

Survey of the Bible part 30 1Chronicles 10-17

Chapter 10 of 1Chronicles is a sweeping overview of the last days of the first king of Israel by the name of Saul.

The opening verses speak of the battle in which Saul was wounded and how he eventually fell on his own sword and died because he didn't want to be captured by the Philistines.

But the key to this chapter has to do with the reason for his death.

1 Chronicles 10:13-14 ¹³ So Saul died for his trespass which he committed against the LORD, because of the word of the LORD which he did not keep; and also because he asked counsel of a medium, making inquiry *of it*, ¹⁴ and did not inquire of the LORD. Therefore He killed him and turned the kingdom to David the son of Jesse.

If you were a Philistine it would have been clear that the reason Saul died was because the Philistine warriors were more valiant and powerful and overcame Saul and his warriors.

But again, what is the reason for Saul's death and who actually took his life?

Saul was now experiencing God's judgment that was promised long ago and his death was directly by the hand of God.

From chapter 11 through the end of 1Chronicles is the life of David as King over Israel, all of which has been touched on in previous books we've already looked at.

But as an overview this is what 1Chronicles chronicles about David.

Chapter 11 is where David is anointed King over Israel.

1 Chronicles 11:1-2 ^{NAU} Then all Israel gathered to David at Hebron and said, "Behold, we are your bone and your flesh. ² "In times past, even when Saul was king, you *were* the one who led out and brought in Israel; and the LORD your God said to you, 'You shall shepherd My people Israel, and you shall be prince over My people Israel.'"

The first order of business after David became king was to establish himself in Jerusalem.

1 Chronicles 11:4-5 ⁴ Then David and all Israel went to Jerusalem (that is, Jebus); and the Jebusites, the inhabitants of the land, *were* there. ⁵ The inhabitants of Jebus said to David, "You shall not enter here." Nevertheless David captured the stronghold of Zion (that is, the city of David).

What's interesting about the Jebusites is that these were considered in the broader sense, Canaanites. And so, these enemies of Jerusalem were going to be driven out by David and his forces and David would set up his capital city in Jerusalem which would now be known as the city of David.

But Jerusalem was not always in the hands of godless people. There was a time, hundreds of years before David that Jerusalem was actually inhabited by God-fearing people.

Does anyone remember the name of the King who honored God and ruled this area hundreds of years before David?

Melchizedek.

Genesis 14:18 ¹⁸ And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; now he was a priest of God Most High.

Salem has always been associated with Jerusalem.

^{NAU} **Psalm 76:2** His tabernacle is in Salem; His dwelling place also is in Zion.

As a king and a priest of God we know that Melchizedek would have been one who led not only the civil aspect of Salem but also the worshipful aspect of Salem.

This means that he was not by himself worshipping God, but was advancing the truth of who God was and the true worship of God among all the people who lived there, thus it is safe to say that all of Salem came under this godly leadership and was obliged to honor God.

Again, keep in mind this was long before the establishment of the priesthood of Israel which would not become a nation for another 400 plus years.

But it seems that by the time David comes along the inhabitants of Jerusalem have long since forgotten their God and creator and

David retakes the city and established the Aaronic priesthood there by God's command.

By the way, what does this tell us about who decided that the city of Jerusalem would be the place for the worship of the one true God?

God Himself. In fact, long before Israel moved into the Promised Land God had made it clear that He would establish Jerusalem as His throne. The song of Moses makes reference to this after the Israelites crossed the Red sea.

Exodus 15:16-18 ¹⁶ "Terror and dread fall upon them; By the greatness of Your arm they are motionless as stone; Until Your people pass over, O LORD, Until the people pass over whom You have purchased. ¹⁷ "You will bring them and plant them in the mountain of Your inheritance, The place, O LORD, which You have made for Your dwelling, The sanctuary, O Lord, which Your hands have established. ¹⁸ "The LORD shall reign forever and ever."

Well, what is the mountain of Your inheritance?

^{NAU} **Psalm 2:6** "But as for Me, I have installed My King Upon Zion, My holy mountain."

^{NAU} **Psalm 68:16** Why do you look with envy, O mountains with *many* peaks, At the mountain which God has desired for His abode? Surely the LORD will dwell *there* forever.

Psalm 132:13-18 ³ For the LORD has chosen Zion; He has desired it for His habitation. ¹⁴ "This is My resting place forever; Here I will dwell, for I have desired it. ¹⁵ "I will abundantly bless her provision; I will satisfy her needy with bread. ¹⁶ "Her priests also I will clothe with salvation, And her godly ones will sing aloud for joy. ¹⁷ "There I will cause the horn of David to spring forth; I have prepared a lamp for Mine anointed. ¹⁸ "His enemies I will clothe with shame, But upon himself his crown shall shine."

Again, this begs the question: how is it possible for God to inhabit a physical city and dwell and rule there forever?

Only as God has taken on flesh and overcome the curse with His own blood to redeem a people and a place for His own possession forever. Those people are all who are of the faith of Abraham, and the place is the new heavens and new earth.

So, what we see in 1Chronicles 11 is David reestablishing the city of Zion for God as a reminder that God chose that place and will one day return to that place not for an earthly king to rule over it but for the King of kings and Lord of lords to rule over it forever as it is described as the New Jerusalem.

Revelation 21:2 ² And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband.

The rest of chapter 11 and 12 deal with the mighty men of Israel who align themselves with David and take up arms against the enemies of Israel.

Chapter 13 marks the beginning of God's presence back in the land as David decides to bring the Ark of the Covenant into Jerusalem.

1 Chronicles 13:2-4 ² David said to all the assembly of Israel, "If it seems good to you, and if it is from the LORD our God, let us send everywhere to our kinsmen who remain in all the land of Israel, also to the priests and Levites who are with them in their cities with pasture lands, that they may meet with us; ³ and let us bring back the ark of our God to us, for we did not seek it in the days of Saul." ⁴ Then all the assembly said that they would do so, for the thing was right in the eyes of all the people.

At this time in history the Ark of the Covenant was residing in Kiriath-jearim.

1 Chronicles 13:5-6 ⁵ So David assembled all Israel together, from the Shihor of Egypt even to the entrance of Hamath, to bring the ark of God from Kiriath-jearim. ⁶ David and all Israel went up to Baalah, *that is*, to Kiriath-jearim, which belongs to Judah, to bring up from there the ark of God, the LORD who is enthroned *above* the cherubim, where His name is called.

Many years before these same Philistines, whom we see here in Chronicles, had defeated Israel as they took the Ark of the Covenant thinking that the power of the ark would help them.

1 Samuel 4:10-11 ¹⁰ So the Philistines fought and Israel was defeated, and every man fled to his tent; and the slaughter was very great, for there fell of Israel thirty thousand foot soldiers. ¹¹ And the ark of God was taken; and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, died.

The problem for the Philistines is that what they thought was a mere power implement to be wielded for their own advantage turned out to be anything but a blessing.

1 Samuel 5:1-6 ^{NAU} Now the Philistines took the ark of God and brought it from Ebenezer to Ashdod. ² Then the Philistines took the ark of God and brought it to the house of Dagon and set it by Dagon. ³ When the Ashdodites arose early the next morning, behold, Dagon had fallen on his face to the ground before the ark of the LORD. So they took Dagon and set him in his place again. ⁴ But when they arose early the next morning, behold, Dagon had fallen on his face to the ground before the ark of the LORD. And the head of Dagon and both the palms of his hands *were* cut off on the threshold; only the trunk of Dagon was left to him. ⁵ Therefore neither the priests of Dagon nor all who enter Dagon's house tread on the threshold of Dagon in Ashdod to this day. ⁶ Now the hand of the LORD was heavy on the Ashdodites, and He ravaged them and smote them with tumors, both Ashdod and its territories.

So, what the Philistines did was to take the ark to different cities thinking that maybe God would stop killing the inhabitants, but to every city it was taken the residents were destroyed. Finally, everyone decided that having the ark in their territory was a bad idea.

1 Samuel 5:11-12 ¹¹ They sent therefore and gathered all the lords of the Philistines and said, "Send away the ark of the God of Israel, and let it return to its own place, so that it will not kill ¹us and our people." For there was a deadly confusion throughout the city; the hand of God was very heavy there. ¹² And the men who did not die were smitten with tumors and the cry of the city went up to heaven.

The Philistines then devised a plan to appease the God of the Israelites.

1 Samuel 6:1-6 ^{NAU} Now the ark of the LORD had been in the country of the Philistines seven months. ² And the Philistines called for the priests and the diviners, saying, "What shall we do with the ark of the LORD? Tell us how we shall send it to its place." ³ They said, "If you send away the ark of the God of Israel, do not send it empty; but you shall surely return to Him a guilt offering. Then you will be healed and it will be known to you why His hand is not removed from you." ⁴ Then they said, "What shall be the guilt offering which we shall return to Him?" And they said,

"Five golden tumors and five golden mice *according to* the number of the lords of the Philistines, for one plague was on all of you and on your lords. ⁵ "So you shall make likenesses of your tumors and likenesses of your mice that ravage the land, and you shall give glory to the God of Israel; perhaps He will ease His hand from you, your gods, and your land. ⁶ "Why then do you harden your hearts as the Egyptians and Pharaoh hardened their hearts? When He had severely dealt with them, did they not allow the people to go, and they departed?

By the way, why do you think the Philistines returned the ark with a guilt offering?

Because they didn't want to offend the God of the Israelites. In their own way they were acknowledging that they had sinned against the one true God.

So, why didn't they repent and embrace the one true God by faith?

Because, despite their understanding that they had offended God their only concern was a pragmatic one; to get out from underneath His wrath, not to draw close to Him. In fact, they didn't want Him any closer than was comfortable because they had a plan to push Him back to the Israelites.

This is the way it is with a lot of people. They'll take from God if they think it will be to their benefit, but once they discover that God is holy and requires allegiance and worship to Him alone they push Him away and go to the next shiny thing that gets their attention.

The Philistines had all of the information they needed to make a decision to embrace the one true God, but their hearts were hardened as stone and they could not bring themselves to repent and believe.

To make a long story short the Philistines put the ark on a cart drawn by two cows and they went to a city by the name of Bethshemesh. The residents of this city were Israelites on the edge of the border between Israel and the Philistines.

Unfortunately, in their excitement to get the ark back some Israelites looked into the ark.

1 Samuel 6:19-21 ¹⁹ He struck down some of the men of Beth-shemesh because they had looked into the ark of the LORD. He struck down of all the people, 50,070 men, and the people mourned because the LORD had struck the people with a great slaughter. ²⁰ The men of Beth-shemesh said, "Who is able to stand before the LORD, this holy God? And to whom shall He go up from us?" ²¹ So they sent messengers to the inhabitants of Kiriath-jearim, saying, "The Philistines have brought back the ark of the LORD; come down and take it up to you."

1 Samuel 7:1-2 ^{NAU} And the men of Kiriath-jearim came and took the ark of the LORD and brought it into the house of Abinadab on the hill, and consecrated Eleazar his son to keep the ark of the LORD. ² From the day that the ark remained at Kiriath-jearim, the time was long, for it was twenty years; and all the house of Israel lamented after the LORD.

And so back in 1Chronicles 13, when David decides to bring the ark to Jerusalem he would naturally go to the city of Kiriath-Jearim to find it.

And so, he brings the ark back to Jerusalem and there it would rest, right?

1 Chronicles 13:6-14 ⁶ David and all Israel went up to Baalah, *that is*, to Kiriath-jearim, which belongs to Judah, to bring up from there the ark of God, the LORD who is enthroned *above* the cherubim, where His name is called. ⁷ They carried the ark of God on a new cart from the house of Abinadab, and Uzza and Ahio drove the cart. ⁸ David and all Israel were celebrating before God with all *their* might, even with songs and with lyres, harps, tambourines, cymbals and with trumpets. ⁹ When they came to the threshing floor of Chidon, Uzza put out his hand to hold the ark, because the oxen nearly upset *it*. ¹⁰ The anger of the LORD burned against Uzza, so He struck him down because he put out his hand to the ark; and he died there before God. ¹¹ Then David became angry because of the LORD'S outburst against Uzza; and he called that place Perez-uzza to this day. ¹² David was afraid of God that day, saying, "How can I bring the ark of God *home* to me?" ¹³ So David did not take the ark with him to the city of David, but took it aside to the house of Obed-edom the Gittite. ¹⁴ Thus the ark of God remained with the family of Obed-edom in his house three months; and the LORD blessed the family of Obed-edom with all that he had.

It isn't until we come to chapter 15 that we see that David devises a plan to bring the ark back to Jerusalem.

1 Chronicles 15:1-3 ^{NAU} Now *David* built houses for himself in the city of David; and he prepared a place for the ark of God and pitched a tent for it. ² Then David said, "No one is to carry the ark of God but the Levites; for the LORD chose them to carry the ark of God and to minister to Him forever." ³ And David assembled all Israel at Jerusalem to bring up the ark of the LORD to its place which he had prepared for it.

But what is interesting is that David realized why the Lord had reacted the way He did with Uzza.

1 Chronicles 15:12-16 ¹² and said to them, "You are the heads of the fathers' *households* of the Levites; consecrate yourselves both you and your relatives, that you may bring up the ark of the LORD God of Israel to *the place* that I have prepared for it. ¹³ "Because you did not *carry it* at the first, the LORD our God made an outburst on us, for we did not seek Him according to the ordinance." ¹⁴ So the priests and the Levites consecrated themselves to bring up the ark of the LORD God of Israel. ¹⁵ The sons of the Levites carried the ark of God on their shoulders with the poles thereon, as Moses had commanded according to the word of the LORD. ¹⁶ Then David spoke to the chiefs of the Levites to appoint their relatives the singers, with instruments of music, harps, lyres, loud-sounding cymbals, to raise sounds of joy.

God is the one who determines how He is to be worshipped and David submits.

Chapter 17 of 1Chronicles is where David realizes that after he has built houses for himself the ark of God is still residing in a tent, a temporary dwelling.

1 Chronicles 17:1-5 ^{NAU} And it came about, when David dwelt in his house, that David said to Nathan the prophet, "Behold, I am dwelling in a house of cedar, but the ark of the covenant of the LORD is under curtains." ² Then Nathan said to David, "Do all that is in your heart, for God is with you." ³ It came about the same night that the word of God came to Nathan, saying, ⁴ "Go and tell David My servant, 'Thus says the LORD, "You shall not build a house for Me to dwell in; ⁵ for I have not dwelt in a house since the day that I brought up Israel to this day, but I have gone from tent to tent and from *one* dwelling place *to another*."

But was David the one who finally built the temple in which the ark of the covenant would reside?

Solomon would be granted that privilege.

1 Chronicles 17:4-14 ⁴ "Go and tell David My servant, "Thus says the LORD, "You shall not build a house for Me to dwell in; ⁵ for I have not dwelt in a house since the day that I brought up Israel to this day, but I have gone from tent to tent and from *one* dwelling place *to another*. ⁶ "In all places where I have walked with all Israel, have I spoken a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd My people, saying, 'Why have you not built for Me a house of cedar?'" ⁷ "Now, therefore, thus shall you say to My servant David, "Thus says the LORD of hosts, "I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader over My people Israel. ⁸ "I have been with you wherever you have gone, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make you a name like the name of the great ones who are in the earth. ⁹ "I will appoint a place for My people Israel, and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and not be moved again; and the wicked will not waste them anymore as formerly, ¹⁰ even from the day that I commanded judges *to be* over My people Israel. And I will subdue all your enemies. Moreover, I tell you that the LORD will build a house for you. ¹¹ "When your days are fulfilled that you must go *to be* with your fathers, that I will set up *one of* your descendants after you, who will be of your sons; and I will establish his kingdom. ¹² "He shall build for Me a house, and I will establish his throne forever. ¹³ "I will be his father and he shall be My son; and I will not take My lovingkindness away from him, as I took it from him who was before you. ¹⁴ "But I will settle him in My house and in My kingdom forever, and his throne shall be established forever.""

We'll pick up here next week.