

## Lesson 3      23 August, 2020

### David's Kingdom Is Established

**Lesson Scope:** 1 Chronicles Chapters 14, 18 through 20

*References in brackets relate to Lesson Scope unless noted otherwise*

#### Lesson Focus

The period of the judges ended with Israel defeated and dominated by the Philistines. The Philistines had destroyed the sanctuary of God at Shiloh because of the sins of Eli's sons (1 Samuel 4, 1 Samuel 3:12-14). The defeat of Saul on Mount Gilboa left Israel penetrated and divided at the centre by the Philistines.

Now David's work was to restore Israel's worship and her land to bring order to chaos. First, David began to restore true worship by attempting to bring the ark to Jerusalem, which ended in failure (chapter 13).

Chapter 14 of today's lesson stands between that failure and his successful restoration of the ark.

By careful obedience to God, David destroyed the Philistine threat.

These victories allowed Israel to grow, prosper, and gain continued victories over surrounding nations. Spiritual growth and victory depend upon right attitudes and actions. God will bless those who seek His will and glorify His name in all things

The lesson can be made very practical. Do so. This lesson is very inspirational as we consider all that God does for a people seeking and following His will. The key to Christian victory is not in strenuous human effort but in walking in the footsteps of our Saviour.

**Lesson Aim:** To see essentials for continued spiritual growth and victory.

**Theme Verse:** 2 Peter 3:18. But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

## Lesson Text

### The Lord Preserved David”

1 Chronicles 14:2

<sup>2</sup> (KJV) And David perceived that the LORD had confirmed him king over Israel, for his kingdom was lifted up on high, because of his people Israel.

### “David Enquired of God”

1 Chronicles 14:8-17

<sup>8</sup> (KJV) And when the Philistines heard that David was anointed king over all Israel, all the Philistines went up to seek David. And David heard of *it*, and went out against them. <sup>9</sup> And the Philistines came and spread themselves in the valley of Rephaim. <sup>10</sup> And David enquired of God, saying, Shall I go up against the Philistines? and wilt thou deliver them into mine hand? And the LORD said unto him, Go up; for I will deliver them into thine hand. <sup>11</sup> So they came up to Baalperazim; and David smote them there. Then David said, God hath broken in upon mine enemies by mine hand like the breaking forth of waters: therefore they called the name of that place Baalperazim. <sup>12</sup> And when they had left their gods there, David gave a commandment, and they were burned with fire. <sup>13</sup> And the Philistines yet again spread themselves abroad in the valley. <sup>14</sup> Therefore David enquired again of God; and God said unto him, Go not up after them; turn away from them, and come upon them over against the mulberry trees. <sup>15</sup> And it shall be, when thou shalt hear a sound of going in the tops of the mulberry trees, *that* then thou shalt go out to battle: for God is gone forth before thee to smite the host of the Philistines. <sup>16</sup> David therefore did as God commanded him: and they smote the host of the Philistines from Gibeon even to Gazer. <sup>17</sup> And the fame of David went out into all lands; and the LORD brought the fear of him upon all nations.

### “The Lord . . . Confirmed Him King”

1 Chronicles 18:2-3, 5-7, 9-14

<sup>2</sup> (KJV) And he smote Moab; and the Moabites became David's servants, *and* brought gifts. <sup>3</sup> And David smote Hadarezer king of Zobah unto Hamath, as he went to stablish his dominion by the river Euphrates. . . . . <sup>5</sup> And when the Syrians of Damascus came to help Hadarezer king of Zobah, David slew of the Syrians two and twenty thousand men. <sup>6</sup> Then David put *garrisons* in Syriadamascus; and the Syrians be-

came David's servants, *and* brought gifts. Thus the LORD preserved David whithersoever he went. <sup>7</sup> And David took the shields of gold that were on the servants of Hadarezer, and brought them to Jerusalem. . . . .<sup>9</sup> Now when Tou king of Hamath heard how David had smitten all the host of Hadarezer king of Zobah; <sup>10</sup> He sent Hadoram his son to king David, to enquire of his welfare, and to congratulate him, because he had fought against Hadarezer, and smitten him; (for Hadarezer had war with Tou); and *with him* all manner of vessels of gold and silver and brass. <sup>11</sup> Them also king David dedicated unto the LORD, with the silver and the gold that he brought from all *these* nations; from Edom, and from Moab, and from the children of Ammon, and from the Philistines, and from Amalek. <sup>12</sup> Moreover Abishai the son of Zeruiah slew of the Edomites in the valley of salt eighteen thousand. <sup>13</sup> And he put garrisons in Edom; and all the Edomites became David's servants. Thus the LORD preserved David whithersoever he went. <sup>14</sup> So David reigned over all Israel, and executed judgment and justice among all his people. <sup>15</sup> And Joab the son of Zeruiah *was* over the host; and Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud, recorder. <sup>16</sup> And Zadok the son of Ahitub, and Abimelech the son of Abiathar, *were* the priests; and Shavsha was scribe; <sup>17</sup> And Benaiah the son of Jehoiada *was* over the Cherethites and the Pelethites; and the sons of David *were* chief about the king.

## Questions for Study

### “The Lord . . . Confirmed Him King”

1. In what ways was the kingdom of David lifted up in the eyes of surrounding peoples?
2. What are evidences that reveal God's work among His people today?

### “David Enquired of God”

3. What factors made the Philistines a serious threat to Israel?
4. What factors assured David of victory over the Philistines?
5. Why is prayer important to defeat the enemy?
6. What ungodly influences do we need to reckon with in order to maintain victory?

### “The Lord Preserved David”

7. Why was it necessary for David to conquer so many nations at this time?

8. How should we follow David's example of dedicating the spoils to God?
9. How can we keep ourselves in the realm of God's preserving power?

### **Analysing the Passage**

The Philistine oppression of Israel began in Judges 10:7 and continued until they were finally subdued by David in this lesson. God gave Israel periods of deliverance by spiritual men like Samuel, Jonathan, and David (as a servant of Saul). Samson and Saul also did exploits against the Philistines, but personal failure limited their usefulness.

From a military standpoint, the Philistines controlled Israel. Philistine garrisons were scattered throughout the land (1 Samuel 13:3; 14: 1-14; 2 Samuel 23:14). Culturally and materially the Philistines were advanced beyond Israel in metalworking. They dominated and restricted Israel's metal usage to give themselves agricultural and military advantage. See 1 Samuel 13: 19-22.

David realized that the complete victory which Israel needed over the Philistines would come only by God's leading and power and by Israel's faith and obedience. This truth makes this lesson a powerful example for us today. "For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope" (Romans 15:4).

With Israel's nearby enemies defeated and the true worship of God reinstated, David moved out to conquer surrounding nations who threatened other Israelite areas.

### **Principles and Applications**

#### **"The Lord . . . Confirmed Him King"**

1. Spiritual persons perceive God's work among His people (14:2).

We are encouraged by young people whose changed lives convince schoolteachers, parents, brothers, and sisters of a genuine new birth. We are encouraged by young parents who show a zeal for Biblical conservatism by raising conscientious children who respect church standards and live a noble and pure life. We are convinced of the working of God in hearts of leaders who will not vacillate or compromise under pressure.

2. God is glorified when His people allow Him to work among them (14:2). Holiness is the result of God's work among men. The beauty and simplicity of holiness speak to the consciences of men and cause them to think of God. Even our everyday clothing and our social reserve give evidence of God.

### **“David Enquired of God”**

3. Spiritual prosperity arouses the enemy to action (14: 8-9). The devil is content if we are lukewarm, because then he has us and we do not know it (see Revelation 3: 14-22). Our struggles are a sign of spiritual life. Peter's loyalty to Jesus caused Satan to make Peter his special target (Luke 22:31-32).

4. Vibrant prayer life is essential for spiritual victory (14:10). We need God. The enemy is greater than we are. But “greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.” Jesus said, “Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak” (Matthew 26:41).

5. Spiritually growing Christians deal with ungodly influences (14:12). Our actions are decisive and effective. Eli reproved his sons for their evil deeds, but did not require change or remove them from office. Eli's weak reproof did not clear him before God. God's severe judgment fell. We reject the influence of the world's ethics on our thinking. In church life, sin must be dealt with according to the Scripture. “Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear” (1 Timothy 5:20).

6. Victorious Christians win the battle by following the Lord's direction (14:14-15). In order to avoid the sin of covetousness, we must follow all the New Testament directives for money and possessions (see 1 Timothy 6). If we want Scriptural church administration, we must follow the New Testament pattern in the Pastoral Epistles. If we want happy homes, we must follow Biblical patterns of purity, simplicity, loving relationships, and headship order. God has given us instruction for righteous living.

7. Obedience produces continued spiritual growth and victory (14:16). Philemon is a good example of voluntary Gospel obedience. Paul said, “Having confidence in thy obedience I wrote unto thee, knowing that thou wilt also do more than I say” (Philemon 21). “And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience

godliness; and to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 1:5-8).

### **“The LORD Preserved David”**

8. We must aggressively deal with the enemy to be victorious (18:2-7). In Israel’s history, pockets of heathen enemies whom Israel befriended repeatedly drew Israel down into sin. In the history of Mennonite revival movements, it was the areas of weakness left unresolved in the movement that eventually weakened or destroyed it. On a personal level, we tend to be strong on some issues and weak on others. We must take responsibility for our weakness to avoid defeat.

9. The Lord preserves the faithful (18:6, 13). Just as the Lord preserved David so the Lord shall deliver us from every evil work and will preserve us unto His heavenly kingdom. See 2 Timothy 4:18. If we allow God’s Spirit free course in our lives, God will preserve our whole spirit, soul, and body blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ (see 1 Thessalonians 5:23).

10. We honour the Lord when His blessings to us are dedicated for His glory (18:11). We have nothing that we have not received. What we have received, we neither deserved nor earned. All the spiritual gifts that God showers on the church are not for the pride of our person but for the glory of His body. On that great day when we cast our crowns before Him, it will only be right for us to do so.

### **Important Teachings**

1. Spiritual persons perceive God’s work among His people (14:2).
2. God is glorified when His people allow Him to work among them (14:2).
3. Spiritual prosperity arouses the enemy to action (14:8-9).
4. Vibrant prayer life is essential for spiritual victory (14:10).
5. Spiritually growing Christians deal with ungodly influences (14:12).
6. Victorious Christians win the battle by following the Lord’s direction (14:14-15).
7. Obedience produces continued spiritual growth and victory (14:16).
8. We must aggressively deal with the enemy to be victorious (18:2-7).
9. The Lord preserves the faithful (18:6, 13).

10. We honour the Lord when His blessings to us are dedicated for His glory (18:11).
11. Being prepared to meet the enemy on all fronts is important for victory (18:13).

### **Answers to Questions**

1. In what ways was the kingdom of David lifted up in the eyes of surrounding peoples?

David had conquered the Jebusite fortress of Jerusalem and made it his capital (11:4-9). David was supported by strong men known for their achievements (11:10-47). David was king over a united Israel with overwhelming support (12:22). Israel was transformed from a collection of tribes with weak spiritual and military leadership into a united nation with a fervent spiritual leader.

2. What are evidences that reveal God's work among His people today? The beauty of holiness speaks to the consciences of men. The conversion of a sinner into a saint glorifies the transforming power of the Spirit. The confession of sins and the making of restitution show men that God is working.

3. What factors made the Philistines a serious threat to Israel?

The Philistines controlled the land of Israel since the final defeat of Saul, in which they gained control of central Palestine and effectively divided Israel. Previously, they had garrisons throughout the land. The Philistines also controlled the metalworking industry and had superior weapons to Israel.

4. What factors assured David of victory over the Philistines?

David inquired of the Lord's direction. David followed God's revealed will in absolute faith and obedience. David did not draw back from the enemy in fear, but went forth against the enemy in faith.

5. Why is prayer important to defeat the enemy?

In prayer we acknowledge our need of God's help. We cannot defeat the enemy if we are proud and self-sufficient. In prayer we seek God's guidance. Without His guidance, we will take the "way which seemeth right" and end up wrong. In prayer, we lay hold on God's power. The enemy is stronger than we are. Without God's help, we are doomed.

6. What ungodly influences do we need to reckon with in order to maintain victory?

Present threats to our conservative churches include unsound music, the play mentality, fancy houses, the social embrace, worldly wedding practices, the snare of big businesses, and dropping traditional Mennonite practices.

7. Why was it necessary for David to conquer so many nations at this time?

All these battles were necessary so Israel could dwell in peace and safety. Any unconquered enemy was a threat to future peace and stability. Israel before the time of David had not yet occupied all of God's promised land. The nation had grown, and it was time to claim all of God's promises.

8. How should we follow David's example of dedicating the spoils to God?

When God blesses us financially, we may not consume these blessings upon our lusts. If we do not give glory to God, God will "curse [our] blessings" (Malachi 2:2). We rather should be burdened for missions, for our needy brother, for local evangelism, for the work of our school, and so on. When we grow spiritually, we should not act "holier than thou" to others, but talk only of the work of Christ and our own weakness.

9. How can we keep ourselves in the realm of God's preserving power? We need to maintain a vibrant relationship with God. Only as we follow all the exact instructions of the Scriptures will God keep us. There are many small specific Scriptural commands that are often overlooked. We must always try to keep our distance from sin. When the Spirit prompts us, we must readily respond.

## **Summarizing the Lesson**

### *Faith Is the Victory*

Encamped along the hills of light,  
Ye Christian soldiers, rise,  
And press the battle ere the night  
Shall veil the glowing skies.

Against the foe in vales below  
Let all our strength be hurled;  
Faith is the victory, we know,  
That overcomes the world.

His banner over us is love,  
Our sword the Word of God;  
We tread the road the saints above  
With shouts of triumph trod.

By faith they, like a whirlwind's breath,  
Swept on o'er every field;  
The faith by which they conquered Death  
Is still our shining shield.

To him that overcomes the foe,  
White raiment shall be giv'n;  
Before the angels he shall know  
His name confessed in heav'n.

Then onward from the hills of light,  
Our hearts with love aflame,  
We'll vanquish all the hosts of night,  
In Jesus' conqu'ring name.  
——John H. Yates

### **Research Guide**

1. Study the history of the Philistines in a Bible dictionary.
2. Follow the ups and downs in Israel's conflict with the Philistines until they were subdued by David.