

1 Chronicles 14-15 – Thursday, August 25th, 2016

1 Chronicles 14 — 1 Now Hiram king of Tyre sent messengers to David, and cedar trees, with masons and carpenters, to build him a house. 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. 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, Shobab, Nathan, Solomon, 5 Ibhar, Elishua, Elpelet, 6 Nogah, Nepheg, Japhia, 7 Elishama, Beeliada, and Eliphelet. 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.

- Couple of thoughts here right out of the chute, the first of which has to do with where we're told that David took more wives.
- The problem with this is that David would suffer greatly from the consequences of doing this, throughout the entirety of his life.
- This because, it was an act of disobedience to the command of the Lord, according to the law in the book of Deuteronomy.

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.

- The second thought on this has to do with the Philistines coming against David upon hearing he had been anointed as king.
- The reason I highlight this is because this is textbook when it comes to the enemy attacking us when we're anointed for service.
- Without fail, the spiritual warfare will always ensue proportionate to the setting of our foot to do that which God calls us to do.

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." 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. 12 And when they left their gods there, David gave a commandment, and they were burned with fire. 13 Then the Philistines once again made a raid on the valley. 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, 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.

- Notice the specificity with which David inquires of the Lord and in response notice the specificity of the Lord's answer to David.
- The reason I point this out is twofold, first the more specific our prayers are to God, the more specific the answers from God.
- The second reason is that as we just saw, our greatest spiritual warfare comes on the heels of our greatest spiritual victories.

- I'll take it a step further and suggest not only are specific petitions directly proportionate to specific answers, and also the trials.
- The more specific the prayer for victory the more specific the answer of victory and the greater the victory, the greater the trial.
- This begs the question of, why aren't we the recipients of such specific answers and with them greater and grander victories?

Adam Clarke in his commentary provides us with a very blunt answer when he asks, "How is it that such supernatural directions and assistances are not communicated now? Because they are not asked for; and they are not asked for because they are not expected; and they are not expected because men have not faith; and they have not faith because they are under a refined spirit of atheism, and have no spiritual intercourse with their Maker."

- Be that as it may, the chapter ends with what I believe is one of the most powerful lessons we as Christians can possibly learn.
- David could have easily assumed that God would have him do the same thing he had just done simply because it had worked.
- To his credit, he doesn't make this assumption, and according to the narrative it's good he didn't, as God had a different plan.

- Before we move on to chapter fifteen, I would like for us to take note of three take away's from chapter fourteen.
- First, we never err by inquiring of the Lord even when it might seem doing so is unnecessary given what God already said.
- Second, never assume just because God answered your prayer and gave you the victory last time, that it's the same this time.

- Third, there is no such thing as an A+B=C formula in our Christian experience. Simply put, it just does not work that way.
- Better said, you can't just insert "Tab A into Tab B" when it comes to discerning the God's will God's call, or, God's way.
- We do err greatly when we make assumptions and employ formulas because in so doing, we trust in them instead of the Lord.

Psalms 20:7-9 (NKJV) — 7 Some trust in chariots, and some in horses; But we will remember the name of the LORD our God. 8 They have bowed down and fallen; But we have risen and stand upright. 9 Save, LORD! May the King answer us when we call.

Proverbs 3:5-7 (NKJV) — 5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths. 7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and depart from evil.

1 Chronicles 15 - 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." 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. 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.

- Sadly, had David inquired of the Lord the first time concerning the ark of God, what happened prior wouldn't have taken place.
- This speaks to the paramount importance of seeking the Lord, and knowing the word so as to be Biblical in our service to Him.
- The bottom line is that the Biblical way of carrying the ark, as a representation of the presence of God, was to be by His people.

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. 17 So the Levites appointed Heman the son of Joel; and of his brethren, Asaph the son of Berechiah; and of their brethren, the sons of Merari, Ethan the son of Kushaiah; 18 and with them their brethren of the second rank: Zechariah, Ben, Jaaziel, Shemiramoth, Jehiel, Unni, Eliab, Benaiah, Maaseiah, Mattithiah, Elipheleh, Mikneiah, Obed-Edom, and Jeiel, the gatekeepers; 19 the singers, Heman, Asaph, and Ethan, were to sound the cymbals of bronze; 20 Zechariah, Aziel, Shemiramoth, Jehiel, Unni, Eliab, Maaseiah, and Benaiah, with strings according to Alamoth; 21 Mattithiah, Elipheleh, Mikneiah, Obed-Edom, Jeiel, and Azaziah, to direct with harps on the Sheminith; 22 Chenaniah, leader of the Levites, was instructor in charge of the music, because he was skillful; 23 Berechiah and Elkanah were doorkeepers for the ark; 24 Shebaniah, Joshaphat, Nethanel, Amasai, Zechariah, Benaiah, and Eliezer, the priests, were to blow the trumpets before the ark of God; and Obed-Edom and Jehiah, doorkeepers for the ark. 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. 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.

- We know from 2 Samuel 6 that "danced before the Lord with all his might," when his wife Michal saw him and despised him.
- To me, this is perhaps one of the saddest verses in all of scripture, such that, she didn't despise what he did; she despised him.
- One of the worst things a wife can ever do is have a critical spirit towards her husband, especially if he makes a spiritual effort.

- Kindly allow me to share a number of very practical truths here in this last part of the chapter for the remainder of our time.
- First, like David, we should always see ourselves as having an audience of one, namely the Lord Himself, not others around us.
- Second, like Michal, we should never compare someone to others, good or bad, because God has a unique calling on all of us.

- Third, conflicts as husband and wife are inevitable, and can sometimes be healthy, however, a critical spirit will kill a marriage.
- Actually, a critical spirit will kill any and all relationships and like Michal, it can also lead to a life of fruitlessness and barrenness.
- It's believed Michal was barren because David was so hurt by his wife's cutting accusations he'd never have relations with her.

One commentator wrote; Michal's barrenness wasn't necessarily the result of Divine judgment. It may be David never had marital relations with her again. Nevertheless, the principle stands: there's often barrenness in the life and ministry of the overly critical.

- The fourth and final truth has to do with imposing the templates of the past on the present, which is what Michal did with David.
- Let me explain, Michal's fatal mistake was she expected David to model what was modeled before her by her own father; Saul.
- Furthermore, one can't help but think that her father unduly influenced her concerning David when Saul was trying to kill David.

- I'll take it a step further and suggest when Saul took her from David and married her to another; she probably got an ear full.
- She probably heard things like that David is no king. You deserve better than him Michal because you're the daughter of a king.
- It should come as no surprise that she jumps at the first opportunity to echo the same cutting criticisms as if it was from Saul.

I'll close with a quote from Charles Spurgeon, "She acted rather as the daughter of Saul than as the wife of David, and therefore like her father she died, leaving no heir to the throne of Israel."