

1 Chronicles 10-13

Good evening and thank you for joining us! Would you please turn in your bibles to 1 Chronicles 10? Last week we covered nearly 3,000 years in just 9 chapters, and tonight we will slow the pace down, but still make steady ground as we study chapters 10-13.

As you know, one of the keys to learning is repetition. It's sad, but true, seldom do we learn anything the first time. And this was the case with God's people, Israel. As we'll see tonight we're revisiting the death of king Saul and then we'll move on to some of the exploits of David. Now we've studied all of this in depth earlier this year, so I won't go into the same level of detail. But clearly God has a reason for these reminders. The title of tonight's message is David as king. Let's pray

We begin our study with the death of King Saul. 1-4

1 Now the Philistines fought against Israel; and the men of Israel fled from before the Philistines, and fell slain on Mount Gilboa. 2 Then the Philistines followed hard after Saul and his sons. And the Philistines killed Jonathan, Abinadab, and Malchishua, Saul's sons. 3 The battle became fierce against Saul. The archers hit him, and he was wounded by the archers. 4 Then Saul said to his armorbearer, "Draw your sword, and thrust me through with it, lest these uncircumcised men come and abuse me." But his armorbearer would not, for he was greatly afraid. Therefore Saul took a sword and fell on it. Saul was mortally wounded, and afraid the philistines would torture him as they did Samson, so he asks

his armorbearer to go ahead and kill him. 2 Samuel 1 indicates Saul's suicide attempt may've failed, and that Saul's death was hastened by an Amalekite who happened to be near him at the time.

5-7

5 And when his armorbearer saw that Saul was dead, he also fell on his sword and died. 6 So Saul and his three sons died, and all his house died together. 7 And when all the men of Israel who were in the valley saw that they had fled and that Saul and his sons were dead, they forsook their cities and fled; then the Philistines came and dwelt in them. It was a low point for the nation of Israel-philistines dwelt in the land

8-10

8 So it happened the next day, when the Philistines came to strip the slain, that they found Saul and his sons fallen on Mount Gilboa. 9 And they stripped him and took his head and his armor, and sent word throughout the land of the Philistines to proclaim the news in the temple of their idols and among the people. 10 Then they put his armor in the temple of their gods, and fastened his head in the temple of Dagon. They were mocking God and the death of king Saul. 1 Samuel 31 tells us the Philistines nailed his body to the wall at Bet Shan.

11 And when all Jabesh Gilead heard all that the Philistines had done to Saul, 12 all the valiant men arose and took the body of Saul and the bodies of his sons; and they brought them to Jabesh, and buried their bones under the tamarisk tree at Jabesh, and fasted seven days. Out of respect for the king of Israel, these

unnamed men invade Bet Shan, and take back Saul's body so they could give it a decent burial

13 So Saul died for his unfaithfulness which he had committed against the LORD, because he did not keep the word of the LORD, and also because he consulted a medium for guidance. The witch at Endor.

14 But he did not inquire of the LORD; therefore He killed him, and turned the kingdom over to David the son of Jesse. Notice it wasn't the Philistines that killed Saul. It was Saul's own disobedience. Rather than seek God for guidance, Saul consulted with a witch.

It's interesting that once Ezra, the likely author of 1 Chronicles gets done with his genealogies – he begins his chronicles of the history of Israel– not with Saul's life, but with Saul's death.

In reality, Saul's end was Israel's beginning. Israel became great – not under the reign of Saul, but under the reign of his successor – a man after God's own heart...David the son of Jesse.

Chapter 11 we see David made king over All Israel

(2 Sam. 5)

1-2

1 Then all Israel came together to David at Hebron, saying, "Indeed we are your bone and your flesh. 2 Also, in time past, even when Saul was king, you were the one who led Israel out and brought them in; and the LORD your God said to you, 'You shall shepherd My people Israel, and be ruler over My people Israel.' "

Please notice in verses 1 and 2 there are 3 reasons why they're embracing David's leadership... First, David was an Israelite. He was their blood relative.

Second, David had proved himself a capable leader. He had formerly been a general in Saul's army.

And third, David had been directly called by God to shepherd and lead Israel.

These are also three traits we should look for in a spiritual leader... First, is he one with God's people? Is there a heart connection? Is he part of those he leads?

Second, has he been tested and proven in battle?

Third, is he called by God?

3 Therefore all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron, and David made a covenant with them at Hebron before the LORD. And they anointed David king over Israel, according to the word of the LORD by Samuel. This is the third time David was anointed king. First was at Jesse's house – as a young boy. Second, was when he was made king over Judah... And now, at Hebron, by all of Israel...

And David's first move to consolidate a divided kingdom is to relocate the capital of Israel to Jerusalem. Jerusalem was the perfect capitol for all Israel because of its neutrality. None of the 12 tribes claimed it as their own - since it had been a Jebusite city for 400 years.

4-9

4 And David and all Israel went to Jerusalem, which is Jebus, where the Jebusites were, the inhabitants of the land. 5 But the

inhabitants of Jebus said to David, “You shall not come in here!” Nevertheless David took the stronghold of Zion (that is, the City of David).

6 Now David said, “Whoever attacks the Jebusites first shall be chief and captain.” And Joab the son of Zeruiah went up first, and became chief. 7 Then David dwelt in the stronghold; therefore they called it the City of David. 8 And he built the city around it, from the Millo^[fn] (the tower) to the surrounding area. Joab repaired the rest of the city. 9 So David went on and became great, and the LORD of hosts was with him. The key to David’s greatness was that the Lord was with him.

The rest of chapter 11 recounts some of the brave exploits of the men who rallied around David, so we’re taking a step back in time to when Saul was still on the throne and David was on the run.

(2 Sam. 23)

10-14

10 Now these were the heads of the mighty men whom David had, who strengthened themselves with him in his kingdom, with all Israel, to make him king, according to the word of the LORD concerning Israel.

11 And this is the number of the mighty men whom David had: Jashobeam the son of a Hachmonite, chief of the captains;^[fn] he had lifted up his spear against three hundred, killed by him at one time.

12 After him was Eleazar the son of Dodo, the Ahohite, who was one of the three mighty men. 13 He was with David at Pasdammim. Now there the Philistines were gathered for battle, and there was a piece of ground full of barley. So the people fled

from the Philistines. 14 But they stationed themselves in the middle of that field, defended it, and killed the Philistines. So the LORD brought about a great victory. 2 Samuel 23:10 recounts how Eleazar's hand froze around his sword – he had clutched its handle so tightly he couldn't release his grip when the battle was over.

This is the key to victory for you and me... in our battles we also need a vice-grip on the sword - the sword of the Spirit, God's Word.

15-17

15 Now three of the thirty chief men went down to the rock to David, into the cave of Adullam; and the army of the Philistines encamped in the Valley of Rephaim. 16 David was then in the stronghold, and the garrison of the Philistines was then in Bethlehem. 17 And David said with longing, "Oh, that someone would give me a drink of water from the well of Bethlehem, which is by the gate!" Bethlehem was David's hometown. Now, it was overrun by Philistines. David is hiding away in the cave reminiscing - thinking of old times! He recalls how sweet the water tasted from the well at Bethlehem.

18-19

18 So the three broke through the camp of the Philistines, drew water from the well of Bethlehem that was by the gate, and took it and brought it to David. Nevertheless David would not drink it, but poured it out to the LORD.

19 And he said, "Far be it from me, O my God, that I should do this! Shall I drink the blood of these men who have put their lives in jeopardy? For at the risk of their lives they brought it."

Therefore he would not drink it. These things were done by the three mighty men. As a statement of love and loyalty to their leader - 3 men go to Bethlehem, and bravely slip behind enemy lines. They dip their canteens into this well and fill their water bottles just for David.

When they return with the water David had been craving, he's stunned. He can't believe such a lavish display of devotion and dedication would be shown to him.

David declares he's not worthy to gulp down water won by such sacrifice, so he poured out the water as an offering to the Lord. Why? Because only the Lord deserved that kind of unflinching loyalty and sacrificial love.

I love this story because it proves a vital point - real love is lavish. Love is much more than just words, love goes to extravagant lengths to express itself.

We continue to learn of David's mighty men
20-22

20 Abishai the brother of Joab was chief of another three.[fn] He had lifted up his spear against three hundred men, killed them, and won a name among these three. 21 Of the three he was more honored than the other two men. Therefore he became their captain. However he did not attain to the first three.

22 Benaiah was the son of Jehoiada, the son of a valiant man from Kabzeel, who had done many deeds. He had killed two lion-like heroes of Moab. He also had gone down and killed a lion in the midst of a pit on a snowy day. This man, Benaiah killed a lion.

But not only killed a lion, he did it in the middle of a pit, and on a snowy day. Think about it-it's cold, it's slippery, and he slays this lion.

This is convicting cuz I don't even like to check my mail when it's a little cold out, let alone face a lion!

23 And he killed an Egyptian, a man of great height, five cubits tall. In the Egyptian's hand there was a spear like a weaver's beam; and he went down to him with a staff, wrested the spear out of the Egyptian's hand, and killed him with his own spear.

SHOW PIC 5 cubits means this guy was about the height of Yao Ming – the Chinese basketball player for the Houston Rockets. Over 7 feet tall! **CLOSE PIC**

24 These things Benaiah the son of Jehoiada did, and won a name among three mighty men. 25 Indeed he was more honored than the thirty, but he did not attain to the first three. And David appointed him over his guard. Verses 26-47 list the rest of David's mighty men...

41 Uriah the Hittite,

David's "mighty men" didn't all begin as "mighty men". **1 Samuel 22:2** And everyone who was in distress, everyone who was in debt, and everyone who was discontented gathered to him. So he became captain over them. And there were about four hundred men with him.

The disenfranchised gathered around David – weak people - but David's influence made them mighty. And the Son of David uses

the same strategy. **1 Corinthians 1:27** 27 But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; 28 and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, 29 that no flesh should glory in His presence.

Jesus chooses the foolish and weak to confound the wise and mighty. We come to Him distressed, in debt, and discontent – but the influence of Jesus rubs off on us. Jesus turns the weak and foolish into His mighty men.

Chapter 12 describes the Growth of David's Army

1 Now these were the men who came to David at Ziklag while he was still a fugitive from Saul the son of Kish; and they were among the mighty men, helpers in the war, For a time David took refuge from the madman Saul among the Philistines. The King of Gath gave him the city of Ziklag. The people listed in chapter 12 joined David's men at Ziklag.

2 armed with bows, using both the right hand and the left in hurling stones and shooting arrows with the bow. They were of Benjamin, Saul's brethren. Now this is interesting. The men who came to David at Ziklag "were of Benjamin, Saul's brethren." This is ironic. Saul's own tribe rebelled against him, and defected to David.

3-7 gives their names

8 Some Gadites joined David at the stronghold in the wilderness, mighty men of valor, men trained for battle, who could handle

shield and spear, whose faces were like the faces of lions, and were as swift as gazelles on the mountains: They had the powerful combination of deer-like speed and lion-hearted courage. The author lists 11 such men from the tribe of Gad.

9-15

9 Ezer the first, Obadiah the second, Eliab the third, 10 Mishmannah the fourth, Jeremiah the fifth, 11 Attai the sixth, Eliel the seventh, 12 Johanan the eighth, Elzabad the ninth, 13 Jeremiah the tenth, and Machbanai the eleventh. 14 These were from the sons of Gad, captains of the army; the least was over a hundred, and the greatest was over a thousand. 15 These are the ones who crossed the Jordan in the first month, when it had overflowed all its banks; and they put to flight all those in the valleys, to the east and to the west. These men were dedicated!

16-18

16 Then some of the sons of Benjamin and Judah came to David at the stronghold. 17 And David went out to meet them, and answered and said to them, "If you have come peaceably to me to help me, my heart will be united with you; but if to betray me to my enemies, since there is no wrong in my hands, may the God of our fathers look and bring judgment." 18 Then the Spirit came upon Amasai, chief of the captains, and he said:

"We are yours, O David;
We are on your side, O son of Jesse!
Peace, peace to you,
And peace to your helpers!
For your God helps you."

So David received them, and made them captains of the troop. As Saul's insanity became more evident – more Israelites sought refuge with David. It was obvious God's hand of blessing was on David not Saul

19 And some from Manasseh defected to David when he was going with the Philistines to battle against Saul; but they did not help them, for the lords of the Philistines sent him away by agreement, saying, "He may defect to his master Saul and endanger our heads." In 1 Samuel 27 we see how at one point David actually attempted to fight with the Philistines against Saul and the army of Israel. The Philistine lords, fearing that David planned to defect to his master Saul, refused to allow David and his mighty men to fight in the battle

20 When he went to Ziklag, those of Manasseh who defected to him were Adnah, Jozabad, Jediahel, Michael, Jozabad, Elihu, and Zillethai, captains of the thousands who were from Manasseh. 21 And they helped David against the bands of raiders, for they were all mighty men of valor, and they were captains in the army.

Remember while David was away raiders from the south plundered Ziklag. They took their women and children captive. The men of Manasseh helped David recover all that belonged to them.

22 For at that time they came to David day by day to help him, until it was a great army, like the army of God.

23 Now these were the numbers of the divisions that were equipped for war, and came to David at Hebron to turn over the kingdom of Saul to him, according to the word of the LORD: " At Ziklag, David assembled quite a fighting force. Verses 23-38

number David's army. Add up the numbers and David had an army well over 300,000 troops.

38-40

38 All these men of war, who could keep ranks, came to Hebron with a loyal heart, to make David king over all Israel; and all the rest of Israel were of one mind to make David king. **39** And they were there with David three days, eating and drinking, for their brethren had prepared for them. **40** Moreover those who were near to them, from as far away as Issachar and Zebulun and Naphtali, were bringing food on donkeys and camels, on mules and oxen—provisions of flour and cakes of figs and cakes of raisins, wine and oil and oxen and sheep abundantly, for there was joy in Israel. The kingdom was free from Saul's tyranny and given to a man who loved God.

Chapter 13 reminds us when the Ark of the covenant was improperly brought into Jerusalem.

(2 Sam. 6)

1-4

1 Then David consulted with the captains of thousands and hundreds, and with every leader. **2** And David said to all the assembly of Israel, "If it seems good to you, and if it is of the LORD our God, let us send out to our brethren everywhere who are left in all the land of Israel, and with them to the priests and Levites who are in their cities and their common-lands, that they may gather together to us; **3** and let us bring the ark of our God back to us, for we have not inquired at it since the days of Saul." **4** Then all the assembly said that they would do so, for the thing was right in the eyes of all the people. The Ark was placed in

Kirjath Jearim where it stayed for 70 years. But David has a heart for God, and he knows God's presence accompanies the Ark. And David rightfully wants to live close to God so he brings the Ark to Jerusalem.

5-8

5 So David gathered all Israel together, from Shihor in Egypt to as far as the entrance of Hamath, to bring the ark of God from Kirjath Jearim. 6 And David and all Israel went up to Baalah,[fn] to Kirjath Jearim, which belonged to Judah, to bring up from there the ark of God the LORD, who dwells between the cherubim, where His name is proclaimed. 7 So they carried the ark of God on a new cart from the house of Abinadab, and Uzza and Ahio drove the cart. 8 Then David and all Israel played music before God with all their might, with singing, on harps, on stringed instruments, on tambourines, on cymbals, and with trumpets. This was an incredible worship-fest!

Picture the scene. They're carrying the ark, having a tremendous time of worship. The atmosphere is exciting, it's bubbling over with joy. But there's a problem. This isn't pleasing to God because it was in disobedience to God's word.

9 And when they came to Chidon's[fn] threshing floor, Uzza put out his hand to hold the ark, for the oxen stumbled. Touching the ark was strictly forbidden. **Numbers 4:15 And when Aaron and his sons have finished covering the sanctuary and all the furnishings of the sanctuary, when the camp is set to go, then the sons of Kohath shall come to carry them; but they shall not touch any holy thing, lest they die. These are the things in the tabernacle of meeting which the sons of Kohath are to carry.**

Uzzah reaches out his hand...

10 Then the anger of the LORD was aroused against Uzza, and He struck him because he put his hand to the ark; and he died there before God. At first glance, this seems harsh by God doesn't it? But the account of Uzzah serves as a somber reminder that both methods AND motives are important to God.

We've all seen people do foolish things in the name of God – terribly misrepresent God - then excuse their carnal methods by appealing to their motive. "We meant well! Our heart was in the right place! We just wanna see people saved!"

Just like our motives, our methods need to be free from manipulation and self-promotion. Just like our motives, our methods also need to be led by the Spirit - not the flesh.

The church gets into trouble when we mimic the world's methods and techniques. Just because a strategy is successful in the business or corporate world doesn't mean it should be employed in the church.

11 And David became angry because of the LORD's outbreak against Uzza; therefore that place is called Perez Uzza[fn] to this day. David's anger was based in confusion. He couldn't understand why his good intentions weren't enough.

12 David was afraid of God that day, saying, "How can I bring the ark of God to me?" David knew it was important to bring the ark of the LORD into the center of Israel's life. He wanted all Israel to be excited about the presence and glory of God. Because of what happened to Uzzah, David felt he couldn't bring the ark to Jerusalem.

13 So David would not move the ark with him into the City of David, but took it aside into the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite.

14 The ark of God remained with the family of Obed-Edom in his house three months. And the LORD blessed the house of Obed-Edom and all that he had. Now remember some of the history of the ark. When the ark was in the hands of the Philistines, they were plagued. When the men of Beth-Shemesh opened the lid of the ark to check its contents, thousands were killed. And we just read how Uzza touched it and fell down dead.

When God's Word was obeyed, and His holiness was respected, blessing followed. God wanted the ark to be a blessing for Israel, not a curse. But man's disobedience resulted in the curse.