



The Book of 1 Chronicles
Discussion/Reflection Questions

1 Chronicles 1 & 2

In chapters 1 and 2, we see the list of God's people from the beginning of history. God's name is not mentioned in chapter one, but his fingerprints are everywhere as we see the names of men who were blessed and called out to be used by God. The first chapter lists the sons of Noah, who were the fathers of all nations after the flood. Then we see the sons of Abraham and Jacob, through whom we have the twelve tribes of Israel. Both the good and bad are listed. Some of the bad were greatly blessed but they were not the chosen ones of God's covenant. Judah's line becomes a point of focus because he is in the royal lineage of David.

We are about to spend 5 days in a row looking at a long list of genealogies. To most this is probably boring but let me speak to the significance of the longest list of names you have probably ever read! These are real people who lived and died. They came into this world with hopes and dreams and suffered pain, sorrow, joy and gladness, just like you and me. Every name is connected to God's plan and in the same way - you are connected to God's greater plan as well. God has chosen you! How does seeing this list of names of generations that have gone before you in faith, inspire you to trust God that he has a greater plan for you too?

1 Chronicles 3 & 4

As we read through the long list of names, the writer stops for just a moment and focuses on a man named Jabez, whose name means man of sorrow and pain. Jabez is seen nowhere else in scripture but he is noted as more honorable than his brothers. Perhaps he was born during a time of pain and sorrow for his mother and she taught him to pray. Jabez prayed and asked for four things: blessing, an enlarged territory, that God's hand would be with him and that he would be kept from harm. God answered his prayer and that is all we know about him!

Scripture says Jabez was more honorable than his brothers and the honorable act he is known for -- is prayer. Jabez was not afraid to pray boldly and ask for both his needs and desires. The very sorrow he was named for was removed through his prayer. Jabez trusted in God and was blessed through his prayer. For some of us who are always

praying for others, it can be hard to ask God for more blessings. But Jabez was not afraid to go directly to God with his requests. Look at the four requests Jabez made and write a prayer below over your own life. It does not need to be the same prayer as Jabez. Make it unique to your own life and what you are facing today.

1 Chronicles 5 & 6

The men of Gad went into battle against an army much larger than their own. They cried out to God for help and God heard their urgent pleas and gave them victory over their enemies. They prevailed because they trusted in God.

Once again, we see God's people calling out to him in prayer. In the midst of their battle, God heard their cries for help and answered them by delivering them. There is power in prayer. This is a constant theme throughout all of scripture. God wants his people to cry out to him and he hears their cries for help. Are you in the midst of your own private battle today? Go to God in prayer and tell him about it. Ask him for help and put your trust in him.

1 Chronicles 7 & 8

As we come to the end of the genealogy, there is a focus on the tribe of Benjamin. This tribe was of special importance because Saul, the first king of Israel, was from this tribe. Also, the tribe of Benjamin was close to Judah in the days leading up to the Babylonian exile and after. But the focus will not stay here, instead in chapter 10, we will see the transfer of power from Saul to David and the rest of the book will focus on David.

We see from chapter one that the genealogies read like a funnel. At first, they include the whole world, then it narrows down to Israel, then further down to Judah, the sons of Levi and finally to David and the Messianic bloodline. We see both good and bad characters as God's plan unfolds for the whole world, through his chosen people of Israel. Some of the men named are given one- or two-line descriptions. If your name was included in this list, what one- or two-line description would you want written about you?

1 Chronicles 9 & 10

Saul faced divine judgement. He died because he had been unfaithful to God by not keeping his commandments and seeking God's guidance. Saul did not seek God's guidance because he did not have a genuine relationship with God. Instead, he consulted with a medium, which was strictly forbidden of God's people (Deuteronomy

18:9-14). And so, God turned the kingdom over to a man after his own heart, David the son of Jesse.

It is interesting to note that in the same passage of scripture, we see man's responsibility alongside God's sovereignty. In verse 4 of chapter 10, Saul took his own life when he fell on his own sword. But in verse 14, it says the Lord put him to death. Pause right now and consider the implications of not following God's commands or seeking out his ways and guidance. It may not lead to physical death for us, but there is emotional pain, suffering and consequences that come as a result of our disobedience. Is there an area of your life, where you are not following God's commands or not seeking his guidance? Let this be a warning. Do not wait another day to make this area right in your life. Name the area below and seek the Lord's help now.

1 Chronicles 11

In chapter 11, David was anointed king for the third time. The first time was when Samuel anointed him before the family (1 Samuel 16). The second time was when he was anointed king over just one tribe of Israel --Judah (2 Samuel 2:4) and now we come to the third anointing. Finally, we see all of Israel united together as one nation behind David's leadership. God was already using David to lead even when Saul was king but now, he was becoming greater and greater because the Lord was with him.

God provided mighty men to help David succeed. His greatness grew because of the loyalty and bravery of these warriors. But these men did not start out this way. 1 Samuel 22:1-2 tells us many of these men were in distress, in debt and discontent. They were not mighty at all! But God! He gave them confidence, courage and strength. Do you feel weak? God can use you! What area in your life do you need more courage? Ask the Lord to give you his strength, determination, and confidence to be brave and strong today through the power of God. Also, consider, is there someone in your life that could use your support as they lead? Step up and support them.

1 Chronicles 12

God brought mighty warriors from every tribe together to support David. Even the tribe of Benjamin, which was Saul's tribe, came to join the army. David trusted them despite the fact that he knew they could betray him because the Spirit of the Lord was with their chief. And so, men continued to come to David until he had a great and mighty army devoted to him. When Israel saw what God was doing, they were united together and celebrated their new king with joy and feasting.

These warriors were men of courage, who were highly skilled and trained for war. Their faces were calm and confident like the faces of a lion and they were active and

ready to fight like a swift gazelle. God made them this way because they had surrendered their will to God, to be used by him. We too can be strong in the face of life's spiritual battles, but we must recognize that we need each other. Those warriors were nothing without each other. They were united under the service of God's chosen King. In the same way, we must unite under the service of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords to experience their victory, unity and joy. How is the unity in your church today? Have the people gotten off track and focused on things that are not of the Lord? What can you change so that you can be more devoted to the will of God and bring unity in your church?

1 Chronicles 13

When David chose to move the ark, he consulted with his commanders and leaders, but he did not consult God. The law says that the ark was to be transported with poles on the shoulders of the priests (Exodus 25:12-15). They failed to follow the law when they chose to put the ark on a cart pulled by oxen. You see, the Philistines had carried the ark on a cart and got away with it but that was because they were not the children of God. So, when the oxen stumbled and Uzzah put his hand out and touched the ark (which was strictly forbidden), God was angry and struck him dead. Then David was afraid.

Uzzah was struck dead because God cared about who transported the ark and how the ark was transported. Uzzah followed the Philistines way rather than God's way. His good intentions to help, lacked the obedience and reverence for the holiness of God. David was confused by God's anger because he knew Uzzah's intentions were good. Consider the church today. Do we sometimes do things the world's way because it works? Are you ever confused why God is not blessing you even though your intentions are good? Examine your own life. In what area do you overlook sin because you have good intentions? Repent and do not be afraid of God but rather be afraid of your sin.

1 Chronicles 14

David knew two things: the Lord had established him as king over Israel and his kingdom was highly exalted for the sake of his people. David knew this was not about his own greatness but God's. So, each time the enemy came at him, he inquired of God and he obeyed what God told him to do and God gave him the victory.

As soon as David was anointed king, the enemy was at his door ready to attack and what did David do? He went to God and inquired of him and God gave him different directions each time. The first time he went one way and the second time, he went another. David had to wait on the Lord for a sound in the trees before striking them

down. Friends, many times as soon as God is at work in our lives, the enemy gets to work in our lives as well. Spiritual warfare is real! And we see that the enemy does not give up. Right after David finished one battle with the enemy – they tried again! And so, he had to turn to God and wait on the Lord to help him have victory. In what area of your life do you feel like the enemy is attacking you over and over? Inquire of the Lord now and ask him for wisdom as to what to do next and how to defeat the enemy. Wait on the Lord to show you his will and then obey him.

1 Chronicles 15

David had learned the lesson that the way the ark was carried mattered to God. This time when they moved the ark, he was careful to be sure that it was all done in a sanctified, holy and honoring way. Even though David himself was a masterful musician, he appointed others to lead the music and sing because he was humble. As the people broke out in shouting and song, he danced before the Lord like a commoner. His wife Michal, the daughter of Saul, had a hard heart and she despised the way he worshipped God.

2 Samuel 6 tells us that when David returned home from the celebration, his wife was there to meet him, and she was angry. She felt that he should have acted in a more dignified way because he was king. David did not care what anyone around him thought of him. His emotional connection with God was so deep that it led to real worship of God. Genuine worship is not always solemn and subdued. Sometimes it is loud and emotional. Do you feel free to worship God however he is leading you or do the thoughts of those around you sometimes inhibit your ability to worship? What can you learn from the way David worshipped God?

1 Chronicles 16

2 Samuel 23: 1 names David as the “sweet Psalmist of Israel”. David was known for his beautiful songs of thanksgiving and so, we see here, a sweet song of thanks to God. In his song, he commands Israel to give thanks, sing, seek the Lord, remember his works, declare his glory and ascribe to him the worship that is due. He even calls on all creation to come and rejoice with him.

David’s song was not meant to be a solo. David called on God’s people to sing praises with him. At the end, all the people said “Amen!” and praised the Lord. This is the responsibility of God’s people. We are to keep record of what God has done and meditate on them and give thanks. We need to tell others about his wonderful grace and salvation. Focus now on God’s goodness in your life. List below a record of some of the things God has done for you and then give him thanks.

1 Chronicles 17

David lived in a house of Cedar which means David lived in a beautiful and expensive home. He was uncomfortable that the ark of the Lord was just in a tent of curtains. So, David went to Nathan seeking his approval to build a house and Nathan quickly answered him telling him to do it. But then the word of the Lord came to Nathan and told him that David was not to build him a home. Instead, God would build David a house and establish a kingdom through him. In his prayer of thanksgiving, David called himself "your servant" ten times. David was humbled by this gracious gift from God.

Have you ever wanted to do more for God than he's called you to do? David had a servant's heart that was willing to be used by God, but God wanted to do something different than he planned. Nathan answered David according to his own human judgement rather than seeking the Lord's will and so his advice to David was wrong. It is so important that we do not just seek the advice of man when we are making decisions. We need to seek the Lord and his will. Is there something you have desired to do for the Lord that he has yet to open the door for you to do? Pray and ask the Lord if it is really his will or is there something else, he has for you. Trust that whatever he has for you is good and for his glory even if it does not make sense to others.

1 Chronicles 18

The Lord gave David victory, subdued his enemies, expanded his territory and grew his kingdom. According to 1 Chronicles 22:6-10, we will see that the blood shed during these battles would disqualify David from building the temple but it established the security that his son Solomon would later need to build the temple for the Lord and have the materials for construction.

God wanted to reign in the life of Saul, but Saul resisted God. As a result, David was greater than Saul and God was able to work in the life of David and use him to bless his people. Can you recall a time when you resisted the Lord? Can you see the blessings that you may have missed out on? How can you fully surrender to God now so that he is able to more fully use you?

1 Chronicles 19

Joab saw that he was surrounded both in the front and in the back but rather than surrender, he organized his troops to attack with the plan to help each other. Then he called on his troops to be strong and use their strength for their people and let the Lord do what seems good to him.

When Joab was surrounded by the enemy, he called on his people to be strong. Being strong is a choice not a feeling. We may feel weak, but we can choose to be strong despite our feelings. Joab wisely trusted in God for the outcome of the battle, while simultaneously planning and working hard for the victory. Is there a battle you are fighting where you feel surrounded by the enemy and weak? Make a plan of attack and choose to be strong in the Lord and leave the outcome in the Lord's hands. What is the first step you can take today toward being stronger in the battles you are facing?

1 Chronicles 20

Even though the giants were huge compared to David and his men – they were no match for them. Even with their huge stature and extra fingers and toes, they could not win because God was on their side.

We do not want to underestimate the power of the enemy. 1 Peter 5:8 tells us to be sober-minded and watchful because our enemy – the devil – is like a roaring lion seeking someone to devour. Only a fool thinks that the enemy is easy to overcome. David's men counted the fingers and toes of the giant. They were very aware of what they were up against and we too need to be aware of the enemy's schemes. He will lie to you and tempt you in your weakest areas. Where in your life is the enemy attacking you right now? Is there a lie you have believed or a temptation that is threatening to take you down? Call on the Lord for help and do not let the enemy win! Through the power of God, you must stand strong and not let him defeat you.

1 Chronicles 21

Satan stood against Israel and incited David to number his people. According to Exodus 30:12, only God could ask Israel to be numbered and so God was displeased with David's disobedience. David quickly repented of his foolishness, but it was too late. God struck Israel with pestilence and over 70,000 men of Israel died. So, David built an altar to the Lord and presented him with peace and burnt offerings. Then David called on the Lord and the Lord answered him with fire from heaven. Then God commanded his angel to stop and put his sword back into its sheath and David was afraid.

Satan will try to get us to do things completely contrary to God's word. While God does not send plagues nowadays when he is upset, we should reflect on this story and see how God sees sin. He does not take it lightly. It should remind us that the wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life through his son Jesus (Romans 6:23). God has made a way for us to escape his wrath when we sin, but we should still fear God. God wants us to run away from the things that will invite his discipline. Think back to a time when you fell into sin. Did you feel God's displeasure? How was God merciful to you despite your sin? Is there anything you need to repent of now?

1 Chronicles 22

David provided everything for the temple to be built but because he had shed too much blood, he would not be able to do the actual building himself. Instead, God would give Israel rest from their enemies under Solomon, so they could build the temple in peace. But David recognized how young his son was, so he put together the people, the plans and the resources to build the temple. He also fought wars that gave them stability with their enemies. Then, he commissioned Solomon to do the building with strength, courage and no fear.

The temple is known as Solomon's temple not David's. Yet, David did all the background work to prepare the temple to be built. It could not have been done without him. He gathered the materials, organized the people, won the wars to bring peace in Israel and laid out all the plans for his son, but he did not get credit for the temple. I don't know which side of the coin you are on. Perhaps you have done a lot of work and someone else got credit or you have benefited from someone else starting something and you got to finish it. Either way, the Lord is in it and he is pleased when we humbly work without credit or when we continue on a good work with strength and courage. If God has called you to help start something new - do it! Or if you need help - don't be afraid to accept it. Do you relate more to David or Solomon and why?

1 Chronicles 23 & 24

David had multiple sons who could have taken the throne and so here we see him clearly making Solomon the next king over Israel. Before David handed the throne over, he organized the Levites, the priests, the musicians, the gatekeepers, the officials, the military divisions and the leaders of the tribes. Since the temple would be a very busy place, he needed to help his son organize the duties and divisions of the priests and Levites.

There were so many important duties of the priests and Levites, it's hard to focus on just one but one of the most precious responsibilities was that of prayer every morning

and evening. They were to stand and give thanks and praise to the Lord. Do you bookend your days with praise and thanksgiving? Which do you tend to do more easily – start the day in prayer or end the day in prayer and why? How can you work prayer more into your daily habits of life?

1 Chronicles 25, 26 & 27

David was not just strong in battle; he was also wise with a great ability to organize, administrate and delegate the duties of the Israelites. He valued every role from the priesthood, to the officers, to the gatekeepers and even to the jobs that seemed less significant like the keepers of the vineyards and keepers of camels. He wisely assigned each tribe a different month to be on alert for battle. David had them cast lots for their duties so that the assignments would not just go to the most gifted and the best. He wanted everyone to have an opportunity to serve and there was no pride in being chosen.

David did not decide who would do each job. Instead, they cast lots so God could appoint them. God does not care about how the world sees us, whether we are considered great or small. God wants to use everyone. He has made you uniquely you, for his glory. Do not let your position in life, whether great or small, stop you from faithfully serving God. What is one unique quality God has given you? How can you use that gift, talent or quality more for the Lord? Be strong and of good courage and do what God has made you to do!

1 Chronicles 28 & 29

David gave his all to prepare his young and inexperienced son to take over the great task of building the temple because he loved the Lord so much. He was much like Moses, who brought his people to the Promised Land and then handed over the task to enter in, to Joshua. David commissioned his son with the same words that God gave Joshua before he entered the Promised Land, “Be strong and courageous and do not be afraid. The Lord is with you.” Then he prayed and praised God for his greatness and Solomon sat down on his father’s throne in place of David. David died and God made Solomon very great.

Twice, David told his son Solomon to “do it.” Do not talk about it, dream about it, try to go a different route or ignore God and his commands. He wanted Solomon to know God, serve God, seek God and never forsake God and...do it! The job was now in the hands of Solomon to complete the building of the temple.

David sincerely loved the Lord with all of his heart. Though he was not a perfect man, he was a devoted man with enthusiasm to do all God had called and gifted him to do.

He left a godly legacy for his children and future generations. Do you love the Lord with your whole heart? Do others see your enthusiasm and love for God by the way you serve him? How can you leave a legacy of godliness in your family?