



CHRISTIANITY WITHOUT THE RELIGION

BIBLE SURVEY

THE UN-DEVOTIONAL

1 KINGS 1-11 &
1 CHRONICLES

Week 4



*“David and all
the Israelites
marched to
Jerusalem, that is,
Jebus. The
Jebusites who
lived there said to
David, ‘You will
not get in here.’
Nevertheless,
David captured
the fortress of
Zion, the City of
David”*

1 Chronicles 11:4-5

Bad King/ Good King

DAY 22

1 Chronicles 10:1–11:9

Is there a particular story or historic tale that has provided you with a moral lesson you have long remembered?

1. There is a note of grace in 10:11-12. How do the men of Jabesh Gilead redeem some measure of honor from Saul's tragic death?
2. Unlike 1 Samuel 31, the Chronicler points out the moral of the story (10:13-14). What four reasons are given for Saul's tragic demise?
3. Note the phrase "all Israel" in 11:1, stressing the need for unity in the face of external threats. The phrase "all Israel" is a reminder that a fractured fellowship falls far short of the divine ideal and is an invitation to disaster.
4. Leaders know the importance of unifying symbols. What is one of David's first acts after being anointed king (11:4-9)?

Do you think the Bible dwells unduly on the failure of Saul? Saul had great potential and made a great start yet failed miserably. Christians have received a spiritual inheritance through the merits of Jesus Christ (Eph 5:1-12). They have been born anew to a lively hope (1Pe 1:3-9). Yet they are warned against drifting away from God (Heb 2:1). That is where examples such as Saul's speak to us today.

Mount Gilboa was a hilly region overlooking two of the three fertile valleys that made up the **Great Plain of Esdraelon**. Esdraelon was a natural division between Galilee to the north and the central region of Israel called Mount Ephraim. To control Gilboa was therefore to control the land. This is why King Saul chose to make his "last stand" there. While Saul failed to defend the land at Mount Gilboa, David secured Mount Zion ("high eminence") in the center of Israel to anchor his capital, a site still known as the City of David.

OPENING

up to the Word

DIGGING

into the Word

LIVING

out the Word

WINDOW

on the Word

How to Succeed by Really Trying

1 Chronicles 11:10–12:40

OPENING
up to the Word

Have you ever known people who seem to have a magic touch or who always seem to come out ahead?

DIGGING
into the Word

- 1.** What was the role of the mighty men—David's chief military leaders (11:10)?
- 2.** Note the detailed list of David's heroes, usually referred to as the Three and the Thirty (11:11-47). Were there non-Israelites in this group (vs. 39, 41, 46)?
- 3.** Many incidents here are flashback recollections of the highlights of David's career. He was so successful in his wars that even men of Benjamin, "kinsmen of Saul," were drawn to his side (12:1-16).
- 4.** What bold, inspired prophecy was made concerning David by Amasai, chief of the Thirty (12:18)?
- 5.** To what was David's growing army compared (12:20-22)? Verses 23-40 give details of David's glorious three-day coronation at Hebron to cement his acceptance by the whole nation. The people respond with "undivided loyalty" and "of one mind" (12:33, 38). Unified under God, Israel will see its greatest days just ahead.

LIVING
out the Word

- 1.** Though the lists in Chronicles may seem repetitive and unnecessary, it is helpful to note that the New Testament has its own genealogies and lists (for example, Mt 1; Mt 10:2-4; Lk 3; Ro 16). Does your church or denomination have a way of commemorating outstanding effort?
- 2.** "Anything rare is valuable—praise, for example." This little saying reminds us of the importance of praise. The Chronicler never withholds praise for heroism and devoted service. When was the last time you received a compliment? When was the last time you gave one?

Two Steps Forward, One Step Backward

DAY 24

1 Chronicles 13:1–14:17

Is your family, group or company more prone to celebrate its achievements or to dwell on its setbacks?

1. How did David show himself to be a ruler with his whole nation's interests at heart (13:1-8)?
2. What happened in the middle of David's finest hour (13:9-14)?
3. David was attempting to restore the true worship of God. Numbers 4:5, 15 and Exodus 37:4-5 had specified how the Ark was to be carried. David's hastily-conceived plan revealed a lack of concern for God's honor. How long did it take for David to reconsider his actions (13:12-14)?
4. Which powerful king allied himself with David at this time (14:1-2)? David's family also expanded, which would later lead to trouble (14:3-7).
5. What did David do to the captured Philistine idols (14:8-17)?

How does the New Testament describe the old covenant (2Co 3:7-18)?

*Many have wondered about the story of the **slaying of Uzzah** before the Ark. While it is explainable in terms of Old Testament scriptures, precedents and warnings, there is another more profound point at stake here. The old covenant God made with the nation of Israel at Sinai was very specific about rituals and external performance—and less concerned with internal attitudes.*

OPENING
up to the Word

DIGGING
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LIVING
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WINDOW
on the Word

Grace, Grit and Glory!

1 Chronicles 15:1–16:43

OPENING
up to the Word

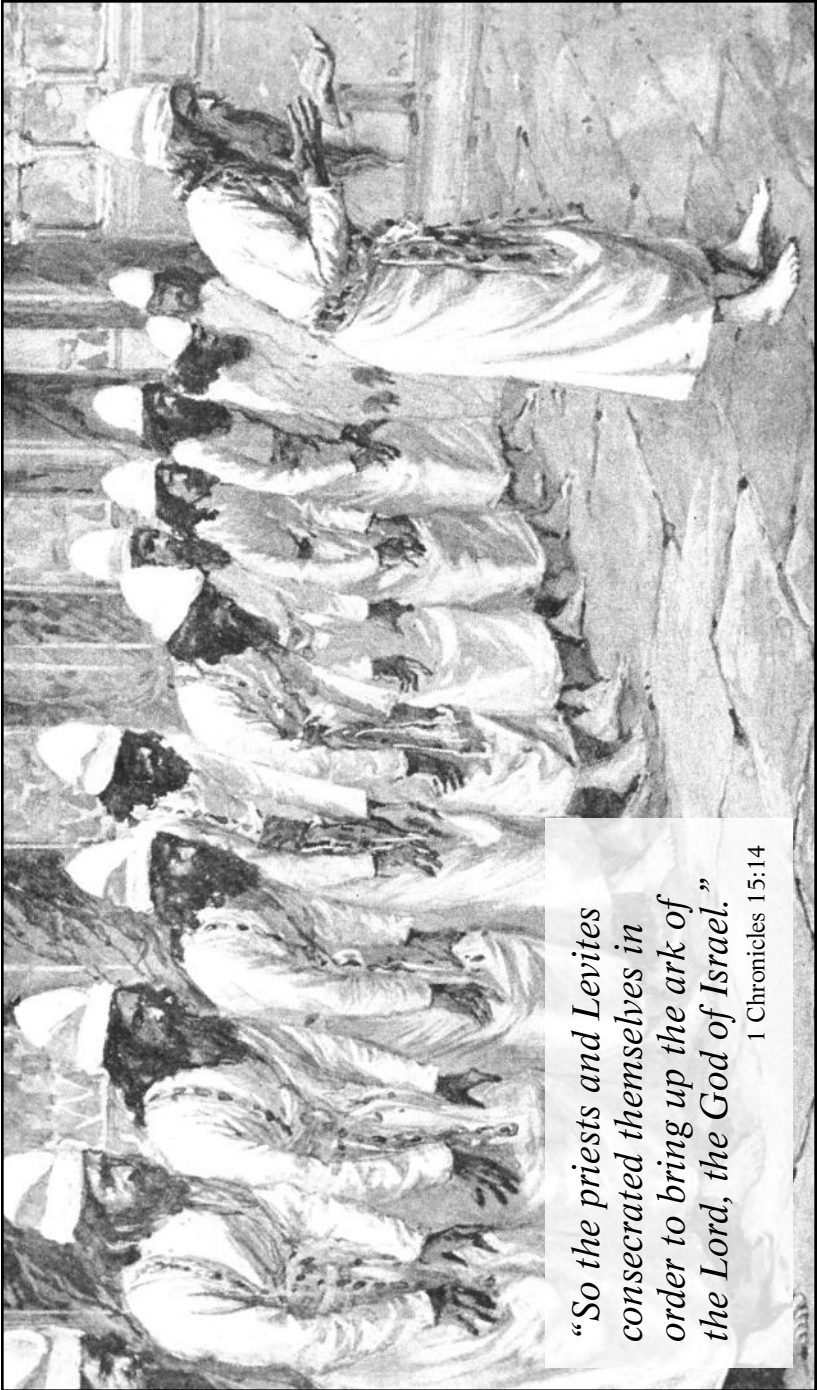
What advice would you give someone, based on your own experience, about bouncing back from a setback?

DIGGING
into the Word

- 1.** How did David show he had really digested the lesson from Uzzah's death (15:1-15)?
 - 2.** How many kinds of musical instruments were used to accompany the singers (15:16-23)? The *alamoth* and *sheminith* may refer to "high voices" and "low voices." Some of these instructions are found in the headings of some of the Psalms.
 - 3.** This was David's "big day"—perhaps his biggest. But who criticized him bitterly for his enthusiasm (15:25-29)?
 - 4.** What were the three main spiritual duties of the Levites (16:1-6)?
 - 5.** Note the last two verses of David's psalm of praise (16:7-36). The phrase "save us" is translated from the Hebrew word *hosanna*—the same word the crowds sang as Jesus, the Son of David, entered Jerusalem (Mk 11:9-10).
 - 6.** How did David show respect for the earlier site of the tent at Gibeon, five miles from Jerusalem (16:37-43)?
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LIVING
out the Word

David quickly bounced back from the tragedy of Uzzah. How do you react to setbacks? (a) moan and mope, (b) blame yourself, (c) blame others, (d) make fresh plans (e) look to God for new direction.



*“So the priests and Levites
consecrated themselves in
order to bring up the ark of
the Lord, the God of Israel.”*

1 Chronicles 15:14

OFFICIALS OF THE KINGDOM

David's chief officials

according to 2 Samuel 8:15-18; 20:23-26; 1 Chronicles 18:14-17

Recorder	Jehoshaphat son of Ahilud
Secretaries	Seraiah, Shavsha, Sheva
Priests	Zadok, Abimelech, Abiathar
Army commander	Joab
Supervisor of the Kerethites and Pelethites	Benaiah son of Jehoiada
King's advisors	David's sons, Hushai, Ira the Jairite
Director of forced labor	Adoniram

Solomon's chief officials

according to 1 Kings 4:1-6

Recorder	Jehoshaphat son of Ahilud
Secretaries	Elihoreph and Ahijah sons of Shisha
Priests	Zadok and Abiathar
Army commander	Benaiah son of Jehoiada
Supervisor of the district officers	Azariah son of Nathan
King's advisor	Zabud son of Nathan
Palace supervisor	Ahishar
Director of forced labor	Adoniram son of Abda

Covenants and Conquests

DAY 26

1 Chronicles 17:1–20:8

“Repetition is the best form of emphasis.” Do you agree?

1. What important promise in biblical history is repeated at this point in the story (17:1-15)? How did David respond (17:16-27)? Did he show by his response that he understood Yahweh to be Israel’s real king?

2. To what use did David devote many of the spoils of his battles (18:1-13)? Later, some of his close staff would also serve under Solomon (18:14-17), thus establishing continuity, one of the themes of Chronicles.

1. Christians can become depressed and discouraged by their failures. How is David a consistent example for Christians of God’s grace?

2. How does the war with the Ammonites suggest that not all of David’s wars can be seen as God-ordained (19:1-9)?

3. Do you approve or disapprove of war and military service? Why or why not?

*Battles with the **Philistines and their giant champions** continued (20:4-8). Notice that Elhanan (v. 5) killed Goliath’s brother Lahmi, who was also of colossal stature. Archaeologists have discovered an inscription describing Gath as a city famous for giants.*

OPENING

up to the Word

DIGGING

into the Word

LIVING

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WINDOW

on the Word

The Devil Made Him Do It

1 Chronicles 21:1–22:19

OPENING
up to the Word

Do you know some people who always blame the devil when things go wrong?

DIGGING
into the Word

1. Whom does the Chronicler say incited David to sin (21:1-7)?

2. What three punishments was David allowed to choose from (21:8-13)? How did David's response reveal his deeply-rooted devotion to God?

3. How did the plague bring out David's sense of shepherdly concern for his people (21:14-17)? How did God bring grace out of judgment (21:18-22:1)?

4. What themes of continuity across Israel's history are sounded in David's instruction to Solomon and the leaders (22:11-19)? The ideal of "rest on every side" was one that would reappear in the Prophets.

LIVING
out the Word

1. It has been said that Christians tend to either overestimate or underestimate the devil. Do you agree?

2. Pride is considered the mother of all sin, and there is scriptural evidence for this. Can you recognize this insidious sin in your own life?

WINDOW
on the Word

*In **taking a census**, David acted either out of a sense of overconfidence, or from a fear that his enemies might finally get him. Either motive revealed a lack of faith and trust in God, a temporary lapse that Joab identified. The name **Satan** makes only three appearances in the Old Testament—here, in Job 1 and 2 and Zechariah 3. The Hebrew Satan means "adversary," and he is portrayed as plotting against God's people. The references in Job show him to be clever, resourceful, active and malignant but under God's control.*

“Then David said to God, ‘I have sinned greatly by doing this. Now, I beg you, take away the guilt of your servant. I have done a very foolish thing.’”

1 Chronicles 21:8



Artwork by Ken Tunell

Ordering the Church

1 Chronicles 23:1–26:19

OPENING
up to the Word

How does worship given to God by a Christ-follower differ from old covenant temple worship?

DIGGING
into the Word

1. Note that Aaron's family, the high priestly family, is placed strategically near the center of the Levitical list (23:1-23)? Why did the Levites need to be reassigned (23:24-32)?

2. How were the 24 divisions of the priests chosen (24:1-19)? Was there discrimination based on family descent (24:20-31)?

3. Israel at this time was a theocracy—a nation ruled by God through a king. How does 25:1 show there was no separation between church and state?

4. How large was the official temple choir (25:2-31)? We know from the assignments given to the gatekeepers (26:1-19) and from New Testament evidences (Luke 1:8-9) that the Levites served on a rotational basis, because there was not enough room for so many servants.

LIVING
out the Word

1. It has been said that the best way to enlist volunteers is to guarantee them adequate credit. Do you agree or disagree?

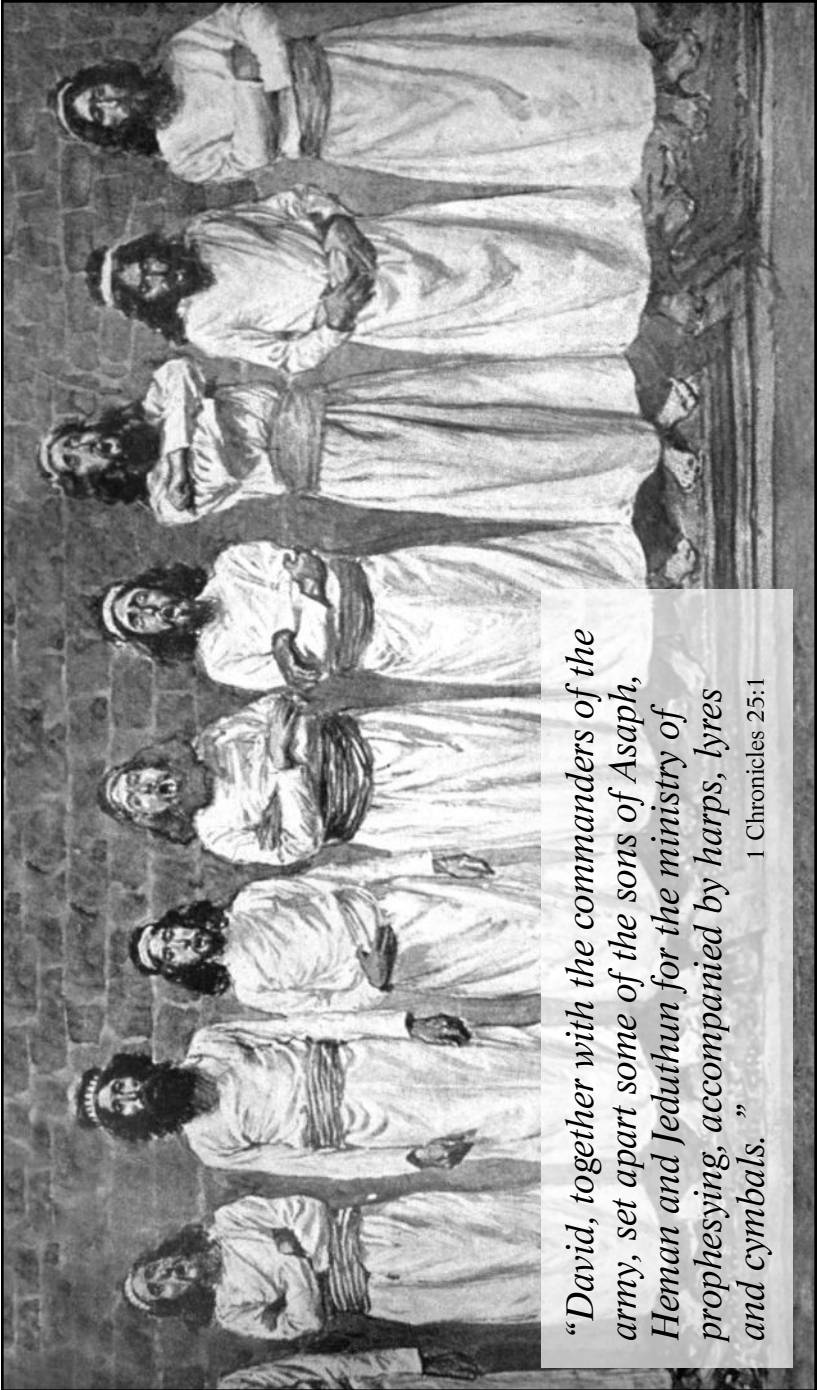
2. Must the ritualism and planned formality of worship always be empty, without meaning? As a Christ-follower, do you practice rituals and ceremonies of one form or another?

3. Though Israel's religion tended to stress ceremony, this system and its associated laws would not survive. They were replaced by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ (Heb 10:1).

WINDOW
on the Word

All Christians are of equal standing in God's sight (Ac 10:34). The Christian calling by grace replaced the old covenant stress on race and genealogies (1Co 1 :26-31; Jn 6:43-51).

Every Christian is part of a royal priesthood of believers (1Pe 2:9). Each Christian, no matter how poor or reduced in circumstances, is a holy dwelling place for God through the Holy Spirit (1Co 3:16).



“David, together with the commanders of the army, set apart some of the sons of Asaph, Heman and Jeduthun for the ministry of prophesying, accompanied by harps, lyres and cymbals.”

1 Chronicles 25:1

Church and State

1 Chronicles 26:20–27:34

OPENING
up to the Word

Does your country believe in separation of church and state? Do you think it works?

DIGGING
into the Word

- 1.** The priests in charge of the treasury formed a bridge between the sacred service of the Lord and the secular officials who follow next (26:20-32).
- 2.** Verse 28 mentions some Israelites you might not expect to be mentioned—who were they?
- 3.** Note the list of officers (27:16-22). From the comment in verses 23-24 these were probably the men in charge of the ill-fated census.
- 4.** No country could last long without an active civil service. What were some of the tasks these leaders supervised (27:25-31)?
- 5.** Finally, we meet David's inner cabinet (27:32-34). Which of these men eventually became David's enemies (2Sa 15:31; 1 Ki 1:5-7)? Which one seemed disloyal, but was acting as an undercover agent for David (2Sa 17:15)?

LIVING
out the Word

- 1.** The inclusion of traitors and mighty warriors with priests and singers drives home the point that Israel, though God's chosen people, was still composed of sinful men and women.
- 2.** The old covenant could not make a permanent change in people's hearts. What were some of the missing ingredients in Israel's relationship with God?

The Continuing Covenant

DAY 30

1 Chronicles 28:1–29:30

If you had to give a “last words” speech right now, to be recorded for posterity, what would you say?

1. How does David’s last speech (28:1-8) echo Joshua 1?
2. Was the promise of an enduring dynasty absolute or conditional (28:9-10)?
3. How does David’s speech (28:2-21) compare with Exodus 40:1-16?
4. How did David motivate his leaders to give offerings for the Temple (29:1-9)?
5. Did David ever have any doubt whether the Lord was the true King of Israel (29:10-20)?
6. What was Solomon’s throne rightfully called (29:21-30)?

1. In the Christian life, finishing the race is important (Heb 12:1). David is a good model here. Do you know of any modern-day role-models?

2. 1 Chronicles ends on the note of the succession of Solomon to the throne and the passing of David. Yet in some ways the Chronicler’s history is a prophecy. Though the Lord’s covenant with David is confirmed in Solomon, it is fulfilled in the Messiah. Jesus Christ was a Son of David (Mt 21:9). Was Jesus predicted to fulfill the hopes and promises associated with the throne of David (Lk 1:29-33)? Is not the spiritual reign of Jesus Christ the ultimate fulfillment of the covenant promises to David (Ac 13:22-33) and the redemption of Israel (Ro 11:26-27)?

OPENING

up to the Word

DIGGING

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LIVING

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