

Talks For Growing Christians 

1 Chronicles

Study Guide for

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Lesson 1

The Genealogies from Adam to Abraham & from Abraham to Jacob 1 Chronicles 1

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. The genealogy from Adam to Abraham is important.
2. The genealogy from Abraham to Jacob is important.

practical application

Remember Enoch!

questions

1. How do the books of 1 and 2 Chronicles overlap with other biblical books?
2. How is the purpose of Chronicles different than those other books?
3. Who was most likely the author of Chronicles? Tell a little about him.
4. Approximately how long was it from Creation to the coming of Christ?
5. Why did God include the sons of Ishmael, Esau, and others in this genealogy who are not in the line of the Messiah?
6. Do all Arab people descend from Ishmael?

answers

1. 1 Chronicles covers the same period in the history of Israel as 2 Samuel. 2 Chronicles corresponds to 1 and 2 Kings.
2. The purpose of 2 Samuel and Kings is to give a political history of the kingdoms of Israel and Judah. The purpose of Chronicles is to give a religious history of the Davidic dynasty of the kingdom of Judah. Samuel and Kings were written from a prophetic and moral viewpoint; Chronicles was written from a priestly and spiritual viewpoint.
3. Because the genealogies recorded in 1 Chronicles go from Adam to the return of the Jews from their captivity in Babylon, Ezra is the most likely candidate for the author. Ezra was a scribe who came back to Jerusalem in the second wave of the returned captives in 458 B.C. He was very concerned about the spiritual condition of the nation.
4. about 4,000 years
5. This shows that the Bible is about real people in real history. We learn important background information that can be confirmed in history. This also shows that God is concerned about individual people, although they may not be the main focus of God's plans for the coming of the Messiah.
6. No, the Arab people today descend not only from Ishmael, but also from the six other sons that Abraham had with Keturah, whom he married after Sarah died.

discuss\ consider

1. Biblical genealogies serve the overall purpose of tracing the line from Adam to the Messiah. Discuss the other reasons given as well:
 - 1) The genealogy from Adam to Abraham to Jacob is real history.
 - 2) The genealogy shows us that mankind has not been on this earth for a million years.
 - 3) The genealogy gives us important background information, which supports the biblical record.

challenge

Enoch had a great testimony – He pleased God and he was taken home to heaven. Remember Enoch.

memorize

"The name of one was Peleg, for in his days the earth was divided." 1 Chronicles 1:19

"And Abraham begot Isaac. The sons of Isaac were Esau and Israel." 1 Chronicles 1:34

Lesson 2

The Genealogies from Jacob to David & from David to the Babylonian Captivity 1 Chronicles 2-3

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. The genealogy from Jacob to David is important.
2. The genealogy from David to the captivity is important.

practical application

Don't be a troubler in your church or fellowship group.

questions

1. What is God's main purpose for including these genealogies in Scripture?
2. How does Genesis 3:15 relate to this passage? Why is it important to show that the Messiah came through Abraham and David?
3. Why would these genealogies have been encouraging to the original Jewish audience?
4. Review the story of Judah and Tamar.
5. Recall the interesting historical facts about the Caleb mentioned in 1 Chronicles 2:18.
6. How was the curse of Jeremiah 22:30 fulfilled?

answers

1. They show us that Jesus the Messiah descended from Adam through the line of Abraham and the line of David.
2. In Genesis 3:15 God declared that the One who would conquer Satan and bring salvation to mankind had to be Human. He had to come through the lines of Abraham and David in order to fulfill the Abrahamic and Davidic covenants.
3. These genealogies were written after the return of the captives from Babylon. God had not forgotten His people in spite of their sinful ways. His promises were still good, and the genealogies supported this truth.
4. Judah had five sons. Er and Onan died because of sin, leaving Tamar, Judah's daughter-in-law, a widow. Judah was supposed to give his third son, Shelah, to Tamar when he came of age, but he did not. Therefore Tamar tricked Judah himself into a relationship by pretending to be a prostitute. As a result, twin boys, Perez and Zerach, were born as sons of Judah. It was through Perez that the Messianic line was traced through David.
5. This is not Caleb who was the faithful spy at the time of Moses, but this is an ancestor of that Caleb. This Caleb was the great-grandfather of Bezalel who became the master craftsman in charge of making all the tabernacle items. By his wife Ephrathah, Caleb was also the great grandfather of a man named Bethlehem. The birthplace of the Messiah is a town called Bethlehem Ephrathah.
6. Jeconiah (2 Chronicles 3:17) is another name for King Jehoiachin, who Jeremiah said would have no physical descendants sit on the throne of David. Zerubbabel (verse 19), a descendant of Jehoiachin, led Israel back from the Babylonian Captivity, but he never ruled as king. The Lord Jesus, because of His virgin birth is not a physical descendant of Jehoiachin, even though He has the legal right to the throne through him.

challenge

Achan has a reputation as troubler of Israel, and his sin led to Israel's defeat at Ai. Are you a troubler in your church? Is the rest of the body hurting because of your sin?

memorize

"These were the sons of Israel: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun, Dan, Joseph, Benjamin, Naphtali, Gad, and Asher." 1 Chronicles 2:1-2

"These were all the sons of David, besides the sons of the concubines, and Tamar their sister." 1 Chronicles 3:9

Lesson 3

The Genealogical Records of the Tribes of Judah and Simeon & The Tribes of Reuben, Gad, and the Half Tribe of Manasseh 1 Chronicles 4-5

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. The Lord answers the prayers of faithful believers in spiritual ministry.
2. The Lord answers the prayers of faithful believers in spiritual warfare.

practical applications

1. Don't misapply the prayer of Jabez.
2. Remember the lessons of the two-and-a-half tribes.

questions

1. Who are some of the notable men mentioned in the genealogy of Judah?
2. Where did the tribe of Simeon reside in the Land?
3. What is a wrong application of the prayer of Jabez?
4. Why does the lineage of Christ not come through Jacob's first-born son, Reuben? What other consequences were there for Reuben?
5. Which tribes settled on the east side of the Jordan River?

answers

1. Caleb, the son of Jephunch, was one of the faithful spies at the time of Moses (verse 15). Othniel (verse 13) was the first judge of Israel.
2. The tribe of Simeon did not receive any tribal territories because of Simeon's participation in the massacre of Shechem (Genesis 34). The descendants of Simeon lived in villages scattered throughout the tribal areas of Judah.
3. This verse should not be used to demand material prosperity from the Lord. Rather, it guarantees that if we look to the Lord and trust and obey Him, we will be blessed spiritually.
4. As a result of Reuben's sin of incest (Genesis 35), he lost his birthright as the firstborn. His double portion of the land went to Joseph, and thus to the tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh. His portion of leadership went to Judah, through whom comes the line of Christ.
5. Reuben, Gad, and the half-tribe of Manasseh

discuss\ consider

1. Read the well-known prayer of Jabez in 1 Chronicles 4:10. Discuss phrase-by-phrase how you could pray this prayer in your life.
2. When the two-and-a-half tribes on the east side of the Jordan River were under attack, they prayed and trusted in the Lord for a great victory. Discuss how this is a picture of the great victory God will give His people today in spiritual warfare.

challenge

The two-and-a-half tribes of Reuben, Gad, and the half-tribe of Manasseh would not follow God's perfect will to cross the Jordan River with the other tribes at the time of the Conquest (Numbers 32). They followed God's permissive will and settled on the east side of the Jordan River. There they were the most exposed and vulnerable to the attacks from the Assyrians, and thus were the first to be taken into captivity. When we don't obey the Lord completely, we are vulnerable to attack from the enemy.

memorize

"And Jabez called on the God of Israel saying, 'Ob, that You would bless me indeed, and enlarge my territory, that Your hand would be with me, and that You would keep me from evil, that I may not cause pain!' So God granted him what he requested." 1 Chronicles 4:10

"Now the sons of Reuben the firstborn of Israel – he was indeed the firstborn, but because he defiled his father's bed, his birthright was given to the sons of Joseph, the son of Israel, so that the genealogy is not listed according to the birthright; yet Judah prevailed over his brothers, and from him came a ruler, although the birthright was Joseph's." 1 Chronicles 5:1-2

Lesson 4

The Genealogical Record of the Important Tribe of Levi 1 Chronicles 6

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. The Levites were the tribe of the Temple priests.
2. The Levites were the tribe of the Temple singers.

practical application

The “B” in God’s Plan B stands for “Best”!

questions

1. Why are the biblical genealogies important?
2. Why is so much emphasis given to the genealogy of the tribe of Levi?
3. Were all Levites priests?
4. Which psalms were written by these Temple singers?
5. Where did the tribe of Levi reside in the Land? How did the Levites redeem themselves?

answers

1. They show that the Old Testament stories deal with real people in real time and are not Jewish legends as the critics of the Bible say. The biblical genealogies are also important because they establish the Davidic dynasty of the tribe of Judah as the kingly line from which the Messiah would come.
2. Levi was the tribe of the priests and temple servants. Thus the Levites played a very important role in the nation of Israel.
3. No. All priests were Levites, but not all Levites were priests. The priests were only descendants of Aaron. One of the priests at any given time would be the high priest. Aaron was the first high priest.
4. Heman the Kohathite (verse 33) was the author of Psalm 88. Asaph the Gershonite (verse 39) was the author of Psalms 50 and 73-83. Ethan the Merarite was the author of Psalm 89.
5. The tribe of Levi, like Simeon, was given no tribal territory in the land because of Levi's participation in the massacre at Shechem (Genesis 34). The Levites resided in 48 cities scattered throughout the Land. The Levites redeemed themselves when they stood with Moses in the wilderness in opposition to the idolatry of the golden calf incident (Exodus 32).

discuss\ consider

The Levites had no tribal territory as a consequence of Levi's sin, but by being scattered in cities throughout the nation, the Levites could teach the people God's Word and the right way of worship. This is an example of God's Plan B proving to be Best. Can you give a personal example of this?

challenge

Remember God's redemption of the Levites the next time you read a psalm written by a Temple singer.

memorize

"The sons of Levi were Gershon, Kohath, and Merari." 1 Chronicles 6:1

"But Aaron and his sons offered sacrifices on the altar of burnt offering and on the altar of incense, for all the work of the Most Holy Place, and to make atonement for Israel, according to all that Moses the servant of God had commanded." 1 Chronicles 6:49

"So the children of Israel gave these cities with their common-lands to the Levites." 1 Chronicles 6:64

Lesson 5

The Conclusion of the Genealogical Section of 1 Chronicles 1 Chronicles 7-9

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. The genealogical records establish the right of Israel as a nation under God.
2. The genealogical records prove the faith of Israel as the people of God.

practical application

Do your assigned work well.

questions

1. Which tribes are recorded in this section?
2. Review the story of Zelophehad and his daughters.
3. Why is the genealogical record of the tribe of Benjamin given special emphasis?
4. What is the "Book of the Kings of Israel" (1 Chronicles 9:1)?
5. Why do we sometimes see discrepancies in the genealogical records of the Bible?
6. Why did the Jewish people continue to keep genealogical records even while they were captives in Babylon?

answers

1. Issachar, Benjamin, Naphtali, the half-tribe of Manasseh which settled on the west side of the Jordan River, Ephraim, and Asher
2. In Numbers 27 and 36 Zelophehad's daughters, who had no brothers, were told that they could inherit their father's property as long as they married within the tribe.
3. The tribe of Benjamin was important because King Saul, the first king of Israel, was a Benjamite. This tribe supported the Davidic dynasty and became an essential part of the southern kingdom of Israel. Jerusalem and the Temple of the Lord were located within the boundaries of the tribe of Benjamin.
4. This is not 1 and 2 Kings in the Bible, but official royal court records that are not longer in existence.
5. Some genealogies are selective and move from father to grandson or even great-grandson. Some names may be omitted in some lists because they died young and childless. In other cases, some men had more than one name or have spelling differences.
6. In spite of their terrible sins and resulting captivity, the Jewish people had continued faith that they were God's chosen people. They believed the prophecies of promise predicting their return.

discuss\ consider

Throughout history many have questioned the nation of Israel's right to exist. Discuss God's authority to give any nation the right to exist (Acts 17:26). Discuss how the genealogical records confirm God's establishment of Israel as a nation under God.

challenge

Some of the Levites who returned from captivity had specific jobs, which they performed well. We all have jobs and assignments in the home and in the church. Not all jobs are glamorous and many go unnoticed, but all are important and God takes notice. So do your assigned work well.

memorize

"So all Israel was recorded by genealogies, and indeed, they were inscribed in the book of the kings of Israel." 1 Chronicles 9:1

Lesson 6

The Death of King Saul & The Enthronement of King David 1 Chronicles 10-11

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. King Saul did not prosper because the Lord was against him.
2. King David did prosper because the Lord was with him.

practical application

Be known by our Lord for your spiritual warfare and your spiritual worship.

questions

1. How did the Philistines dishonor Saul's body?
2. Why were the Jabesh-Gileadites willing to march into Philistine territory to recover the bodies of Saul and his sons?
3. When did Saul disobey the word of the Lord?
4. When did David move his capital city to Jerusalem? Who controlled Jerusalem before that time?
5. Review the story of the three mighty men who brought water to David (1 Chronicles 11:17-19). What is the spiritual picture?

answers

1. They cut off his head and put it in the temple of their god Dagon in recognition of their belief that Dagon had given them the victory.
2. King Saul had rescued Jabesh Gilead from the Ammonites years before at the beginning of his reign (1 Samuel 11).
3. We know of twice that Saul deliberately disobeyed the word of the Lord. Once when God directed him through the prophet Samuel to wait at Gilgal, Saul wrongly conducted a public sacrifice by himself (1 Samuel 13). Later Saul was to eliminate the Amalekites who were the enemy of God's people, but he deliberately practiced partial obedience and tried to excuse himself (1 Samuel 15). Saul also sinned by consulting a witch (1 Samuel 28).
4. We know from 2 Samuel 5 that David reigned from Hebron for 7 ½ years over the tribe of Judah. After all the tribes recognized David as the rightful king he moved the nation's capital to Jerusalem. Jerusalem had been in the hands of the Jebusites. Joab got into the city by climbing up a watershaft and making a way for David and the army of Israel to take the city.
5. These mighty men risked their lives to bring refreshment to the heart of their king by bringing him water from the well of Bethlehem. David elevated this act of courage and valor by pouring the water out before the Lord. Their sacrifice is a picture of worship, which the Lord remembers and honors.

discuss\ consider

1. King Saul deliberately disobeyed God and practiced sin, which ultimately led to his death. Read 1 John 5:16. Discuss the biblical truth that certain sins can lead to a believer's death. How is this ultimately a loving thing for God to do?
2. King Saul did not prosper because the Lord was against him, but King David did prosper because the Lord was with him. Discuss how believers prosper under the Lord's favor today. This is not the prosperity gospel, so think broadly.

challenge

Review the stories of David's mighty men at the end of 1 Chronicles 11. These are part of the spiritual picture of the spiritual warfare and worship of believers of our King, the greater David, the Lord Jesus Christ. Which story is your favorite?

memorize

"Therefore [the Lord] killed him, and turned the kingdom over to David the son of Jesse." 1 Chronicles 10:14

"So David went on and became great, and the LORD of hosts was with him." 1 Chronicles 11:9

"So the three broke through the camp of the Philistines, drew water from the well of Bethlehem that was by the gate, and took it and brought it to David. Nevertheless David would not drink it, but poured it out to the LORD." 1 Chronicles 11:18

Lesson 7

A Further Listing of David's Mighty Men and Loyal Followers 1 Chronicles 12

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal point

The detailed description of David's mighty men contains spiritual lessons for committed Christians.

practical application

Get ready for the banquet!

questions

1. When did the mighty men from the tribe of Benjamin join David?
2. How long did David reign from Hebron? How long from Jerusalem?
3. How does Romans 15:4 relate to this passage?
4. As believers, what is our weapon for spiritual battle? What are we able to do if we are trained to use this weapon?
5. How did the Holy Spirit relate to believers in the Old Testament? How does the Holy Spirit relate to believers in New Testament times and today?

answers

1. These men from Saul's own tribe joined David at Ziklag when he was still fleeing King Saul.
2. David reigned over Judah from Hebron for 7 ½ years before he was recognized as king over all Israel for 33 years.
3. Romans 15:4 reminds us that the entire Old Testament, including the military records, was written for our learning and encouragement. Remember, David's mighty men of valor are spiritual pictures of mighty Christians.
4. Our weapon is the sword of the Spirit, the word of God (Ephesians 6:17). If we are trained to use this sword we can lead a person to Christ using our Bible and defend the faith with appropriate Scripture, among other things.
5. In the Old Testament, the Spirit of God came upon different individuals at different times for different purposes. Since the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, every Christian is indwelt by the Holy Spirit at salvation. But in order to be filled by the Holy Spirit, that is, under His control, we should be filled with God's Word, full of praise, and submit to God's authority structures (Ephesians 5:18).

discuss\ consider

As the mighty men were courageous, loyal, and committed servants of King David, so we should be courageous, loyal, and committed servants of our King, the Lord Jesus Christ. Review and discuss these spiritual lessons:

- 1) Committed Christians are trained
- 2) Committed Christians are courageous.
- 3) Committed Christians are filled with the Spirit.
- 4) Committed Christians understand the times.
- 5) Committed Christians have an undivided heart.

challenge

The men of Zebulun helped David with an undivided heart. What a great compliment! Do you serve the Lord with an undivided heart?

memorize

"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.'" 1 Chronicles 12:18

"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." 1 Chronicles 12:22

Lesson 8

David's Attempt to Bring the Ark of the Covenant Up to Jerusalem & David's Victories Over the Philistines 1 Chronicles 13-14

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. The Lord always expects His people to know and follow His Word.
2. The Lord does not always lead His people in the same way.

practical application

Remember, there is a blessing for reverence.

questions

1. Where had the Ark of the Covenant been before David attempted to bring it up to Jerusalem?
2. What good things did David do in his plans to bring the Ark to Jerusalem?
3. Where did David go wrong in his plans?
4. If the Ark of the Covenant were to be found today, would you die if you touched it?
5. What is the good and bad news about David in 1 Chronicles 14?
6. Describe David's battles with the Philistines at the Valley of Rephaim (verses 9-16). How did the Lord lead him in different ways?

answers

1. The Ark had been in Kiriath Jearim, about 10 miles west of Jerusalem, for about 100 years. It had been there since the men of Beth Shemesh had been struck down by the Lord for their irreverence of looking into the Ark when it came back from the land of the Philistines (1 Samuel 6).
2. David's desire to bring the Ark of God up to Jerusalem was a good desire. Consulting the leaders of Israel and the priests and Levites was a good thing to do. To see all Israel united in their desire to bring the Ark to Jerusalem is a good thing.
3. God's Word clearly said that the Ark was to be carried on the shoulders of the Levites. Transporting the Ark by a cart was the Philistine method, and this was not God's way.
4. Most likely you would not die because we read in Ezekiel 10 that the glory of the Lord departed from the Ark of the Covenant before the Babylonians destroyed the Temple.
5. The good news is that David realized that it was the Lord who was exalting him and blessing his kingdom. The bad news is David did not obey the Lord in the area of marriage, and his polygamy would lead to long-lasting family problems.
6. Both times David rightly inquired of the Lord what to do. For the first battle, the Lord directed David to meet the Philistines head on. But later with the same enemy in the same valley, the Lord directed David to circle around and attack in a different way. Both times David obeyed and God gave him the victory.

discuss\ consider

1. Can you think of a time when you had good intentions to do the Lord's work, but you did not go about it God's way? What was the outcome? God's work must be done in God's way.
2. Discuss the different ways that God may use to guide us in our decision making process.

challenge

The Lord blessed the family of Obed-Edom when the Ark was in his house. We too will be blessed when we show reverence for the things of the Lord.

memorize

"So they carried the ark of God on a new cart from the house of Abinadab." 1 Chronicles 13:7

"Then the fame of David went out into all lands, and the LORD brought the fear of him upon all nations." 1 Chronicles 14:17

Lesson 9

David Successfully Brings the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem 1 Chronicles 15

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. There was a great celebration when the Ark was brought to Jerusalem.
2. There will be a great celebration when the Lord returns to Jerusalem.

practical applications

1. Use your skills for the Lord.
2. Don't despise the worship of other believers.

questions

1. Why was Uzza struck dead (1 Chronicles 13)? What was the lesson for the people of Israel?
2. Where did David put the Ark in Jerusalem?
3. In what ways is the Ark of the Covenant a spiritual picture of Christ?
4. Why was Chenaniah put in charge of leading and teaching the choir (verse 22)?
5. Michal was wrong for judging David's joyful display of worship. What is the lesson for us?

answers

1. Uzza died because he wrongly touched the Ark of God. God always expects His people to know and follow His word.
2. David prepared a tent in Jerusalem in which to receive the Ark. This was not the Tabernacle. This tent was only meant to be a temporary dwelling place for the Ark until the Temple was built.
3. The Mercy Seat of the Ark was where the blood of the atoning sacrifice was brought so that a Holy God could dwell in the midst of His sinful people. The blood of Christ is the basis of our salvation and our fellowship with a Holy God.
4. Because he was skillful in music and singing! Also he was available to dedicate his talent and skill to the Lord.
5. We may not choose to worship the Lord in the same way and with the same emotional displays as other believers, but we should not despise their worship.

discuss\ consider

1. Back in 1 Chronicles 14:12, David gave instructions for the idols the Philistines had abandoned in their military retreat to be burned. He knew if their souvenirs were taken home by his troops, there was a risk of idolatry creeping into the nation. Discuss the trendy use of idols or occult objects for home decoration. Do you think this is a big deal?
2. David arranged for quite a musical celebration when the Ark of the Covenant was brought up to Jerusalem. Look at 1 Chronicles 15:16. Discuss why you think there is so much controversy over music in worship today.

challenge

Take some time today to worship the Lord! Will your worship involve singing, dancing, whirling, or quiet meditation?

memorize

"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.' 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." 1 Chronicles 15:2-3

"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." 1 Chronicles 15:29

Lesson 10

**The Great Time of Praise and Worship of the Lord,
That Took Place in Jerusalem,
Now that the Ark of the Covenant had been Placed in the Special Tent
1 Chronicles 16**

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. Worship of the Lord should include praise.
2. Worship of the Lord should have content.
3. Worship of the Lord should be continual.

practical application

Have a good definition of worship!

questions

1. Where was the Tabernacle at this time?
2. How did David ensure that praise and worship happened when the Ark was brought to Jerusalem?
3. The hymn of thanksgiving in verses 8-36 is a medley of which psalms?
4. How did David ensure that the worship of the Lord was continual?
5. Give a definition of worship.

answers

1. The Tabernacle with its furnishings was in Gibeon, about six miles northwest of Jerusalem (verse 39).
2. He appointed Levites to minister and made sure that music was included.
3. Psalms 105, 96, and 106
4. He assigned some priests and Levites to minister at Jerusalem where the Ark of the Covenant was, and others at Gibeon where the tabernacle and bronze altar were.
5. Acknowledging who God is and what God does to God Himself with reverence, love, and joy.

discuss\ consider

1. Read 1 Chronicles 16:8-36. The people of Israel's hymn of praise was filled with good content. Discuss some of the worship songs sung lately at your church fellowship. Do those songs have good content or are they lacking? True worship is in spirit and in truth (John 4:23).
2. Discuss the issue of continual worship. It is not easy or automatic, but God will be honored and glorified if you have regular worship in your personal and family life.

challenge

Remember the lessons learned here as you seek to worship the Lord this week.

memorize

"And be 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." 1 Chronicles 16:4

"Ob, give thanks to the LORD! Call upon His name; Make known His deeds among the peoples! Sing to Him, sing psalms to Him; Talk of all His wondrous works!" 1 Chronicles 16:8-9

Lesson 11

**God's Unconditional Covenant Made with
David and His Descendants –
The Davidic Covenant
1 Chronicles 17**

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. The Davidic Covenant is an unconditional covenant.
2. The Davidic throne is an earthly throne.

practical application

Let's have the same attitude as David.

questions

1. What was Nathan, the prophet's, response when David first told him of his plans to build the Temple?
2. Why was David not God's chosen man to build the Temple? Who would build it?
3. The Davidic Covenant is an unconditional covenant. What does this mean?
4. So why is there no king reigning in Israel today?
5. What New Testament passage confirms God's future plans for Israel?
6. In whom is the Davidic Covenant fulfilled?

answers

1. Nathan thought it was a good idea, and encouraged David to proceed. David's desire was good and honorable and his heart was right, but David was not God's choice to build the Temple.
2. Because David had been a warrior and had shed much blood, the Lord chose his son Solomon to build the Temple in a time of peace and quiet in Israel.
3. It means that no matter what David's descendants would do or not do, the Davidic dynasty would continue forever.
4. Because the Mosaic covenant was conditional. Because Israel did not follow the Lord, but forsook Him, the nation forfeited the blessings of the Law and reaped the curses of the Law. But the Mosaic covenant also stipulated that if God's people would return to the Lord, after having forsaken Him, God would graciously restore His people (Deuteronomy 30).
5. Romans 11 assures us that the time will come when Israel as a nation will return to the Lord. The Lord will not only restore them to their ancient homeland as a secular nation, which has already happened, but He will also change their heart of unbelief and restore them to Himself.
6. The Davidic Covenant is fulfilled in Christ. The Lord Jesus, as Israel's Messiah, was born in the line of David and Solomon (Revelation 22:16). In Him the Davidic dynasty has not ended and never will.

discuss\ consider

1. David's desire to build the Temple was honorable and commendable. Yet it was not God's will for him to build it. Have you ever had a desire to do something great for the Lord, but then found He had other plans for you? Did you respond as graciously as David?
2. Discuss whether the unending Davidic throne is a literal throne on earth or some kind of spiritual throne in heaven or in the Church. Why is this an important distinction?

challenge

Read verses 16 and 18. Take some time to reflect upon God's amazing grace to you.

memorize

"He shall build Me a house, and I will establish his throne forever." 1 Chronicles 17:12

"So let it be established, that Your name may be magnified forever, saying, 'The LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, is Israel's God.' And let the house of Your servant David be established before You." 1 Chronicles 17:24

Lesson 12

David's Victories Over His Enemies 1 Chronicles 18-20

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. David's victories proved God's promises.
2. David's victories picture spiritual warfare.
3. David's victories predict Christ's kingdom.

practical application

You can conquer all the giants.

questions

1. Who was the likely author of the book of Chronicles? Who was the original audience?
2. How can we harmonize the few differences in the numbers and details recorded in this chapter and in the parallel account in 2 Samuel 7?
3. What was God's great promise to David?
4. How do David's victories predict Christ's kingdom?

answers

1. Chronicles was written relatively late in Old Testament history likely by Ezra. The original audience was the group of former captives in Babylon who had returned to Jerusalem.
2. In the history of copying the text, some scribal copying mistakes did get into some copies. But there are many ancient manuscripts of Samuel that do match the details given in Chronicles, so we give priority to Chronicles in those cases.
3. God promised to subdue all of David's enemies (1 Chronicles 17:10) and to establish his throne forever.
4. The Bible teaches that when Christ returns to this earth, all enemies will be conquered and subdued and every knee will bow to show that Christ alone is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

discuss\ consider

1. All of God's promises to David proved true. All of God's promises to us will prove true as well. Discuss some New Testament promises, starting with 1 Peter 5:7. Which of God's precious promises have proven true in your life lately?
2. Ephesians 6 is a fantastic passage on spiritual warfare. Read that chapter and then discuss some of the principles of spiritual warfare that are illustrated in this passage of 1 Chronicles.

challenge

Are there any enemy giants in your life right now? Giant problems, giant losses, giant memories, giant defeats? With God's help and by faith, you can conquer all the giants.

memorize

"And the LORD preserved David wherever he went." 1 Chronicles 18:13

"Be of good courage, and let us be strong for our people and for the cities of our God. And may the LORD do what is good in His sight." 1 Chronicles 19:13

Lesson 13

**David's Sinful Numbering of the People of Israel
Because of Pride, and God's Resulting Judgment &
The Purchase of a Place of Sacrifice that would Become
the Future Site of Solomon's Temple
1 Chronicles 21**

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. God disapproved of David's sinful census.
2. God approved of David's substitutionary sacrifice.

practical application

Let's be willing to take the blame rather than shift the blame.

questions

1. Compare 1 Chronicles 21:1 and 2 Samuel 24:1. Did Satan move David to number the people of Israel, or was it God's anger that resulted in David numbering the people?
2. What does James 1:13 teach us about God?
3. Why was it wrong for David to number the people here?
4. God gave David a choice on the consequences for his sin. What were the choices and what did David choose?
5. Why was the threshing floor of Ornan a significant site?
6. How do we know that God approved of David's sacrifice?

answers

1. Both. God allowed Satan to tempt David and he was drawn away by his own pride as king to sin and number the people. But God used this occasion to bring discipline upon the whole nation of Israel, because the Lord was angry, probably because of Israel's national pride and dishonor of the Lord.
2. God is not the source of evil. He does not lead people to do evil and He cannot be blamed for evil.
3. Because of pride. God had given David victories over all his enemies, and there was no need to take a military census. By taking this census, David was turning away from trusting and thanking the Lord, and was relying on his own military strength.
4. David's choices were three years of famine, three months of military defeat, or three days of pestilence directly from the sword of the Lord. David chose the three days of pestilence, because he knew God to be a God of mercy (verses 13-15).
5. David purchased this site as a place of sacrifice. On this site Solomon would build the Temple. Every later Temple in Israel would be built here, including the future Temples.
6. God sent fire from heaven to consume the burnt offering. He also commanded the angel of the Lord to return his sword to its sheath.

discuss\ consider

1. God hates the sin of pride. Can you think of a time when God gave you victory, but rather than acknowledging and thanking Him, you became puffed up in your own pride? How can we safeguard ourselves against this tendency?
2. Just as the fire of the Lord fell on the sacrifice and not on the people, so the fire of God's judgment fell on Christ on the cross and not on us. We can be saved from the penalty of sin by simple faith in the Lord as our substitutionary sacrifice. If you have already acknowledged Christ as your substitute, thank Him for it. If you have not, then perhaps today is your day.

challenge

Are you prone to shifting the blame? Follow David's example and be willing to take the blame for your mistakes. Remember God's great mercy!

memorize

"Now Satan stood up against Israel, and moved David to number Israel." 1 Chronicles 21:1

"And David said to God, 'I am in great distress. Please let me fall into the hand of the LORD, for His mercies are very great; but do not let me fall into the hand of man.'" 1 Chronicles 21:13

"Then King David said to Ornan, 'No, but I will surely buy it for the full price, for I will not take what is yours for the LORD, nor offer burnt offerings with that which costs me nothing.'" 1 Chronicles 21:24

Lesson 14

**David's Preparations for the Construction of the Temple,
Which His Son, Solomon, will Build
1 Chronicles 22**

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. Building the House of the Lord involves plans and preparation.
2. Building the House of the Lord involves gifts and dedication.

practical application

Don't let fundraising limit the work of the Lord!

questions

1. Why was David's sinful numbering of the people included in the previous chapter of 1 Chronicles?
2. In what ways did David plan and prepare for the Temple?
3. How can David's counsel to his son Solomon be an example to us with our children?

answers

1. One purpose was that it laid the groundwork for the building of the Temple by Solomon. It was because of the plague of judgment that David bought the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite, and this would become the site of the Temple.
2. Stones were being cut from the limestone quarries and cedar timbers were being shipped from Lebanon. Large quantities of iron and bronze were accumulated. Billions of dollars, by today's value, were set aside in preparation for the building. A great workforce was involved, including foreign labor.
3. David gave Solomon guidance on building the Temple, but his emphasis was on his son's obedience and courage.

discuss\ consider

1. David's plans and preparations for the building of the Temple contain spiritual lessons for building the Lord's House today. Read 1 Corinthians 3. God is the Builder of the Church, and He uses our Christian service to help build up the Church. Discuss the ways in which we can build, both good and bad.
2. David arranged for skillful and gifted workers to be available to work on the Temple. Likewise building the House of the Lord involves gifts and dedication. Discuss the way the Lord has uniquely gifted you in order to build up your local fellowship of believers.

challenge

The Lord always provides for the work that He calls His people to do. Many times we mislabel our own work and hidden agendas as the work of the Lord. Don't spend your time fundraising for the work of the Lord. Spend your time doing the work of the Lord! He will provide, if it is really His work.

memorize

"Now David said, 'Solomon my son is young and inexperienced, and the house to be built for the LORD must be exceedingly magnificent, famous and glorious throughout all countries. I will now make preparation for it.' So David made abundant preparations before his death. Then he called for his son Solomon, and charged him to build a house for the LORD God of Israel." 1 Chronicles 22:5-6

"Therefore arise and build the sanctuary of the LORD God." 1 Chronicles 22:19

Lesson 15

**David's Further Preparations for the Building of the Temple
by Organizing the Levites as to their Responsibilities and Duties
1 Chronicles 23**

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. As priests, believers today are involved in worship of the Lord.
2. As Levites, believers today are involved in service to the Lord.

practical application

Make singing a part of your daily devotions.

questions

1. How did David respond to the news that he would not be the one to build the Temple of the Lord?
2. How old was David at this point? When did Solomon begin his reign?
3. What is the House of the Lord today?
4. Why was the census recorded here alright for David to conduct whereas the census recorded in chapter 21 was sinful?
5. Is there a difference between priests and Levites?

answers

1. David humbly accepted the decision from the Lord and with a wonderful attitude began to make elaborate preparations for the Temple of the Lord, which Solomon would build.
2. David was in his seventieth year. David and Solomon co-reigned for a short time before David's death.
3. The House of the Lord today is the Church – the Temple of the Holy Spirit.
4. The previous census was sinful because it was for military purposes instead of trusting in the Lord; the motive was national pride. The census of the Levites here was for the purpose of service to the Lord in the new Temple.
5. All priests were Levites, but not all Levites were priests. Only Aaron and his descendants were priests. It was the job of the priests to offer the sacrifices, burn incense, and minister to the people on behalf of God (verse 13). The Levites assisted the priests and performed various duties around the Temple.

discuss\ consider

1. All believers today are priests. Read 1 Peter 2:5,9. We do not offer up animals, but we are to offer up spiritual sacrifices. Read Hebrews 13:15-16. Discuss the many different ways you can worship the Lord with spiritual sacrifices.
2. Thousands of Levites were involved in service in the House of the Lord. This illustrates the truth that all believers have different responsibilities within the Church. List everything you can think of, large and small, that must be done in order for a Sunday service to run at your local church. There are large and small responsibilities, but all are important duties.

challenge

You hopefully spend time in Scripture and prayer every day. This week plan to include singing as a part of your daily devotions. Get yourself a hymnal, songbook, or worship CD and begin or end your time with the Lord by singing a song of praise.

memorize

“So when David was old and full of days, he made his son Solomon king over Israel.” 1 Chronicles 23:1

“Aaron was set apart, he and his sons forever, that he should sanctify the most holy things, to burn incense before the LORD, to minister to Him, and to give the blessing in His name forever.” 1 Chronicles 23:13

“[The Levites’] duty was to help the sons of Aaron in the service of the house of the LORD, in the courts and in the chambers, in the purifying of all holy things and the work of the service of the house of God.” 1 Chronicles 23:28

Lesson 16

**David's Organization of the Priests and Levites
into 24 Divisions for Service in the Temple &
The Organization of the Temple Musicians into 24 Groups
for Their Ministry of Music in the House of the Lord
1 Chronicles 24-25**

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. Organization of the ministry of priests and Levites is important.
2. Organization of the ministry of music is important.

practical application

Put content high on your priority list for Christian music.

questions

1. Why was David organizing the priests and the Levites? How many Levites were counted in the census?
2. How did the 24 divisions of priests and Levites share the duties of serving in the Temple?
3. Why did Nadab and Abihu die before their father Aaron (24:2)?
4. So did the priests and Levites only work two weeks of the year?
5. Why were the commanders of the army involved in the selection of the musical talent(25:1)?

answers

1. David was organizing the Levites as part of the preparations for his son Solomon to build the Temple. There were 38,000 Levites thirty years of age and older (1 Chronicles 23:3). Later, David lowered the age requirements of Levites to twenty years old, so that more men would be available for service.
2. Each division would serve essentially for two weeks of the year.
3. Nadab and Abihu were struck dead and removed from service in the priesthood because they offered strange fire before the Lord (Leviticus 10:1-2).
4. No. They were on duty at the Temple in Jerusalem two weeks of the year. The rest of the year they were busy back in the Levitical cities where they lived. They were the official interpreters of Scripture and therefore the lawyers in the theocracy of Israel.
5. Israel may have used music when they went into battle under the kings.

discuss\ consider

1. Read 1 Corinthians 14:40. Just as the priests and the Levites were organized for their worship and service of the Lord, so we should do things decently and orderly in our churches. Disorganization and disorder does not please God. Have you ever been to a church service with no structure or order? Discuss how structure does not have to limit the work and movement of the Holy Spirit.
2. Praising the Lord with music is important, and it is important that the music be organized. Everyone should sing praises to the Lord, but not everyone is called to a ministry of music. Discuss the difference that you have seen in having talented individuals lead a group in the ministry of music.

challenge

Contemporary Christian music is a booming industry today. You may choose your favorite artist based on style and sound, but make sure lyrical content is also high on your priority list.

memorize

"Thus they were divided by lot, one group as another, for there were officials of the sanctuary and officials of the house of God, from the sons of Eleazar and from the sons of Ithamar." 1 Chronicles 24:5

"All these were under the direction of their father for the music in the house of the LORD, with cymbals, stringed instruments, and harps, for the service of the house of God." 1 Chronicles 25:6

Lesson 17

**The Appointment of Three More Groups of Levites –
One Group for Keeping the Temple Gates,
One Group for Guarding the Temple Treasures,
and One Group for Administering the Affairs of Israel throughout the Nation
1 Chronicles 26**

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. Guarding the Lord's house is important service.
2. Guarding the Lord's treasure is important service.
3. Guarding the Lord's law is important service.

practical application

Thank the Lord for the blessing of children.

questions

1. How did David make preparations for the Temple of the Lord that his son Solomon would build?
2. David's detailed plans and preparations give us a prophetic glimpse of what truth?
3. Who was Obed-Edom (verses 4-8)?
4. What spiritual lesson can we learn from the Temple gatekeepers?
5. What were the Temple treasures?
6. What does it mean that Israel was a theocracy? How did the Levites work in this system?

answers

1. David gathered together men, material, and money for the work of building the Temple. He numbered the Levites and divided them into groups to perform various duties throughout the Temple.
2. God is making plans and preparations for the future Temple and kingdom of our Lord here on this earth. As believers, we will all have special responsibilities in that kingdom.
3. Obed-Edom and his family took care of the Ark after it had fallen off the cart and Uzzah had been killed (chapter 13). The Ark of the Covenant remained in the house of Obed-Edom until David brought it up to Jerusalem.
4. Guarding the Lord's house is important service. Churches today must guard against false teachers and their false doctrine.
5. The Temple treasures consisted of the required tithes and offerings of the people, as well as special dedicated gifts from elders and leaders in the nation, and dedicated spoils of war.
6. This means that the nation was ruled by God and the law of the land was the Mosaic Law as the Word of God. The Levites were the official interpreters of God's Word and thus were the lawyers and judges in that day.

discuss\ consider

1. Discuss the devastation that comes upon a church or ministry when the Lord's funds are misused. What should the attitude be of those who are given responsibility for a ministry's finances?
2. Discuss ways that we can guard the Word of God from misinterpretation and misapplication. Read 2 Timothy 2:15.

challenge

Obed-Edom was considered blessed by God, because he had been greatly blessed with children. The next time you are tired and frustrated with your kids, remember that they truly are a blessing from the Lord.

memorize

"Concerning the divisions of the gatekeepers..." 1 Chronicles 26:1

"Of the Levites, Abijah was over the treasuries of the house of God and over the treasuries of the dedicated things." 1 Chronicles 26:20

"Of the Izharites, Chenaniah and his sons performed duties as officials and judges over Israel outside Jerusalem." 1 Chronicles 26:29

Lesson 18

**David's Organization of Israel's Army &
The Official Recognition of the Tribal Leaders and
Various Administrators and Advisors within the Kingdom
1 Chronicles 27**

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. Believers can serve as apologists.
2. Believers can serve as authorities.
3. Believers can serve as administrators.
4. Believers can serve as advisors.

practical application

Use the internet to defend the Christian faith.

questions

1. Who were the military commanders for the divisions of Israel's army?
2. What is a Christian apologist?
3. How does 1 Corinthians 12:4-5 relate to this passage?
4. Was Ahithophel a good counselor (verse 33)? What about Hushai?

answers

1. They were all mighty men of David, listed in chapter 11.
2. Someone who defends the Christian faith
3. Verses 25-31 list specific areas in David's kingdom which were under the control of capable administrators. 1 Corinthians teaches that besides spiritual gifts there are various areas where you can use your gifts, talents, and abilities.
4. Ahithophel turned against David during the rebellion of his son Absalom. But Hushai stood by David as a good friend and advisor (2 Samuel 15).

discuss\ consider

1. 1 Peter 3:15 shows that all believers have a responsibility to defend the faith. Some Christians are especially good in the field of apologetics. Discuss what you know about some of the great Christian apologists throughout history. C.S. Lewis and Josh McDowell are both good examples.
2. The elders of your church should be recognized as spiritual authorities. There is a lot of responsibility in these positions of authority. Discuss how your response to these authorities can make their job easier or much harder. Read Hebrews 13:17 and 1 Timothy 3:1.

challenge

There are a lot of great apologetic resources on the internet. Start by checking out the Christian Evidences section of the Growing Christians website at www.growingchristians.org/cfgc or go to www.christianevidences.com.

memorize

“And the children of Israel, according to their number, the heads of fathers' houses, the captains of thousands and hundreds and their officers, served the king in every matter of the military divisions. These divisions came in and went out month by month throughout all the months of the year, each division having twenty-four thousand.” 1 Chronicles 27:1

“Ahitophel was the king's counselor, and Hushai the Archite was the king's companion. After Ahitophel was Jehoiada the son of Benaiah, then Abiathar. And the general of the king's army was Joab.” 1 Chronicles 27:33-34

Lesson 19

**David's Last Instructions to the People of Israel &
His Last Instructions to His Son, Solomon, the New King of Israel
1 Chronicles 28**

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. There is a divine purpose for the House of God.
2. There is a divine pattern for the House of God.

practical application

If you seek Him, you will find Him.

questions

1. Give a couple of reasons David installed Solomon as king and co-reigned with him during his last days.
2. What significant things did David accomplish during his last years on the throne?
3. What was the purpose of the Temple?
4. How did David conclude his address to the nation of Israel?
5. Summarize David's last instructions to Solomon.

answers

1. David was not well during the last years of his life; he continually had the chills and could not keep warm. Also, David's son Adonijah started an uprising and attempted to take the throne (1 Kings 1).
2. He collected money, material, and skilled workmen for the Temple project. He organized all the Levites for effective service in the Temple and throughout the nation. He made sure the Temple treasures and Temple precincts would be fully protected. And he organized civil and military leadership to insure that Solomon would begin with a stable and peaceful reign in which to build the House of the Lord.
3. The main purpose of the Temple was to be a permanent home for the Ark of the Covenant, because this signified God's presence in the midst of His people.
4. He exhorted them to follow the Lord in all of His commandments. Just building the Temple would not result in blessing, if they did not obey the Lord.
5. David exhorted Solomon to follow the Lord with a whole heart and a willing mind. He challenged his son to be strong and courageous. And he gave Solomon all the plans and patterns for the Temple, that the Lord had given him directly.

discuss\ consider

1. God's Temple today is the Church, the people of God. The divine purpose of this worldwide group of believers is to be a home for the Holy Spirit so that God can dwell in the midst of His people and we can worship Him. Have you ever thought of this as the purpose of the Church? God dwells in our midst!
2. The Lord handed down the details of the House of God to David. Likewise He has given us details about spiritual gifts in the Church and the priesthood of all believers. Discuss what you know about the priesthood of believers. How is this acted out in your local fellowship?

challenge

"If you seek Him, He will be found by you." 1 Chronicles 28:9 Are you seeking God?

memorize

"Then King David rose to his feet and said, 'Hear me, my brethren and my people: I had it in my heart to build a house of rest for the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and for the footstool of our God, and had made preparations to build it.'" 1 Chronicles 28:2

"As for you, my son Solomon, know the God of your father, and serve Him with a loyal heart and with a willing mind; for the LORD searches all hearts and understands all the intent of the thoughts. If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will cast you off forever." 1 Chronicles 28:9

"And David said to his son Solomon, 'Be strong and of good courage, and do it; do not fear nor be dismayed, for the LORD God – my God – will be with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you, until you have finished all the work for the service of the house of the LORD.'" 1 Chronicles 28:20

Lesson 20

**The Record of David's Gifts to the Lord,
David's Prayer to the Lord &
The Death of David
1 Chronicles 29**

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. Older believers should set the example by their giving.
2. Older believers should set the example by their praying.

practical application

Remember, life is short!

questions

1. Why does verse 22 say they made Solomon king "the second time"?
2. What is the spiritual picture in the two stage reign of Solomon?
3. How long did David reign as king? How old was he when he died?
4. How was David a great example to the younger generation in this passage?
5. What New Testament passage echoes the sentiment of verse 16?

answers

1. Because David and Solomon co-reigned for some time before David's death. After his death, they again anointed Solomon as the sole king.
2. Right now our Lord as King is reigning from His Father's throne, but when He returns to this earth He will reign from His own throne that will literally be set up in Jerusalem for our His earthly kingdom.
3. David reigned for 40 years and died at the "good old age" of 70.
4. David personally gave substantially out of his own finances to provide for the house of the Lord. This inspired the people to give generously to the Lord's work.
5. *1 Corinthians 4:7, "What do you have that you did not receive?"*

discuss\ consider

1. When David and the people gave to the work of the Lord the result was Joy. Joy is always the result when you give for the right reasons and with a whole and loyal heart (verse 9). Recall a time when you experienced the joy of giving. How can David's generosity in his old age be an example to you? Discuss the phrase "Give while you live, so you know where it goes."
2. Many older believers set the example by their ministry of prayer. Tell about someone you know who has inspired you by the content of their prayers and their emphasis on the importance of prayer.

challenge

"Our days on earth are as a shadow." 1 Chronicles 29:15 Life is short! Are you living it for Christ?

memorize

"Moreover, because I have set my affection on the house of my God, I have given to the house of my God, over and above all that I have prepared for the holy house, my own special treasure of gold and silver." 1 Chronicles 29:3

"O LORD our God, all this abundance that we have prepared to build You a house for Your holy name is from Your hand, and is all Your own." 1 Chronicles 29:16

"So [David] died in a good old age, full of days and riches and honor; and Solomon his son reigned in his place." 1 Chronicles 29:28