

## Preview of 1 Chronicles

The Book of 1 Chronicles covers the same period of history as the Book of 2 Samuel, but it gives the history from a different viewpoint. While 2 Samuel presents a historical account of David's reign, 1 Chronicles reviews this time period by emphasizing the religious life of the nation.

The Book of 1 Chronicles was likely written when Judah returned from captivity in the days of Ezra and Nehemiah. By showing the relationship of David's religious life to the glory and success of his reign, the writer illustrates the necessity of placing worship to God at the centre of the nation's experience. This was intended to challenge the returning Jews to spiritual fidelity and true loyalty to God.

The Book of 1 Chronicles teaches us the supreme importance of allowing God to direct all of life. When He is central in our experience, we are favoured with strength and glory. When He is guiding our activities, we enjoy unnumbered blessings.

As we study these lessons from 1 Chronicles, let us proclaim with the psalmist, "Happy is that people, that is in such a case: Yea, happy is that people, whose God is the LORD" Psalm 144: 15

## Lesson 1     9 August, 2020

### David Ascends to the Throne

#### **Lesson Scope:** 1 Chronicles Chapters 1 through 12

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

#### **Lesson Focus**

Israel stood at the beginning of her golden years. For the next eighty years Israel was to become a world power whose influence reached far beyond Palestine. God's intention that the nation would possess to the great river Euphrates was fulfilled in this era (Deuteronomy 1:7). God used King David—a man who was both mighty and godly—to accomplish this purpose.

Samuel had anointed David king many years prior. Nevertheless, David lived as a fugitive who feared for his life while he fled from Saul. The events of this lesson occur after Saul's death, when the men of Israel gave their allegiance to David and recognized him as God's appointed king in Hebron over all Israel.

David had led an exemplary life up to this point. He had respected King Saul's position as king although Saul's treatment of him had been very unfair. His personal bravery in fighting Goliath and the enemies of Israel had set an example for his men to follow. David's mighty men listed in the lesson scope were no doubt a product of David's inspirational leadership. What would have happened if Goliath had challenged Israel in David's reign? They likely would have had so many volunteers that they would have had to deny some the opportunity to go fight him.

The thrust of this lesson is success in our collective spiritual battles, but quite a few applications can be made to our individual struggles as well. Why has church history been littered with so many divisions and failures? We should not attempt to assign blame to the past, but we know that the closer we follow God's pattern the more successful we will be. Being victorious in our personal battles is the first step toward group victory.

The servant of the Lord desires the blessing of the Lord. Both serving God faithfully and working harmoniously with His people are essential to a spiritually successful life.

**Lesson Aim:** To identify principles for spiritual success.

**Theme Verse:** [Joshua 1:8](#). This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

## Lesson Text

### David Anointed

#### [1 Chronicles 11:1-3](#)

<sup>1</sup> (KJV) Then all Israel gathered themselves to David unto Hebron, saying, Behold, we *are* thy bone and thy flesh. <sup>2</sup> And moreover in time past, even when Saul was king, thou *wast* he that led out and brought in Israel: and the LORD thy God said unto thee, Thou shalt feed my people Israel, and thou shalt be ruler over my people Israel. <sup>3</sup> Therefore came all the elders of Israel to the king to Hebron; and David made a covenant with them in Hebron before the LORD; and they anointed David king over Israel, according to the word of the LORD by Samuel.

### Jerusalem Captured

#### [1 Chronicles 11:4-9](#)

<sup>4</sup> (KJV) And David and all Israel went to Jerusalem, which *is* Jebus; where the Jebusites *were*, the inhabitants of the land. <sup>5</sup> And the inhabitants of Jebus said to David, Thou shalt not come hither. Nevertheless David took the castle of Zion, which *is* the city of David. <sup>6</sup> And David said, Whosoever smiteth the Jebusites first shall be chief and captain. So Joab the son of Zeruiah went first up, and was chief. <sup>7</sup> And David dwelt in the castle; therefore they called it the city of David. <sup>8</sup> And he built the city round about, even from Millo round about: and Joab repaired the rest of the city. <sup>9</sup> So David waxed greater and greater: for the LORD of hosts *was* with him.

### Israel United

#### [1 Chronicles 12:16-19](#)

<sup>16</sup> (KJV) And there came of the children of Benjamin and Judah to the hold unto David. <sup>17</sup> And David went out to meet them, and answered and said unto them, If ye be come peaceably unto me to help me, mine heart shall be knit unto you: but if ye *be come* to betray me to mine enemies, seeing *there is* no wrong in mine hands, the God of our fathers

look *thereon*, and rebuke *it*.<sup>18</sup> Then the spirit came upon Amasai, *who was chief of the captains, and he said, Thine are we, David, and on thy side, thou son of Jesse: peace, peace be unto thee, and peace be to thine helpers; for thy God helpeth thee. Then David received them, and made them captains of the band.*<sup>19</sup> And there fell *some* of Manasseh to David, when he came with the Philistines against Saul to battle: but they helped them not: for the lords of the Philistines upon advisement sent him away, saying, He will fall to his master Saul to *the jeopardy of our heads*.

### 1 Chronicles 12:23

<sup>23</sup> (KJV) And these *are* the numbers of the bands *that were* ready armed to the war, *and* came to David to Hebron, to turn the kingdom of Saul to him, according to the word of the LORD.

### 1 Chronicles 12:32-33

<sup>32</sup> (KJV) And of the children of Issachar, *which were men* that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do; the heads of them *were* two hundred; and all their brethren *were* at their commandment.<sup>33</sup> Of Zebulun, such as went forth to battle, expert in war, with all instruments of war, fifty thousand, which could keep rank: *they were* not of double heart.

### 1 Chronicles 12:38-40

<sup>38</sup> (KJV) All these men of war, that could keep rank, came with a perfect heart to Hebron, to make David king over all Israel: and all the rest also of Israel *were* of one heart to make David king.<sup>39</sup> And there they were with David three days, eating and drinking: for their brethren had prepared for them.<sup>40</sup> Moreover they that were nigh them, *even* unto Issachar and Zebulun and Naphtali, brought bread on asses, and on camels, and on mules, and on oxen, *and* meat, meal, cakes of figs, and bunches of raisins, and wine, and oil, and oxen, and sheep abundantly: for *there was* joy in Israel.

## Questions for Study

### David Anointed

1. What had David done during Saul's reign that prepared him to be a successful king?
2. How was Israel's response to David noble (11:1-2)?
3. How can we prepare to be spiritually successful?

## **Jerusalem Captured**

4. How was Joab qualified to be chief and captain?
5. What strongholds must we conquer?

## **Israel United**

6. What noble sentiments essential for spiritual success were expressed in Amasai's declaration of loyalty?
7. How did the men of Issachar and Zebulun contribute to the success of David's kingdom?
8. What blessings accompany a unified, spiritual group of God's people?

## **Analysing the Passage**

David was thrice anointed king: first by Samuel as a youth, then by the men of Hebron over the house of Judah, then over the whole nation.

1 Chronicles omits the reign of Ishbosheth, Saul's son, and the long war between the house of Saul and the house of David (2 Samuel 3:1).

David's offer to make whoever first smote the Jebusites the top military commander in his kingdom says much of his successful leadership. He was not concerned about surrounding himself with men who were loyal to him only, but with those dedicated to the cause.

The number of armed men who transferred to David at this time was about 42,600. This support was widespread across the whole nation. Likely Israel was united under one leader in a way it had not been since the time of Joshua.

Men who understood the times (12:32), men that could keep rank (12:33, 38), and men expert in war (12:36) were the many unsung heroes that contributed to David's successful reign.

## **Principles and Applications**

### **'David Anointed**

1. Individuals who surrender to God-ordained authority are prepared for success (11:1~3). Recognizing and submitting to God-ordained authority is imperative to spiritual success. Rebellion will lead to spiritual defeat. Many a talented individual has destroyed his usefulness in God's kingdom by an unwillingness to submit.
2. Obedience to the will of God is a mark of the spiritually successful

(11:1-3). David was willing to accept the demanding position of being king, and Israel was willing to accept his leadership. Full obedience to God's will in matters great and small guarantees spiritual success.

### **Jerusalem Captured**

3. Success requires a willingness to confront and engage the enemy (11:4-7). David's reward implied that whoever went up first to Jerusalem would live to claim the position of captain. Joab believed this and accepted the challenge. While it is important to "keep rank," God also tests us individually to see if we are willing to stand alone for truth. Are we willing to speak a word for Christ when in an ungodly environment? Will parents have the courage to give direction to their teenagers even when met with resistance? Are we willing to bear the cross of separation from the world?

4. Repairing and building up weak areas contributes to spiritual security (11:8). The devil will test us at our weakest point; therefore, we must constantly be on guard both individually and as a group. Admitting our need and praying fervently are keys to personal victory. Leaders especially must be on guard for negative trends that will undermine the church.

### **Israel United**

5. Success requires one to discern the influence of others for good or ill (12:17). David had some doubts about the loyalties of those now coming to join the cause, but he was willing to allow them to join the ranks, reminding them that treachery would bring God's judgment. Surrounding ourselves with other spiritual people is a tremendous aid to winning our spiritual battles. Few can be spiritually successful when they estrange themselves from God's people or surround themselves with ungodly associates. Parents must be concerned about their children's social circle, realizing that this influence has the potential to undermine godly teaching.

6. Success ultimately comes from complete loyalty to God (12:18). Amasai understood that David's side was God's side and pledged that he and his men were fully loyal to David. We also must say to the Captain of our salvation, "Thine are we, . . . and on thy side."

7. Spiritual wisdom is essential for success in perilous times (12:32).

The previous seven years had seen a tumultuous civil war and competing claims to the throne. The men of Issachar understood that the time was right for David to assume the leadership of Israel.

We must understand that “the time is at hand” when the Lord Jesus will appear in the clouds of heaven and claim the kingdom that is rightfully His. This is a time to “watch and be sober” because the “judge standeth before the door.” This outlook will keep us from the allurements of the world.

8. Great strength comes from standing with those who are disciplined in spiritual warfare (12:33). The foundation for “keep [ing] rank” is singleness of heart and unity of purpose with other Christians. Loyalty to the unchanging principles of the Word of God will help us to maintain a united front as we face the enemy. We must be willing to be one of fifty thousand nameless soldiers who commit ourselves to God’s cause rather than seek personal glory.

9. Spiritual success requires singleness of heart toward God (12:33). When other causes begin to interfere with our dedication to God, it is time to evaluate our priorities. Double-minded men will not be able to give full dedication that the cause requires (see James 1:8).

10. God’s people rejoice in the blessings of His kingdom (12:40). It is God’s intent that the church’s conflict be primarily with those without and not with those within. Do you find joy in relating to those of your home congregation? Is Communion a highlight in your spiritual life? Fellowship with the brotherhood is a blessing that God provides in the pathway of life. Each member should do his part to make our fellowship a haven in a hostile world.

### **Important Teachings**

1. Individuals who surrender to God-ordained authority are prepared for success (11:1-3).

2. Obedience to the will of God is a mark of the spiritually successful (11:1-3).

3. Success requires a willingness to confront and engage the enemy (11:4-7).

4. Repairing and building up weak areas contributes to spiritual security (11:28).

5. Success requires one to discern the influence of others for good or ill (12:17).
6. Success ultimately comes from complete loyalty to God (12:18).
7. Spiritual wisdom is essential for success in perilous times (12:32).
8. Great strength comes from standing with those who are disciplined in spiritual warfare (12:33).
9. Spiritual success requires singleness of heart toward God (12:33).
10. God's people rejoice in the blessings of His kingdom (12:40).

### **Answers to Questions**

1. What had David done during Saul's reign that prepared him to be a successful king?

He endured Saul's unmerited jealousy without retaliation. He respected Saul's position as king, and would take no action to establish himself as king so long as Saul was alive. He demonstrated great courage in fighting the Lord's battles. He behaved himself wisely.

2. How was Israel's response to David noble (11:1-2)?

They joined themselves with David, affirming that they were of one heart and mind with him. They put aside tribal differences and allowed one of the tribe of Judah to become king. They made a covenant before the Lord and accepted God's choice for leadership.

3. How can we prepare to be spiritually successful?

We must give God first place in our lives. Then we must follow His direction for our homes and churches. We also need to submit to the authority God has established. Each one, from the leaders to the people, must willingly fill their God-assigned role.

4. How was Joab qualified to be chief and captain?

He was not intimidated by the taunts of the Jebusites but took them as a challenge (2 Samuel 5:6). The person going first in an assault is the most likely to be killed, yet Joab courageously led the assault. Joab believed in the greatness of the cause he was involved in.

5. What strongholds must we conquer?

Self is enemy number one! We must daily crucify our own carnal will and sinful desires. Each thought and each motive must be beneath His control. We must never be ashamed of Jesus before this sinful and adulterous generation.

6. What noble sentiments essential for spiritual success were expressed in Amasai's declaration of loyalty?

His loyalty was to God, and that included loyalty to God's appointed leader. He was willing to completely commit himself and his men to this noble cause. Amasai was controlled by a godly spirit.

7. How did the men of Issachar and Zebulun contribute to the success of David's kingdom?

The men of Issachar were men of discernment that helped to give wise counsel for the future. They apparently saw the larger scope of God's plan and understood the best course of action for Israel. Their judgment was trusted by their brethren. The men of Zebulun were able to maintain rank when under attack.

8. What blessings accompany a unified, spiritual group of God's people? Sweetness of Christian fellowship produces joy. Far more can be accomplished by a unified group than by one individual. Our children will find the faith more attractive. Our innate need for a sense of belonging can be fulfilled among spiritual people.

### **Summarizing the Lesson**

God is looking for brave, loyal individuals to carry on His work today. Success will come as we commit ourselves to the cause of truth and secure God's blessing on our labours. May we be careful to give God the glory for our victories so that He will not withdraw His favour from our endeavours.

### **Research Guide**

1. Read 2 Samuel Chapters 1 through 4 for an understanding of the background of this lesson. These accounts are omitted in 1 Chronicles.
2. Study the history of Jerusalem in the Old Testament. Read in a Bible dictionary why it was considered impregnable.