

1 Chronicles 12-13 – Thursday, August 18th, 2016

1 Chronicles 12 -- 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, 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. 3 The chief was Ahiezer, then Joash, the sons of Shemaah the Gibeathite; Jeziel and Pelet the sons of Azmaveth; Berachah, and Jehu the Anathothite; 4 Ishmaiah the Gibeonite, a mighty man among the thirty, and over the thirty; Jeremiah, Jahaziel, Johanan, and Jozabad the Gederathite; 5 Eluzai, Jerimoth, Bealiah, Shemariah, and Shephatiah the Haruphite; 6 Elkanah, Jisshiah, Azarel, Joezer, and Jashobeam, the Korahites; 7 and Joelah and Zebadiah the sons of Jeroham of Gedor. 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: 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.

- We were first introduced to David's mighty men back in 1st Samuel, 27 and 30, where we're told about the account of Ziklag.
- While I don't deem it necessary to revisit all the prior accounts in Samuel and Kings, this is one that I think we should look at.
- This because, it speaks to the loyalty of David's men in the face of unthinkable adversity when they return to the city of Ziklag.

1 Samuel 30:1-8 -- 1 Now it happened, when David and his men came to Ziklag, on the third day, that the Amalekites had invaded the South and Ziklag, attacked Ziklag and burned it with fire, 2 and had taken captive the women and those who were there, from small to great; they did not kill anyone, but carried them away and went their way. 3 So David and his men came to the city, and there it was, burned with fire; and their wives, their sons, and their daughters had been taken captive. 4 Then David and the people who were with him lifted up their voices and wept, until they had no more power to weep. 5 And David's two wives, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess, and Abigail the widow of Nabal the Carmelite, had been taken captive. 6 Now David was greatly distressed, for the people spoke of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and his daughters. But David strengthened himself in the LORD his God. 7 Then David said to Abiathar the priest, Ahimelech's son, "Please bring the ephod here to me." And Abiathar brought the ephod to David. 8 So David inquired of the LORD, saying, "Shall I pursue this troop? Shall I overtake them?" And He answered him, "Pursue, for you shall surely overtake them and without fail recover all."

- Imagine the scene here; they had been traveling for about 3 days in order to get back home, only to find everything destroyed.
- If this weren't bad enough they must've surmised their wives and children had been taken in the absence of any bodily remains.
- I don't know if it's possible to fully grasp the intensity and the enormity of this where we're told they wept until they were unable.

- It's what David along with his men do after this that I would like for us to turn our attention to, such that, David turns to the Lord.
- David doesn't only turn to the Lord, he strengthens and encourages himself in the Lord, then; we're told he inquires of the Lord.
- It's when David inquires of the Lord; he receives his answer from the Lord, which is that of pursuing and overtaking the enemy.

- Here's where I'm going with all this, David's men were loyal to him in spite of the fact that it meant they would lose everything.
- In other words, these men gave up everything to follow their king, and no matter the cost, remained loyal in their service to him.
- To me, there's the typology as it relates to our greater than David, the Son of David, Jesus the Christ, as his loyal followers.

G. Campbell Morgan of this wrote, "Every word of this chapter carries the mind on to great David's greater Son, and the men He gathers about Him."

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. 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." 20 When he went to Ziklag, those of Manasseh who defected to him were Adnah, Jozabad, Jediel, 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. 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.

- There's something I want to point out here concerning these men being the sons of Benjamin, which makes them Saul's men.
- In other words, these men have joined with David to go against Saul, at great risk knowing that they are the brethren of Saul.
- I point this out because to their credit, they recognized the anointing on David as king, and as such, chose to follow him as well.

- I see this as a textbook win-win in the sense that David needed these men's loyalty, and the men needed David's leadership.
- It's important to understand that David is exercising discernment on his end, and they are demonstrating maturity on their end.
- I mention this because both of these characteristics are vitally important when it comes to leadership within the life of a church.

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: 24 of the sons of Judah bearing shield and spear, six thousand eight hundred armed for war; 25 of the sons of Simeon, mighty men of valor fit for war, seven thousand one hundred; 26 of the sons of Levi four thousand six hundred; 27 Jehoiada, the leader of the Aaronites, and with him three thousand seven hundred; 28 Zadok, a young man, a valiant warrior, and from his father's house twenty-two captains; 29 of the sons of Benjamin, relatives of Saul, three thousand (until then the greatest part of them had remained loyal to the house of Saul); 30 of the sons of Ephraim twenty thousand eight hundred, mighty men of valor, famous men throughout their father's house; 31 of the half-tribe of Manasseh eighteen thousand, who were designated by name to come and make David king; 32 of the sons of Issachar who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do, their chiefs were two hundred; and all their brethren were at their command; 33 of Zebulun there were fifty thousand who went out to battle, expert in war with all weapons of war, stouthearted men who could keep ranks; 34 of Naphtali one thousand captains, and with them thirty-seven thousand with shield and spear; 35 of the Danites who could keep battle formation, twenty-eight thousand six hundred; 36 of Asher, those who could go out to war, able to keep battle formation, forty thousand; 37 of the Reubenites and the Gadites and the half-tribe of Manasseh, from the other side of the Jordan, one hundred and twenty thousand armed for battle with every kind of weapon of war. 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.

- So the chapter ends with a massive celebration on the part of all these men who are now aligned with and submitted to David.
- Before we go to chapter 13, I just want to mention one thing about these men of Zebulun, who we're told were stouthearted.
- The reason being is that it carries with it the idea of having an undivided heart of loyalty to David, and wouldn't betray David.

F. B. Meyer in his commentary on this writes, "We read in verse 33 of Zebulun, whose warriors were not of a double heart; the margin says that they were 'without a heart and a heart.' The double-minded man is unstable in all his ways; he is not to be relied upon in his loyalty or service to his king. ... "Too many like to break the ranks, and do God's work independently. Fifty men who act together will do greater execution than five hundred acting apart. ...Unity is strength; and in their efforts to overthrow the kingdom of Satan it is most essential that the soldiers of Christ move in rank and keep step."

1 Chronicles 13 -- 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. 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, 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. 9 And when they came to Chidon's threshing floor, Uzza put out his hand to hold the ark, for the oxen stumbled. 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. 11 And David became angry because of the LORD's outbreak against Uzza; therefore that place is called Perez Uzza to this day. 12 David was afraid of God that day, saying, "How can I bring the ark of God to me?" 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.

- While chapter thirteen gets off to a very good start, sadly, it has a very bad end concerning what they do with the ark of God.
- By a good start I mean that David wants his first priority now that he's king, to be that of bringing the ark of God to Jerusalem.
- By a bad end I mean, David does the right thing in the wrong way, and it leads to the death of Uzza as a result of what he did.

- Actually, though we did study this account in depth back when we were in 2 Samuel 6, again I think we'd do well to revisit it too.
- First, the problem with what David did is he didn't seek the Lord as to how the ark was to be carried from one place to another.
- Had he done so, he would have known that God commanded it be made with permanent poles to be carried by God's people.

Alan Redpath - "The ark was nothing less than the burden of the Lord, and the burden of the Lord was to be carried on the hearts of the Levites."

- You'll forgive my play on words, but the Lord was to be carried on the hearts of His people not flashy carts made by His people.
- I suppose the question becomes, where did they come up with this new cart idea, answer, from none other than the Philistines.
- The lesson here becomes quite clear; we should never adopt the wrong worldly ways of the Philistines, in our worship of God.

- Be that as it may, I find David's reaction of both anger and fear interesting in that it seems that it somewhat disproportionate.
- David's emotions went from the height of excitement, to the depth of bewilderment, and he does so dramatically and publically.
- It's also interesting that David then decides to take it to the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite where it remains for 3-months.

- It's important to take note of how the Lord blessed Obed-Edom and all his household, once the ark of God was in their home.
- The significance of this is twofold; first, because Obed-Edom was from the tribe of Levi, God was able to bless his entire house.
- Second, God wanted David to know that it wasn't the ark that was the problem; it was David's mishandling of the ark that was.

Charles Spurgeon - Obed-Edom's prosperity was a sure token that the Lord was ready to bless all who would treat his ark with reverence. When God blesses men of like passions with ourselves, we are encouraged to expect that He will bless us also."

- This is how and where I would like to bring our study to an end. Where the presence of the Lord is, so too will His blessing be.
- Whether it's our homes, or churches, we'll only drink from the cup of the blessing of the Lord vis-à-vis the presence of the Lord.
- I'll take it a step further and suggest that the only way to be blessed by the Lord, is to keep central the holy Word of the Lord.

Psalm 16:11b - In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.