

## **A Thanksgiving Assignment – Part 2**

### **1 Chronicles 16:23-36**

#### **Pray**

#### **Three Things...**

Good morning! If you are new here, my name is Dan Burleson. I am one of the Associate Pastors here at Cornerstone. And we always tell our guests three things...

**First**, we are grateful that you are with us. You are God's gift to us in this time we that we have together. So, thank you again for worshipping with us.

**Second**, you are in a place where the ground is level. Which means no one is any higher, better, or more significant than anyone else. The ground at the foot of the cross is level ground and we are sinners who need a Savior and Jesus is that Savior. And while your salvation is a personal matter, God never designed for it to be a private matter. He wants us to live as brothers and sisters in the family of God.

**Which leads to the Third** thing we need to tell you... we love you enough to speak the truth to you. That's truth with a capital "T". The truth from God's Word. The truth about Jesus. His Person. His Works. And His Words... How He can transform your life from the inside out. He is the Cornerstone of our faith.

I hope you all had a Happy Thanksgiving Week. Here is the highlight of my week....

#### **Introduction**

John Marc will continue his series in Ephesians next. He has been in Maryland helping his Mom move into a memory care unit. Please be

praying for this transition. Last Sunday we looked at the first part of A Thanksgiving Assignment found in 1 Chronicles 16. This morning we are going to look at 1 Chronicles 16:23-36. If you have your Bibles this morning, please find 1 Chronicles 16:23-36. Last Sunday, I gave you an assignment to remember all that God has done in you and through you and for you this past year. I asked you to read our passage from last week and to use a list of ten commands and praise God each day. I hope that was a blessing to you and to others.

Last week we looked at a tiny snippet in the history of Israel. It was a highlight for Israel because David brought the Ark of the Covenant into Jerusalem. The ark of the covenant represented the presence of God. They celebrated to have the ark back with them. Also from our passage, David seems to have understood that the ark's entrance into Jerusalem was either a picture or a promise of the future coming of the Messiah to reign over the world as King.

Last week the verses in our passage were almost identical to Psalm 105. Today, our passage is almost identical to Psalm 96 and also Psalm 106:47-48. Last week we saw that David gave a Thanksgiving Assignment to Asaph. 1 Chronicles 16:7 says, "*Then on that day David first assigned Asaph and his relatives to give thanks to the LORD.*" Our main point is the same as it was last week. David gives Asaph and other Levites a Psalm of Thanksgiving. This Psalm prompts the people to praise their God. I pray that we will continue to be prompted this morning to give thanks to the Lord.

### **Let's read 1 Chronicles 16:23-36...**

1 Chronicles 16:23–36 (NASB95) — *23 Sing to the LORD, all the earth; Proclaim good tidings of His salvation from day to day. 24 Tell of His glory among the nations, His wonderful deeds among all the peoples. 25 For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; He also is to be feared above all gods. 26 For all the gods of the peoples are idols, But the LORD made the heavens. 27 Splendor and majesty are before*

*Him, Strength and joy are in His place. 28 Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, Ascribe to the LORD glory and strength. 29 Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name; Bring an offering, and come before Him; Worship the LORD in holy array. 30 Tremble before Him, all the earth; Indeed, the world is firmly established, it will not be moved. 31 Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; And let them say among the nations, "The LORD reigns." 32 Let the sea roar, and all it contains; Let the field exult, and all that is in it. 33 Then the trees of the forest will sing for joy before the LORD; For He is coming to judge the earth. 34 O give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; For His lovingkindness is everlasting. 35 Then say, "Save us, O God of our salvation, And gather us and deliver us from the nations, To give thanks to Your holy name, And glory in Your praise." 36 Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, From everlasting even to everlasting. Then all the people said, "Amen," and praised the LORD.*

### **Our outline has five points...**

- I. A Command to Witness**
- II. A Command to Worship**
- III. A Celebration**
- IV. A Closing Prayer**
- V. A Thanksgiving Assignment**

Before we get into our main points this morning, please notice that this section begins in verse 23 with the repeated command to "Sing to the Lord." We saw that as a command in verse 9 last week. "Sing to Him, sing praises to Him." Psalm 96, again which our passage this morning is almost identical emphasizes the command to sing in verse 1. "*Sing to the Lord a new song; Sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord, bless His name.*" So as we learned last week, singing is an important part of giving thanks to God.

### **I. A Command to Witness Vs 23-27**

Notice the second part of verse 23... *“Proclaim good tidings of His salvation from day to day.”* And then verse 24... *“Tell of His glory among the nations, His wonderful deeds among all the peoples.”* In verses 23-27 we find **A Command to Witness... A Command to Witness**. Notice the global focus of this passage. **In verse 23...** *“all the earth.”* **In verse 24...** *“among the nations”* and *“among all peoples.”* **In verse 26...** *“of the peoples.”* **In verse 28...** *“families of the peoples.”* **In verse 30...** *“all the earth.”* **In verse 31...** *“among the nations.”* **In verse 33...** *“the earth.”* Some have referred to this Psalm as a “missionary psalm,” as well as a “millennial psalm.” So here we have a command to witness. In **verses 23 – 27**, the psalmist says to proclaim or tell of four things. Each of these things overlap and run parallel to each other...

### **A. Proclaim Good Tidings of His Salvation vs 23b**

First, *“Proclaim good tidings of His salvation from day to day.”* That’s the second part of verse 23. Tell, announce, make a public proclamation, bring good news. What’s the good news? In the context of this passage, Israel can tell others about their own experience throughout their history. God has saved them. Salvation is deliverance from danger or suffering. To save is to deliver or protect. Again, if you study the history of Israel in Genesis, you see how God chose Israel, how God made a covenant promise with Israel, and how He has been faithful to keep that promise to Israel. God remained faithful even when Israel was unfaithful. But we also see that the phrase “good tidings of His salvation” refers to God’s power to save. He saves. **What about today? What is salvation?** Salvation concerns an eternal, spiritual deliverance. **What must I do to be saved?** Acts 16:30–31 says, *30 and after he [the Philippian Jailer] brought them [Paul and Silas] out, he [the jailer] said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” 31 They said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, ...”* **What are we saved from?** Romans 6:23 says, *“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”* We are saved from both the power and penalty of sin. **Who does the saving?** Titus 3:5 says, *“He [God] saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to*

*His mercy, ...*” **How do we receive salvation?** It begins with the good news of the gospel. Our passage this morning says to *proclaim good tidings of His salvation from day to day*. Tell people about Jesus Christ. Jesus came to earth. He was 100% God and 100% man. He lived a sinless life. He died on a cross to pay the penalty of sin for those who put their trust in Him alone. And because Jesus is more powerful than sin and death, He arose 3 days later as He said He would do. John 14:6 says, “*Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.”*” Acts 4:12 says, “*And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.*” If you are saved this morning, “*proclaim good tidings of His salvation.*” Tell others of what Christ has done in your own life. If you are not saved, my prayer for you is that you put your trust in Christ this morning.

### **B. Proclaim His Glory and Wonderful Deeds vs 24**

The second thing we are to proclaim as we witness is found in verse 24. “*Proclaim His glory.*” The glory of God is manifested in all of God’s attributes together—holiness, majesty, goodness, love, etc. These things are eternal. Verse 24 in 1 Chronicles 16 also says, “*Tell of His glory among the nations, His wonderful deeds among the peoples.*” Again, the people of Israel had so much to tell. God had brought them through some remarkable situations in their history. Last week we saw this same command. Verse 8 says, “*Make known His deeds among the peoples.*” Verse 9 says, “*Speak of His wonders.*” What about us? Do you proclaim God’s glory and wonderful deeds? Last week I asked you to think about all that God has done in you and through you and for you over the past year. Do you let other people know what God has done in your life?

### **C. Proclaim His Greatness vs 25-26**

The third thing to proclaim as we witness is God’s greatness. Verse 25 says, “*For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;*” Psalm 145:3 says, “*Great is the LORD, and highly to be praised, And His greatness is unsearchable.*” Psalm 135:5 says, *For I know that the LORD is great And that our Lord is above all gods.*” Ephesians 1:19 says, “*and what is*

*the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might. “Do you believe that God deserves our greatest praise? Notice the next part of verse 25 and verse 26... “He also is to be feared above all gods. For all the gods of the peoples are idols, But the Lord made the heavens.”* The gods of the peoples in our passage speaks of the other nations (non-Israelites) who made idols. The most prevalent form of idolatry in Bible times was the worship of images that were thought to embody the various pagan deities. Idols were often made of wood, stone or metals. Idolatry defined is “the worship of idols or excessive devotion to, or reverence for some person or thing.” An idol is anything that replaces the one true God. The term for idols in our passage means, “nothing” or “nobody.” It’s saying, “God is great and to be feared above all gods.” All other so-called gods are nothing but dumb idols. From the beginning, God’s covenant with Israel was based on exclusive worship of Him alone. One of the ten commandments is *“you shall have no other gods before Me.”* There is only one God. One true, living God. He is the creator. He alone is worthy of praise. A few years back I went to Cuba. Idolatry is huge in Cuba. You will go into many houses, and they have a corner with various idols that they worship. But idolatry is a matter of the heart. Pride, self-centeredness, greed, gluttony, a love for possessions and ultimately rebellion against God are all forms of idolatry. Again, God is greater than any idol. And He is the only God. He is the Creator. He made you and He made me. And if you are a believer here this morning, He saved you. Let’s proclaim God’s greatness.

#### **D. Proclaim His Splendor, Majesty, Strength and Joy vs 27**

Fourth, verse 27 says, *“Splendor and majesty are before Him, Strength and joy are in His place.”* Splendor and majesty are two great attributes of a King. Strength and joy are in His sanctuary, surrounding His royal enthronement. God’s strength is a cause for joy. God is king over all the earth. He is the King of Glory. The eternal King. Psalm 24 David says, *“1 The earth is the LORD’S, and all it contains, The world, and those who dwell in it. 2 For He has founded it upon the seas And established it upon the rivers. 3 Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD? And who*

*may stand in His holy place? 4 He who has clean hands and a pure heart, Who has not lifted up his soul to falsehood And has not sworn deceitfully. 5 He shall receive a blessing from the LORD And righteousness from the God of his salvation. 6 This is the generation of those who seek Him, Who seek Your face—even Jacob. Selah. 7 Lift up your heads, O gates, And be lifted up, O ancient doors, That the King of glory may come in! 8 Who is the King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, The LORD mighty in battle. 9 Lift up your heads, O gates, And lift them up, O ancient doors, That the King of glory may come in! 10 Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, He is the King of glory. Selah.”* He is the most awesome, most powerful king and must be taken seriously. Let’s tell the world about Him.

So we have the command to witness. Let’s tell the world about the good tidings of salvation. Let’s tell the world about His glory and wonderful deeds. Let’s tell the world about God’s greatness. Let’s tell the world about God’s splendor, majesty, strength, and joy.

## **II. A Command to Worship Vs 28-31**

So we see the command to witness. Next, we see a command to worship in verses 28-31. And much of what we are to worship God for is the same as what we are to tell the world about. Notice three things. We are not going to spend a lot of time on them because we have already covered them in the previous verses last week.

### **A. Praise God for His Glory and Strength vs 28**

First, praise God for His glory and strength. Verse 28 says, “*Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples, Ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.*” What is the glory of God? It is His splendor, greatness, and magnificence. Isaiah 42:8 says, “*I am the LORD, that is My name; I will not give My glory to another, Nor My praise to graven images.*” How strong is God? Well, He is omnipotent, or all-powerful. That is, God is able to do all things that are proper objects of power. *Psalm 46:1–2* says, “*1 God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble. 2*

*Therefore we will not fear...*” Worshippers should declare that God alone possesses true glory and strength.

### **B. Praise God for the Glory Due His Name vs 29**

Second, Verse 29 says, Ascribe to the Lord the glory due His name. The name of God represents all that He is and does. So, Israel had so much to praise God for. But we do too. Verse 29 continues, *“Bring an offering, and come before Him.”* Israel would have understood this. In their time, if you were to come before a king, you would bring a gift or an offering that would be acceptable to the king. In context, God is King. Giving to God is an act of worship.

### **C. Praise God for His Holiness vs 30-31**

Third, the end of verse 29-31 says, *“Worship the Lord in holy array. Tremble before Him, all the earth; Indeed, the world is firmly established, it will not be moved. Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; And let them say among the nations, ‘The Lord reigns.’”*

One pastor writes, “God’s holiness is His inherent and absolute greatness, in which He is perfectly distinct above everything outside Himself and is absolutely morally separate from sin... There are two aspects of God’s holiness in the evidence found in Scripture: Majestic Holiness and Ethical (or moral) Holiness. Majestic holiness speaks to the fact that God is inherently great and resists all compromises of His character and therefore is transcendentally distinct from all His creatures in infinite majesty. He is majestically unique. This sense of God’s holiness qualifies all His other attributes, and all these qualify His holiness. Ethical (or Moral) Holiness says: Since God is inherently great and therefore transcendentally distinct from everything outside Himself, He is most certainly separate from sin, being morally and ethically perfect, abhorring sin and demanding purity in His moral creatures.” That explanation of God’s holiness shows how great God is and why He is worthy of our praise and worship. So how to you approach such a Holy God? Verse 30 says to “tremble before Him.” We are to fear God. We are to recognize Him as Holy. Notice that the end of verse 31 says, *“The Lord Reigns.”* This is the central theme of this Psalm. **Psalm 47:8**

says, “*God reigns over the nations, God sits on His holy throne.*” **Psalm 93:1** says, “*The LORD reigns, He is clothed with majesty; The LORD has clothed and girded Himself with strength; Indeed, the world is firmly established, it will not be moved.*” Both our passage and Psalm 93:1 says the world is firmly established; it will not be moved. There is no need for anxiety. God is in control of the earth. It is stable and reliable. God is King. We are to bow before Him. We are not to approach Him casually. He is a Holy God. He is King of Kings and Lord of Lords. When you go to court, you call the judge, “your honor.” God is the ultimate Judge. We should honor Him above all else. We should approach him in reverential awe. Worship is never a casual experience. Let’s praise God for His holiness.

We have seen a command to witness and a command to worship. Third, we see a celebration.

### **III. A celebration Vs 31-34**

**Verse 31-34 is a celebration of God’s universal reign.** The coming of God to judge here is a cause for joy. All nature is called upon to praise God. All creatures should rejoice in the sovereignty of God over human history. Notice in verse 31 it says, “*Let the heavens be glad, and the earth rejoice.*” Verse 32 says, “*Let the sea roar, and all it contains; Let the field exult, and all that is in it.*” Verse 33 says, “*Then the trees of the forest will sing for joy before the Lord; For He is coming to judge the earth.*” What this is saying is that creation itself reacts to welcome and celebrate the coming of the Lord, the High King. **How should we respond?** All peoples should rejoice in the sovereignty of God over human history. Pastor Steve Lawson says, “This celebration of God’s universal reign looks ahead to the final consummation of human history, when Christ returns to the earth and will judge the world in righteousness. The Lord will come in the person of His Son, Jesus Christ, and judge the earth and the peoples in His truth. In that final day, perfect righteousness will be executed, the wicked will be punished, the righteous will be rewarded, and the Lord’s reign will be established in all

the earth. This is the confident hope of all who worship God in this present hour.”

**How should we celebrate?** With thanksgiving. Earlier Larry Jordan read **Psalm 100**. I love Psalm 100. It is a Psalm of Thanksgiving. Psalm 100 says, *“1 Shout joyfully to the LORD, all the earth. 2 Serve the LORD with gladness; Come before Him with joyful singing. 3 Know that the LORD Himself is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture. 4 Enter His gates with thanksgiving And His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him, bless His name. 5 For the LORD is good; His lovingkindness is everlasting And His faithfulness to all generations.”* So many great ways to celebrate are listed in that passage. And it really spills into our passage. Look at verse 34... *“O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; For His lovingkindness is everlasting.”* What a great reminder of the assignment given by David to Asaph. That assignment was to “give thanks to the Lord.”

#### **IV. A Closing Prayer Vs 35-36**

Our passage wraps up with a closing prayer in verse 35-36. It says, *“Then say, “Save us, O God of our salvation, And gather us and deliver us from the nations, To give thanks to Your holy name, And glory in Your praise.” Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, From everlasting even to everlasting. Then all the people said, “Amen,” and praised the Lord.”*

The writer of Chronicles emphasized the importance of all the people of Israel returning to the promised land. In this closing prayer we see that God has been and continues to be faithful to Israel. It’s also true that God has been and continues to be faithful to us. Even when we are unfaithful to Him, He remains faithful. This final prayer again emphasizes thanksgiving. It reminds us again of the importance of praise, witnessing, worship and celebrating.

I love how it ends. *“Then all the people said, “Amen,” and praised the Lord.”* They received the assignment. They said Amen and then did the

assignment. When we read God's Word. Let's say Amen and then do what it says. What an amazing testimony that would be.

## **V. Homework – A Thanksgiving Assignment – Part 2**

I gave you a homework assignment last week. So many have told me that they have been working on the assignment. Today's assignment is similar yet different from last week...

**Instructions:** Read 1 Chronicles 16:23-36 every day this week. After reading each day, write down one principle you can apply right now.

**Let's pray...**

**Prayer...**

**Command to Witness**

**Command to Worship**

**Celebration**

**Application – Amen and praise the Lord**

**Benediction....**

**Colossians 2:6–7 (NASB95)** — *6 Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, 7 having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude.*