His name;

Make known His deeds among the peoples!

9 Sing to Him, sing psalms to Him;

Talk of all His wondrous works!" I hope this is what happens before and after the services here at C3... we "talk of all His wondrous works"

10 Glory in His holy name;

Let the hearts of those rejoice who seek the LORD!

11 Seek the LORD and His strength;

Seek His face evermore! This is the challenge we have-instead of relying on our strength, or our nation's strength, to look to the Lord and His strength.

12 Remember His marvelous works which He has done,

His wonders, and the judgments of His mouth,

13 O seed of Israel His servant,

You children of Jacob, His chosen ones! Jews are God's chosen people. But I'm not Jewish, am I left out? No Romans 11 declares we are grafted into that same vine!!

14 He is the LORD our God;

His judgments are in all the earth.

15 Remember His covenant forever,

The word which He commanded, for a thousand generations, God wanted His people to never forget the covenant He made with them.

16-19

16 The covenant which He made with Abraham,

And His oath to Isaac,

17 And confirmed it to Jacob for a statute,

To Israel for an everlasting covenant,

18 Saying, "To you I will give the land of Canaan

As the allotment of your inheritance,"

19 When you were few in number,

Indeed very few, and strangers in it. Understand the Bible is

crystal clear... all the Earth belongs to the Lord. God is the

ultimate landholder. Which means the land of Israel, or Canaan,

belongs to God and He's chosen to give it to the Hebrews. And the Bible isn't fuzzy about this whatsoever. Ezra calls God's promise an "everlasting covenant"... His word to "a thousand generations..."

This is why the war we see right now in Israel and Gaza is not a political issue. It's a biblical issue. Palestinians have no right to the land-it's the Jew's land

20-22

20 When they went from one nation to another,

And from one kingdom to another people,

21 He permitted no man to do them wrong;

Yes, He rebuked kings for their sakes,

22 Saying, "Do not touch My anointed ones,

And do My prophets no harm." [fn] Even when God used other nations as a tool of judgment for Israel, in His mercy God always left a protected remnant

23 Sing to the LORD, all the earth;

Proclaim the good news of His salvation from day to day. Even if our circumstances are awful, we can still praise Him for the salvation He's given us. And not only that, we can declare His salvation!

24 Declare His glory among the nations,

His wonders among all peoples. How do we do this-our testimony!!!

25-28

25 For the LORD is great and greatly to be praised;

He is also to be feared above all gods.

26 For all the gods of the peoples are idols,  
But the LORD made the heavens.

27 Honor and majesty are before Him;  
Strength and gladness are in His place.

28 Give to the LORD, O families of the peoples,  
Give to the LORD glory and strength. We're to give our lives to  
the Lord-which includes our strength, no matter how little we have  
for Him

29-33

29 Give to the LORD the glory due His name;  
Bring an offering, and come before Him.

Oh, worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness!

30 Tremble before Him, all the earth.

The world also is firmly established,  
It shall not be moved.

31 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;  
And let them say among the nations, "The LORD reigns."

32 Let the sea roar, and all its fullness;  
Let the field rejoice, and all that is in it.

33 Then the trees of the woods shall rejoice before the LORD,  
For He is coming to judge the earth.[fn]David knew that creation  
itself praised God. The beauty and power and skill and majesty of  
creation was itself a testimony of praise to its Creator. You  
cannot tell me I came from primordial ooze, or stalactites, and  
evolved into this. No we have a Creator!

34 Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good!  
For His mercy endures forever.[fn]

35 And say, "Save us, O God of our salvation;  
Gather us together, and deliver us from the Gentiles,  
To give thanks to Your holy name,  
To triumph in Your praise." These ancient words of David would have special relevance to the returned exiles. They would not only have confidence in God's ability to gather and deliver, but they would also be motivated to give thanks and to triumph in praising Him. This is yet another demonstration of why the Chronicler chose to include this psalm of David in the account of the ark's coming into Jerusalem

36 Blessed be the LORD God of Israel  
From everlasting to everlasting!<sup>[fn]</sup>

And all the people said, "Amen!" and praised the LORD.

37 So he left Asaph and his brothers there before the ark of the covenant of the LORD to minister before the ark regularly, as every day's work required; David deliberately planned for this to be more than a one day spectacular. He instituted ongoing service and worship before the ark of the covenant at its new resting place in Jerusalem.

38-43

38 and Obed-Edom with his sixty-eight brethren, including Obed-Edom the son of Jeduthun, and Hosah, to be gatekeepers; 39 and Zadok the priest and his brethren the priests, before the tabernacle of the LORD at the high place that was at Gibeon, 40 to offer burnt offerings to the LORD on the altar of burnt offering regularly morning and evening, and to do according to all that is

written in the Law of the LORD which He commanded Israel; 41 and with them Heman and Jeduthun and the rest who were chosen, who were designated by name, to give thanks to the LORD, because His mercy endures forever; 42 and with them Heman and Jeduthun, to sound aloud with trumpets and cymbals and the musical instruments of God. Now the sons of Jeduthun were gatekeepers.

43 Then all the people departed, every man to his house; and David returned to bless his house.