

1 Chronicles 10-12

I know that it's been awhile since we've been here so allow me to re-familiarize us to the environment here as to what it is that's going on in the books of the Chronicles. In some ways they parallel the books of 2nd Samuel and the books of the Kings but in other ways they don't. You find as you go through 2nd Samuel, and 1st and 2nd Kings that they cover both David's up rise (of course Saul's downfall), but then we see as the years go by how the kingdom divides, it follows both the northern kings of Israel and the southern kings of Judah. 1st and 2nd Chronicles doesn't concern itself with the kings of the north, but only follows after the southern kings of Judah, that is the lineage and descendants of David.

The books of the Chronicles don't concern themselves with the down sides to David's reign, but only emphasize the highlights. God had made a promise to David that One would come through him that would sit on his throne forever, the promise of the Messiah was given to David, and so he is the primary occupant of 1st Chronicles, and the focus isn't on his faults or his frailties but rather on his righteous reign.

Now when we left off in our last time together you recall that the 1st 9 Ch of this book are occupied primarily with genealogy. The Chronicler establishing the history and the ethnicity of the nation even from Adam and then bringing us to this point whereby we're prepared to see David enter into the equation. But before we see how it is that David became king, we have 1st the record of Saul's downfall, again the record in the books of the Chronicles doesn't concern itself with Saul's *reign*, only his *ruin*. The focus is on the Davidic dynasty; God stripped the kingdom from Saul, and gave it to David (a man after His own heart). and Really what we have before us is a stark contrast that ultimately points out Saul's 40yr disaster, with David's 425 yr dynasty. and It's not that David or his descendants did everything perfect, the record shows quite the opposite. But David desired God's heart, as to where Saul was really only concerned about himself. The results were that Saul's reign wound up a 40 yr disaster, David's reign made for a dynasty that lasted 425 yrs. and I think that even in that there's a principle that we do well to see and that is that our sin can have devastating effects (as we'll see in this Ch) not only for us, but for those around us and it might do damage for yrs to come. Yet at the same time our love for God can cause God's blessing to visit not only our own lives, but the lives of those around us and *those* effects might bring blessing to our family and those around us for yrs to come. Saul served himself and the end was disaster, David sought after the Lord with every fiber of his being. Did he struggle; you bet, stumble; we know he did, yet his heart so desired God's heart-and the end was a dynasty. God will honor your desire to seek Him, to serve Him, to submit your life to Him.

So of the 22 Ch's or so that 1st Samuel designates to the reign of Saul, the Chronicler leaves out 21 of them and only gives us 1 Ch regarding Saul and that is to point out the end of his reign, how and why it came to an end. and The emphasizing of Saul's *disloyalty* again only serves to highlight David's *loyalty* and how God honors that. and So as we step into Ch it's with the Philistines following hard after Saul.

Vs 1-7

The shepherd was struck, so the sheep scattered. and This is what's so difficult to get people to see when they're so centered on doing their own thing, or following after the dictates of their own heart. Your sin; and my sin doesn't just have to do with me. How often we hear, "I'm not hurting anybody." Yes you are; sin is not self contained.

Now absolutely our sin impacts us directly, but you're only deceiving yourself if you think it stops with you. Even here we see how our sin impacts our family, our friends, and depending on what the nature of your sin might be it could continue to ripple out to a potentially national upheaval. That's what happened with Saul. The ramifications of his sin and disobedience resulted 1st of all in the death of his sons, there in Vs 2 you read of the death of Jonathon, Abinadab, and Malchishua, so before the wages of his sin even caught up to him they were destroying his family. and So often that's true, people being so stubborn about their sin that they'll watch the systematic destruction of their family and still not be moved to repentance. You see it with alcoholics and drug addicts all the time, they stubbornly hang on to their sin at the expense and destruction of their family.

But our sin doesn't only destroy us, and our family, it can reach in to the lives of those around us as well, notice how in Vs 5 after the armorbearer saw that Saul was dead that he fell on his sword as well and died. At this point Saul is already gone and yet his sin is still destroying people's lives, and it doesn't stop there. When the men of Israel saw that the armies of Israel had fled and that Saul and his sons were dead, they forsook their cities and fled. Now what had previously belonged to the kingdom was occupied by the enemy. They were forced to give up ground to the advances of the enemy. So Saul's sin, his hardened rebellion, and self serving disposition ultimately did more than destroy himself *personally*, and even his *family* but it literally threatened the whole of Israel *nationally*. and I just really can't over emphasize this, because it just seems so difficult for people to see the gravity of their sin, we think we're not hurting anyone else, or if anyone gets hurt its only going to be me. But that's such a lie from the pit of hell; the effects of our sin can be monstrous in the lives of so many.

Monday morning October 9th, 7:45 am a 13yr old boy walks into Memorial middle school with a AK-47, corners the principle and a couple of students, points the rifle at them saying, "Don't make me do this," fires a round into the ceiling as a warning shot. Now by God's grace they were able to talk him into leaving with out hurting anyone and the police apprehended him. But having searched his backpack they found a note that alluded to potential explosives planted in the school, so they evacuate the entire school for the day while they do an extensive search, bringing in dogs, trying to discover any explosives that might be on sight.

Now, how many people do you think his sin impacted? Just him? No way, now he's no doubt worked substantial ruin in his own life (13 yrs old), but how do you think that impacted his family? What about the principle of the school and the students he had cornered? Every student in the school was removed from the premises (about 700 of them) it made both local and national news. His sin is impacting and working ruin in a lot of lives, his own, his family, people being confronted with this reality nationally...where does it end? Now don't get me wrong I'm all for higher security, metal detectors and all of that, but the answer to all these uprisings doesn't lie in tighter security. They've removed God from the public school system, taken His Word out of the equation, and I just wonder what it's going to take to recognize that when you remove God from the picture, there's really no other option except for things to get continually worse and worse, these kids need Jesus Christ They're with out hope being with out God in the world, and they need to understand that there *is* hope, there is a reason for existence, that God has so loved them that He's given Himself *for* them, they're empty, they can be filled, they're disheartened, they can be made whole, they've got this guilt all pent up with in them, they can be forgiven, "... *the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*" Rom 6:23 It's just not worth it to be set in our sin.

Often time's people interpret the grace of God in not bringing immediate judgment as meaning that they must be getting away with it, or it isn't that big of deal to God concerning them. But in reality God is giving them time to repent, the bible is very clear, "*Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.*" Gal 6:7-8

Vs8-10

Of course 1st Samuel adds that they took his body and fastened it to the walls of Beth Shan. But this is the 2nd thing that sin does, 1st of all it brings devastation, destruction and ruin to us personally, it ripples out into our family, from there into the lives of friends, and only God knows how far out from there. But then 2^{ndly} it creates opportunity for the enemies of God to blaspheme, to disgrace His name. It's bad enough when I destroy myself, it's even worse when I destroy my family, and it only compounds the matter when it continues to extend on out from there. But to top it all off I drag the Lord into derision and ridicule. These guys now consider the God of Israel as a joke, unable to defend His nation, and His people, Saul's sin has brought low the name of God and all that He is and what He stands for. So to with you, and with me, when I impose my will in sin and begin to suffer the ramifications of that, people think that I'm a joke, I blow my witness, and stain God's name before them. Now they feel justified in where they're at, Saul's death gave opportunity to glorify pagan gods (which in reality aren't Gods at all) and to mock the living God. Well,

Vs11-12

Having been shown kindness *by* Saul, they now repay that kindness *to* Saul. When Saul 1st became king these guys were under threat by the Ammonites and Saul came to them, and delivered them. and Now catching wind of what's happened to Saul, they risk their lives for his dignity. and You can read of that account in 1st Sam Ch 11.

Vs13-14

What's the bottom line? When the Lord is forsaken, failure is imminent. Saul's story is one of tragedy, having begun well, so full of potential, charismatic, on fire for God, the Spirit having come upon him, the people rallying around him. The ingredients were perfect, but Saul became self-absorbed, paranoid, and ultimately abandoned the Lord seeking to do things his own way as opposed to the way God had set before him. and So God took him out, why? Because he tried to kill David? No, did it have to do with that familiar spirit that harassed him? Not according to this. We read in Vs 13 and 14 that the reasons God took him out was because of A.) His unfaithfulness, he didn't keep the Word of God. and B.) He consulted a medium for guidance rather than seeking the Lord. Does God take our obedience to His Word seriously? You bet He does, remember Saul was to utterly destroy the Amalekites as by the Word of the Lord, and everything that they had, even their animals. But when the battle was over Samuel was approaching Saul and Saul said, "Hey, I've done all that the Lord has said to do." and Samuel said, "Really, than how is it that I hear lowing of the cattle and the bleating of the sheep? and Who is this you have beside you?" and Saul was all, "Well, I got rid of every worthless thing, but I kept the king alive and I saved the best of the animals for sacrifice to the Lord." and Samuel told Saul, "*Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, And stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He also has rejected you from being king.*" 1 Sam 15:22-23 and From that point forward things went progressively south for Saul. So many people get caught up in all that they sacrifice for the Lord (and that's all fine and well, sacrifice unto the Lord is a good thing if it's kept with in the confines of obedience.)

But if you're not going to be obedient to the Word of God, than that sacrifice counts for nothing. Jesus said, "*If you love Me, keep My commandments.*" John 14:15 Saul didn't keep God's Word, and He didn't seek the Lord, he sought for advice from the witch of En Dor, now what kind of sense does it make to seek advice for the living among the dead? The bible is clear that we're to stay away from mediums. Lev Ch 20, "*And the person who turns to mediums and familiar spirits, to prostitute himself with them, I will set My face against that person and cut him off from his people.*" Lev 20:6 and So we have the tragic fall of Saul, but now the stage is set for David's dynasty.

Ch 11

Vs1-3

Now there's a few things we want to quickly point out here. #1 There's 1 small detail that's left out here that we get in 2nd Samuel and that is this, from the time you get from Ch 10 Vs 14 to Ch 11 Vs 1 there's a time period of 7 ½ yrs that goes by where by Israel and Judah are at war. and As I mentioned earlier the writer of the Chronicles isn't going to focus on those things but I bring it out because of this. There in Vs 1 where we read that all of Israel came to David and were prepared to crown him as king, that really only happened when all their other choices fell through. Initially Abner (Saul's highest ranking military official) set Ishbosheth (one of Saul's sons who wasn't in the battle) upon Saul's throne as king of Israel. Well at that time Judah broke off to form the southern kingdom and civil war broke out. and Throughout that time period the house of David grew stronger and stronger while the house of Saul grew weaker and weaker until ultimately there was a conspiracy and insurrection took place in Israel and Ishbosheth was murdered. and Once that happened Israel folded, came to David and subjected themselves to him as their king.

Say all that to say this, so often its just the same today, Jesus is King, God has established that, He's given Him that position and there's nothing anyone can do to stop it, get it the way of it, or somehow stall it. Yet how often do people really only come to Jesus and surrender to Him when every other option fails? How much better to simply choose Jesus outright? Just give Him His rightful place in your life and you'll spare yourself a lot of unnecessary grief.

Now having said that we want to point out some positive things here. 1st of all notice they'll receive him as their leader because he's already one of them, they say "We are your bone, and your flesh." They are together in heritage and in heart, 2^{ndly} they receive him because he's already demonstrated the ability to lead. They say, "Hey even when Saul was over us, you were the one who led us going in and coming out of the battles." and 3^{rdly} they acknowledge the ordained call of God upon his life to lead. "The Lord your God said to you (Vs 2), 'You shall shepherd My people Israel, and be ruler of My people Israel.'" and Notice that God appoints those who will *feed* the people to be those who will *lead* the people. He was to be a shepherd as well as a ruler, to feed the people, and lead the people. Remember what Jesus told Peter there in John Ch 21 as He was restoring him into the ministry? "Do you love Me Peter? Feed my sheep." and Peter echoed that same heart in his epistle where he said, "*Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers,*" 1 Peter 5:2 If you're going to be a leader of God's people you need to be a feeder of God's people. It's so essential that the sheep of God's hand graze in the green pastures of His Word for nourishment and sustenance. But really we want to see all of these characteristics manifest in leadership today. It's important that a leader belong to God's people in both heritage and heart, that they demonstrate a capability to lead, and that there be an evident call of God upon their life. When the people of Israel recognized these qualities in the life of David they received his leadership. So to when we see these things in the lives of leaders God is raising up, we should receive *their* leadership as well.

One Final note here before we move on. This was in reality David's 3 anointing, he was anointed as a kid when Samuel anointed him, he was anointed by the men of Judah 7 ½ yrs prior to this. and Now finally by all of Israel as they're a united kingdom once again under his reign. But here's what I want you to see, from the time Samuel anointed him, to the time he actually ruled Israel was a time period of 15 perhaps 20 yrs. and During that time he led a life on the run, in fear for his life, living in caves, and foreign cities as a fugitive while Saul was trying to kill him. But that whole time God was preparing him, shaping him and molding him, taking him low, humbling him that he might be exalted. Don't grow weary in waiting for the promises of God for your life, be patient. God has perfect timing, meanwhile He's preparing you, grooming for what He has prepared for you. But be patient, and be confident of this very thing. That He who began a good work in you, will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ

Vs4-9

So after Israel was united under David's reign, he sought for a capital city, and some 400 yrs after God had commanded Israel to take Canaan, Jerusalem was still under Canaanite control. But it was perfect because it was neutral territory, didn't lend itself to favoritism to either the north or the south, and because of it's location it was easily defended. That's why the Jebusites were so over-confident. But what I want you to see is how the enemy is always trying to discourage you from advancing, "You can't do that," or "You can't go there," or "Dude you're a little far fetched here aren't ya, I mean, be real." I mean God is on the move things are happening, you've got forward momentum, and then with out fail comes the dissuasion of the enemy. "You shall not come in here!" "Nevertheless David too the stronghold of Zion." In the face of discouragement, faith moves forward.

The bible tells us, "*The fear of man brings a snare, But whoever trusts in the LORD shall be safe.*" Prov 29:25 and I have found that fear is contagious, one person starts freaking out and panic spreads like wildfire. But equally contagious is faith, David had faith that God was going to give him that city (God had given His Word to Israel that they were to take the land). and Predicated upon the promise of God's Word David in faith moved forward, and he passed that faith on. He said, "Whoever attacks the Jebusites 1st will be my top military man." and So his nephew Joab made haste, went up by the way of the water shaft and began to strike the Jebusites. and So he became David's chief, but the point is that if you're a man or a woman of faith, that'll be contagious for your brothers and sisters around you, they'll feed on that. and They'll learn to trust in the Lord for greater and greater things as well.

Vs 9 is key, what made David such a powerful and successful king? Was his allegiant following? His military prowess, his great ability to communicate, or facilitate various projects?

No, “The Lord of hosts was with him.” and Again there was a huge price he paid in advance, most people when they see God using someone’s life just see the neat things God is doing with them in the now. They don’t realize the preparatory yrs that God has taken them through in order to bring them to this point. Yeah David became great, but he paid a great price. But the secret of all of it had nothing to do with him and everything to do with God, the Lord of hosts was with him.

Vs10

Now remember that these guys didn’t start out as mighty men, these are the men that began to gather to David who were (remember, 1st Sam 22) “In distress, in debt, and discontented.” But as the came *to* David, began to subject themselves to the leadership *of* David, they became *like* David. and I love that because that’s generally how most of us come to our King, our Captain, Jesus Christ

In distress, in debt, and discontented, but as we take the time to come *to* Him, humble ourselves *before* Him, and subject ourselves to being led *by* Him, we become like Him. and God is in the business of taking torn and tattered lives and doing a great and awesome work in and through them.

Now we’re going to basically blast through this, but the overall emphasis I want you to realize is that God calls us to be strong. Often times the Christian is seen as weak, or feeble, and we perceive Jesus as meek and mild. Yet we forget about the tables of money changers that He overthrew, and how He drove them out of the temple with a whip. These guys here weren’t to be messed with. They were “Taking care of business” kinda guys. The bible says, “...*be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.*” Eph 6:10 and Though these guys came to David all washed up, overtime they became powerful players in the kingdom and God did amazing things through their lives by which He was glorified, and He wants to do the same thing through you and me.

Vs11-19

2 things quickly, #1 These guys didn’t only follow the demands of their leader, but also his *desires*. It’s one thing to obey your Leader’s (Jesus Christ) demands, (and that’s awesome) but what about His desires? David didn’t demand this of them, but he *desired* it, and here’s the deal he didn’t even tell them his desires directly, they were just close enough to him to hear them. If we want to fulfill not only the demands, but the desires of our Lord, we have to be close to Him, that we might glean those longings from Him.

#2 Notice that when they’d broke through, risked their lives and got the drink that David poured it out and refused to drink it. Some people think that was a waste, let me tell ya, it wasn’t a waste, it was an act of worship. David considered the cost of that water to be

something so precious (in that they risked their very lives for it) that he wasn't worthy to partake of it. It was something worthy of only the Lord in his eyes. and Can I say that anything that you ever "pour out" or surrender for the sake *of* the Lord, is never a waste, God will honor it. "It's a waste," they thought, as that woman poured out an alabaster flask of fragrant oil upon the head of Jesus valued at a years worth of wages. Jesus said, "Leave here alone, she's done a good work for Me." and He said that wherever the gospel is preached in all the world that what she'd done would be declared as a memorial to her. David poured this out unto the Lord, I have no doubt the men were doubly honored to see David present their gift as an offering to the Lord.

Vs20-22

Again the "lion like" men were preparatory for the lion himself. God is always preparing you for the things that lie ahead of you. Remember when God told Jeremiah, "*If you have run with the footmen, and they have wearied you, Then how can you contend with horses?*" Jer 12:5 Which is to say that if you're going to buckle under what it is that confronts you today, how do you plan to stand tomorrow? God is always seeking to equip you and prepare you for the things that lie ahead of you.

Vs23-25

The Ch finishes out with a bunch of names that we won't go through except to point out Vs 41. Uriah the Hittite (Bathsheba's husband) was one of David's close associates, kinda makes that story all the more tragic doesn't it? When you realize he had a friend murdered for the sake of his wife and to try and cover his own tracks, but you can be sure your sin will find you out, just like it did David. and God will deal with you, and He's seeking repentance *from* you, we serve a merciful God who's faithful to forgive our sin if we'll but confess it and repent from it.

Now Ch 12 won't take but a couple minutes.

This Ch backs up just a bit and highlights various people defecting to David in the days of his rejection, when Saul was trying to kill him. and He'd sought refuge in Philistine territory, a city called Ziklag. But the neat parallel to this is that this story typifies what's happening even now with the greater than David, the Son of David Jesus Christ He's been rejected by His own, "cast out" as it were from His nation, and yet during these days people are *defecting* to Him, being *drawn* to Him, realizing and recognizing that He's the rightful King. and Soon there'll be a great celebration at the coronation of Jesus Christ whereby He's acknowledged by His own as the rightful ruler and Messiah, King of Israel, and He shall reign on the earth.

Vs1-2

So even Saul's own house, the tribe of Benjamin were seeing that David was the one whom God had raised up, and they were beginning to gather to him. and These guys were

especially dangerous when it came to warfare because they were ambidextrous, they could shoot arrows or sling stone right and left handed. Translation: They were well equipped for warfare, and the bible tells us that, “*All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.*” 2 Tim 3:16-17 It’s God’s word that will equip you for the war that you’re in, you don’t wrestle flesh and blood, but powers, principalities, rulers of darkness and spiritual hosts of wickedness in heavenly places, we need to be well equipped, thoroughly prepared for the warfare via the Word of God.

Look at Vs 8 (read)

These guys were ready in season and out of season, they were fierce and they were fast and they could get the job done both defensively and offensively. Vs 14 tells us these guys were captains, the least of which was over 100, the greatest was over 1,000.

Vs15-18

Hey David, we’ve come to realize that to fight against you is to fight against God, for Your God helps you. and You know what, your God helps you to, our God goes *before* us, is a strong tower *to* us, is strength *for* us and a shield *about* us.

Vs19

and That (by the way) was the battle that we read of in Ch 10, this fight that they turned David away from was the fight that made for Saul’s downfall.

Vs20-23

Now this portion catches us up and expounds a bit more on the 1st 3 Vs of Ch 11 when all Israel recognized David as the rightful king. and We’re going to see that some 340,000 or so men of war came to stand before David and give their allegiance to him as representatives of the various tribes they were from. I’m not going to read all of it but let’s just quickly highlight a few points of interest, look at Vs 30

Vs30-32

God help us to be a people who understand the times in which we live, who know what we ought to do in the time such as this to which we’ve been called.

Vs33

Where it says they were “stouthearted” men, what that means is that they didn’t have a double heart, or a divided heart as to where their loyalty lied. They were committed regardless of the cost to their commander in chief. How important that we be “stouthearted” undivided in heart when it comes to where our loyalty lies, with the greater than David, Jesus Christ regardless of the cost.

Vs38-40

A great celebration, at the coronation of the king.

Prayer Points:

God we thank You for Your Word. and We thank You that even though we come to You in distress, in debt, and discontented, You receive us as we are. Help us to submit *to* You, to humble our lives *before* You, that we might be led *by* You, Lord that we might become *like* You. Do a great and awesome work in our lives for Your glory. Help us to be stouthearted, loyal in heart to You no matter what the cost, and give us wisdom in this day and age in which we live. God You've called us to a time such as this, help us to know what we need to do that we might effective in our service to You. Not only fulfilling Your "demands" as it were, but Your desires as well, may we just lead lives of closeness to You. Help us to draw near to You, and to stay near to You.