

1 Chronicles 13-17 – Chapter Study

INTRO – Outline

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[See "Making It Right"]

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¹Now Hiram king of Tyre sent messengers to David, and cedar trees, with masons and carpenters, to build him a house.

The cities of Tyre & Sidon dominated the region north of Israel.

They were powerful city-states much like the 5 city-states of the Philistines to their south. [Map]

They were distant relatives of the Philistines too – they were Phoenicians, Sea Peoples who'd arrived on the coast many years before and had set up colonies there.

Hiram was an astute ruler who recognized Israel under David's reign as an emerging power it would be wise for him to be at peace with, so friendly relations had developed between the 2.

The Phoenicians & Philistines had always been more technologically advanced than the Israelites.

Hiram shared some of that advanced technology with David by sending both skilled craftsmen & supplies.

They helped construct some of the main buildings in the new capital of Jerusalem, including the palace.

²So 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.

The blessings that began to flow to Israel as soon as all 12 tribes embraced his rule were evident to all.

³Then David took more wives in Jerusalem, and David begot more sons and daughters.

The Bible simply records this – it doesn't *commend* it.

On the contrary, as the story unfolds what's recorded is the sorry mess David made of his home life because of his several wives.

In fact, while the Bible records many instances of polygamy, it's always presented as a cause of trouble.

In the NT, the overall requirement for being an elder is spiritual maturity.

That maturity is then given definition in specific criteria.

One of them is that the elder must be the husband of one wife, or literally a "one-woman man."

The emphasis in the Greek is clear – the elder's romantic loyalty to only one woman is evidence of spiritual maturity.

Commentators often point to multiple marriages among ancient kings as a cultural custom to show power & majesty.

Marriages were also a way a king forged alliances with other rulers.

That's all very well & good but it can't be used as an excuse or pass for David or the other kings of

Israel because in the Law of Moses, God had specifically forbidden the king to multiply 3 things – horses, wives, or wealth.

The reason why is because he didn't want them to lose their sense of dependence on Him *alone*. Whatever David's reasons for taking multiple wives, it was something he *ought not* have done.

⁴And 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.

David was a busy guy.

These aren't all his children. Absalom, Tamar, & Amnon aren't listed here.

They were born to David before he set up in Jerusalem.

⁸Now 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.

This is like a subtitle that summarizes what follows.

The Philistines were well acquainted with David.

Years before at the Valley of Elah he'd embarrassed them badly by defeating their champion Goliath.

After that, he'd led the army of Israel in several successful campaigns to recover land the Philistines had taken from Israel.

Then, when the rift had occurred between Saul & David, he'd switch sides & formed an alliance with the Philistines.

Now that he's taken Saul's place as sovereign over all Israel, they realize they need to do something quick or they may never be able to dislodge him

⁹Then the Philistines went and made a raid on the Valley of Rephaim.

This was a classic place of conflict between Israel & Philistia just west of Jerusalem.

The Philistines knew David had set up his head-quarters there & attacked at a spot that was nearby just to entice him out.

They were *trying* to provoke him.

This Valley is an arm of the Valley off Elah where David had slain Goliath.

They probably thought this would work to their advantage – making David feel he had an advantage there while they hid extra troops nearby & would bring them out once the battle began.

¹⁰And 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." ¹¹So 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 [Lord of the breakthrough].

Though David knew it was his *duty* as king to defend Israel from this attack, he sought God for specific direction on whether or not to do so.

He did this because of his recent study of the scriptures.

The incident with the ark had shaken him badly so he'd gone to the Word to discover where they'd gone amiss.

As he studied, he realized the recurring theme in the Word that God wants His people to be dependent on Him.

So, refusing now to assume anything, he asked God if he should go & God said yes.

How David asked God for such specific direction was probably by going to the high priest who used the Urim & Thummim to discern God's will.

¹²And when they left their gods there, David gave a commandment, and they were burned with fire.

This is another evidence David had read the Books of Moses.

You see, in ancient warfare, the coup de grace in defeating your enemy was to capture their idols & parade them as trophies.

They were decorated with gold & precious gems & quite valuable.

This is what the Philistines had done with the ark of the covenant when they captured it 70 years before.

But David had read of Moses' instructions to the Israelites that when they conquered Canaan, they were to **demolish & destroy** the idols of those they defeated.

While burning them might seem a colossal waste of wealth – the spiritual peril the idols represented was far greater than any asset keeping them could have provided.

13 Then the Philistines once again made a raid on the valley.

Same location & seemingly same strategy on the part of the Philistines.

This is a no-brainer as far as David & Israel is concerned.

Why bother God about it when it's the same deal – just go for it!

But David won't do that because he's learned the lesson he needs to – STAY dependent on God at all times!

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."

At David's request for guidance, God gives him a completely different plan.

Though it's not stated, the reason for the different plan was probably because the Philistines had learned from their previous loss & had set an ambush on Israel.

They came out the same way as before to entice David to use the same plan as before so they could trap him.

But God knew of their plan & gave David a strategy for turning the trap into a trap for the enemy.

Israel was to covertly circle around and come in from behind.

They were to hide in a forest of mulberry trees and wait until the wind blew.

Then, under cover of the leaves rattling, they were to advance rapidly on the enemy rear who would not hear them until it was too late.

It turns out dry mulberry leaves, when stirred by the wind, make a sound very much like the rustling of feet marching over open ground.

16 So David did as God commanded him, and they drove back the army of the Philistines from Gibeon as far as Gezer.

Gibeon is only about 5 miles NW of Jerusalem. Gezer is located at the border between Philistia & Israel.

17 Then the fame of David went out into all lands, and the LORD brought the fear of him upon all nations.

These victories against the Philistines were the turning point in Israel's long conflict with their age-old nemesis.

There are later battles with the Philistines, but it's at this point Israel climbs to the dominant position.

Following this, David led Israel in victory over the combined might of the Philistines at Methegammah.

Most of Philistia was made a vassal to Israel.

They united for a final attempt to throw off Israelite dominance toward the end of David's reign but it failed & the Philistines then moved slowly toward oblivion.

With the *western* border secure, David turned to Israel's hostile neighbors who for generation had harassed her *eastern* borders; Moab & Edom on the East, & to the Ammonites & Arameans to the NE.

V. 17 summarizes several chapters of 2 Samuel that tells us of David's campaigns with these neighbors & how he subdued them.

Because the larger empires that had been the main powers in the area before this time were now weak & out of the picture, Israel's neighbors had lost their old alliances.

It left Israel in the dominant position & soon David was able to not only reclaim the territory they'd nibbled away from, but to subdue them to being mere vassals of Israel.

With Jerusalem now controlling *every highway & caravan route* through the region, the amount of *wealth* that came in to Israel at this time was *astounding!*

While David ruled only over the territory, his influence spread from the border with Egypt in the South, all the way to the Euphrates River in the north & from the Mediterranean Sea on the West to deep into the Arabian Peninsula on the east.

4. Recovering the ark II • Ch. 15-16

a. carried by the priests • 15:1-15

b. accompanied by musicians • 15:16-24

c. a great celebration • 15:25-28

d. Michal's scorn • 15:29

[Refer to message "Making It Right"]

e. the ark installed • 16:1-6

¹ So they brought the ark of God, and set it in the midst of the tabernacle that David had erected for it. Then they offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before God.

The original tabernacle constructed by Moses 400 years before had long since deteriorated.

It had been set up at Shiloh after Israel completed the conquest of Canaan.

But by now the *fabric coverings* had disintegrated.

All that was left was the altar, furniture, & metal implements.

They'd been moved from Shiloh, which had been destroyed by the Philistines, to the high place at Gibeon, not far from Jerusalem.

David's goal was to relocate the center of worship to the new capital at Jerusalem.

He had a new tent & courtyard made & knew that by installing the most important piece of the tabernacle there, it would encourage the rest of the furnishing to come there too.

But he was content for now to let them remain at Gibeon.

As soon as the ark was put in place, the priests went to work doing their priestly thing & made their sacrifices & offerings.

² And when David had finished offering the burnt offerings and the peace offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the LORD.

This doesn't mean David personally performed the offerings.

Only the priests were permitted to do so.

David is the one who had *provided* the animals; the priests had offered them up to the Lord on his behalf.

Then David, knowing God had blessed him, went out to bestow that blessing on the people.

Which is the way it ought always be. We're blessed so that we may be a blessing.

³ Then he distributed to everyone of Israel, both man and woman, to everyone a loaf of bread, a piece of meat, and a cake of raisins.

As the Law of Moses had made clear – God wanted His people to participate in the altar by eating some of the meat that was offered up on it.

IT was meant to be a marvelous picture of the intimacy & joyous celebration that God wants our relationship with Him to be marked by.

⁴And he appointed some of the Levites to minister before the ark of the LORD, to commemorate, to thank, and to praise the LORD God of Israel: ⁵Asaph the chief, and next to him Zechariah, *then* Jeiel, Shemiramoth, Jehiel, Mattithiah, Eliab, Benaiah, and Obed-Edom: Jeiel with stringed instruments and harps, but Asaph made music with cymbals; ⁶Benaiah and Jahaziel the priests regularly *blew* the trumpets before the ark of the covenant of God.

Here's where we see David instituting *regular musical worship* in the service of God.

f. a song of thanksgiving • 16:7-36

⁷On that day David first delivered *this psalm* into the hand of Asaph and his brethren, to thank the LORD:

This is repeated in Psalm 105 . . .

⁸Oh, give thanks to the LORD! Call upon His name; Make known His deeds among the peoples! ⁹Sing to Him, sing psalms to Him; Talk of all His wondrous works! ¹⁰Glory in His holy name; Let the hearts of those rejoice who seek the LORD! ¹¹Seek the LORD and His strength; Seek His face evermore! ¹²Remember His marvelous works which He has done, His wonders, and the judgments of His mouth, ¹³O seed of Israel His servant, You children of Jacob, His chosen ones! ¹⁴He *is* the LORD our God; His judgments *are* in all the earth. ¹⁵Remember His covenant forever, The word which He commanded, for a thousand generations, ¹⁶*The covenant which* He made with Abraham, And His oath to Isaac, ¹⁷And confirmed it to Jacob for a statute, To Israel *for* an everlasting covenant, ¹⁸Saying, "To you I will give the land of Canaan As the allotment of your inheritance," ¹⁹When you were few in number, Indeed very few, and strangers in it. ²⁰When they went from one nation to another, And from *one* kingdom to another people, ²¹He permitted no man to do them wrong; Yes, He rebuked kings for their sakes, ²²*Saying*, "Do not touch My anointed ones, And do My prophets no harm." ²³Sing to the LORD, all the earth; Proclaim the good news of His salvation from day to day. ²⁴Declare His glory among the nations, His wonders among all peoples. ²⁵For the LORD *is* great and greatly to be praised; He *is* also to be feared above all gods. ²⁶For all the gods of the peoples *are* idols, But the LORD made the heavens. ²⁷Honor and majesty *are* before Him; Strength and gladness *are* in His place. ²⁸Give to the LORD, O families of the peoples, Give to the LORD glory and strength. ²⁹Give to the LORD the glory *due* His name; Bring an offering, and come before Him. Oh, worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness! ³⁰Tremble before Him, all the earth. The world also is firmly established, It shall not be moved. ³¹Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; And let them say among the nations, "The LORD reigns." ³²Let the sea roar, and all its fullness; Let the field rejoice, and all that *is* in it. ³³Then the trees of the woods shall rejoice before the LORD, For He is coming to judge the earth. ³⁴Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for *He is* good! For His mercy *endures* forever. ³⁵And say, "Save us, O God of our salvation; Gather us together, and deliver us from the Gentiles, To give thanks to Your holy name, To triumph in Your praise." ³⁶Blessed *be* the LORD God of Israel From everlasting to everlasting! And all the people said, "Amen!" and praised the LORD.

g. worship of God reinstated at Jerusalem • 16:37-43

³⁷So he left Asaph and his brothers there before the ark of the covenant of the LORD to minister before the ark regularly, as every day's work required; ³⁸and Obed-Edom with

his 68 brethren, including Obed-Edom the son of Jeduthun, and Hosah, *to be* gatekeepers; ³⁹ and Zadok the priest and his brethren the priests, before the tabernacle of the LORD at the high place that was at Gibeon, ⁴⁰ to offer burnt offerings to the LORD on the altar of burnt offering regularly morning and evening, and *to do* according to all that is written in the Law of the LORD which He commanded Israel; ⁴¹ and with them Heman and Jeduthun and the rest who were chosen, who were designated by name, to give thanks to the LORD, because His mercy *endures* forever; ⁴² and with them Heman and Jeduthun, to sound aloud with trumpets and cymbals and the musical instruments of God. Now the sons of Jeduthun were gatekeepers.

David had one group of priest & Levites serve in the new tabernacle at Jerusalem while the high priest

Zadok & his assistants continued to serve in what was left of the tabernacle at Gibeon.

⁴³ Then all the people departed, every man to his house; and David returned to bless his house.

And that's when he ran into lovely Michal who verbally body-slammed him.