

<<< They were Not of Double Heart

1 Chronicles 11:1 – 12:40 >>>

~ Our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God traversed an expansive and remarkable set of genealogies in our first report from first Chronicles. In our second report from this book of the Bible, we saw one brief chapter regarding the reign of King Saul. When we considered the double historical Book of Samuel, I'm sure most people got the impression that Saul made a huge splash in the pool of the nation Israel. Personally, it seemed like Saul would never die; because his life's account dragged on chapter after chapter after chapter.

Well, from God's viewpoint that reign was less than significant; and the way God tells it in first Chronicles, it didn't seem to last very long at all. Even in the one chapter given in Chronicles about Saul, he was dead by verse four. That should tell us everything we need to know about Saul; and Saul was Satan's man, to be sure. Not only did Saul *not* impress the Lord; Saul provoked the Lord to kill him. We saw the reasons for that in the last leg of this expedition; and if you haven't read our previous two reports, I suggest you go back and do so now.

In this report, King David ascends to the throne, and we are reintroduced to, and learn more about, David's mighty men. The remainder of Chronicles is all about King David and his family. There is very little attention given to the northern kingdom after the rebellion and division of the ten northern tribes from Judah and Benjamin. It's as if God ignores the northern kingdom of Israel altogether after they withdrew from the reign of King David. They were out of His will; yet He continued to send prophets to them. This is *God's viewpoint* of the history of the nation Israel. What we have are the deeds God considered important enough to record twice. Keep in mind throughout our study of Chronicles, that this account is the same historical record as the Book of Kings – but Chronicles is from *God's point of view*; whereas, Samuel and Kings were given from *man's* point of view.

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As a side note, David's sin in numbering the people is recorded in Chronicles; but the murder of Uriah and the adultery with Uriah's widow, Bathsheba, are not even mentioned — *AT ALL!* I would say that from God's perspective, numbering the people was David's greatest sin. See, it didn't matter how many men were in David's army. David *ALONE* would have prevailed with God fighting for him. Numbering the people was an act of pride that indicated David was not trusting the Lord.

There are many Christians who consider certain things sin and other things not; and I am sure those people are going to get into God's presence one day and figure out they were entirely mistaken. They're definitely going to understand they aren't as sure as they once thought they were. The things they thought were grievous sins may not have even been sin. On the other hand, things they consider very slight and unimportant will be the biggest sin they have.

David's sin of numbering the army of Israel, which doesn't seem nearly as bad as what happened with Uriah and Bathsheba, just happens to be worse; and God forces David to choose a punishment for this. It is *CRITICAL* to understand what this means as far as God is concerned – and we'll see why in chapter twenty-one – but let's not get too far ahead of ourselves.

It will do us all well to get a different perspective — God's perspective — on what sin really is. Anything not done in faith is sin. To him who knows to do good but does it not, to him that is sin. We saw those great principles in the epistle to the Romans, and we'll revisit them in James where God lays it all out clearly and succinctly again. I say all of that to say this: Chronicles is an extremely important section of Scripture....

## **XI**

***<sup>1</sup> Then all Israel gathered themselves to David unto Hebron, saying, Behold, we are thy bone and thy flesh.***

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~ When we were originally given this account in Kings, we were told David reigned over only two tribes: Judah and Benjamin — for seven and a half years in Hebron; and that was seven and a half years immediately following the death of Saul. Here, God skips over that completely. See, God views Israel as a whole nation; all twelve tribes! As far as God is concerned, David didn't even become the king until *all* the people accepted him *and* he ruled over all twelve tribes from Jerusalem. The entire nation is acknowledging the hand of God now....

***<sup>2</sup> And moreover in time past, even when Saul was king, thou wast he that leddest out and broughtest 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.***

***<sup>4</sup> And David and all Israel went to Jerusalem, which is Jebus; where the Jebusites were, the inhabitants of the land.***

~ I am sure David had surveyed the land with a fine-tooth comb by the time in which we are studying; and that he knew it better than the spies that had previously scouted out the land. David was very familiar with the geographical land; and Jerusalem was the city he picked to be the capital. Mount Zion is called the City of David in this section of Scripture. David loved that area, and it was precious to him. Of course, this is the place where the temple would be built. Choosing Jerusalem was David's choice, but it was the Lord's choice, too. There is a *WHOLE* lot said in the Word of God about Jerusalem; but we're not talking about the city of Jerusalem as we know it today.

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The corner of the wall at the pinnacle of the temple is where Satan took Jesus to tempt Him. Well, there has been much excavation done there and they have determined that the wall ran the opposite direction in David's time. It would be perpendicular to and cross paths today. The city of David was below, and one would have always had to look *UP* to the temple. In later history, when the walls were moved, it caused one to have to look down on the temple from Mount Zion. That's the way it is today; much of the city of Jerusalem is presently situated *ABOVE* the temple area. The temple area on Mount Moriah is a ridge that runs right through Jerusalem, and it is a few hundred meters west of the Mount of Olives. Just outside of the wall on the ridge is Golgotha – the place of the skull – where Jesus was crucified....

***<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.***

~ Joab was David's number one man. We learned all about him in previous reports and how he fought for and led the army when he first came to serve David. Joab would have been the equivalent of the vice president and chief of presidential cabinet rolled into one. Joab was in charge of everything that had to do with national security. As we read here, Joab was apparently a premier General Contractor, too. He was one of the mighty men of David. Joab was extremely instrumental in bringing the kingdom to its zenith at this time. Actually, when one considers ancient history and the great nations of the world, such as Egypt, Babylon, Persia, the Hittites or Assyria, we should always remember David brought Israel the influence throughout the world that no other nation came close to attaining. David's national foundation was the only way Solomon was able to bring a witness to the world in his day, too, by the way....

***<sup>7</sup> And David dwelt in the castle; therefore they called it the city of David.***

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***<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.***

***<sup>10</sup> These also are the chief of the mighty men whom David had, who strengthened themselves with him in his kingdom, and with all Israel, to make him king, according to the word of the LORD concerning Israel.***

~ It seems strange to be given a list of men so abruptly at this place. The list is the men who came to David during the time of his rejection. Now that David is elevated to king, these men, likewise, receive prominent positions.

There is a stunning corollary here to the Lord Jesus that cannot be passed by. Today, the Lord is calling out a people to His Name; and they are His mighty men. Today is the day of the rejection of the Lord Jesus Christ. Just as David was to be king, he was first rejected. David hadn't come to the throne yet because Saul was reigning. Remember, God gave Saul opportunity after opportunity to make good and turn to Him – but Saul would not.

Christ today is totally rejected by this lost and dying world. I don't think anyone is going to disagree with that. Those who cannot accept that determination have no discernment. Even so, He is calling out a people to His Name today. Christ is still the One chosen to be King. One day The Lord Jesus will return to the place of rulership. We, as His mighty men, consider Him our Lord, Master and Savior today; and we await the time when He takes the throne, and we rule and reign with Him.

So, judging by the wholesale rejection of Christ today, it's odd how some believers want to be the most popular people around. It makes no sense. Jesus said, *"if the world hates Me there going to hate YOU!"* The world

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hates the Lord Jesus, friends; that's a Biblical axiom of truth. If you're a popular person today, there is something radically wrong with your relationship to the Lord. If you have no enemies, you are likely not even saved – but, if you have the right enemies, you are undoubtedly very close to the Lord.

I am always delighted to have the devil's crowd attack what I say. They constantly tell me I am wrong and that I need to study the Bible more. They tell me I have no love and that I need to learn how to rightly divide the Word of God; and they criticize me with every theology they can twist and confuse. Believe me, they are the confused ones. See, those who don't care for a sincere, educated, proper, correct and complete Bible study don't love the Lord - because that's impossible. Naturally, they carry a *HUGE* Bible under their arms to church every night of the week – and they have the *MOST* pious vocabulary along with a tremendous capacity for misquoting and misapplying disconnected verses from obscure passages – but they hate Bible study. I can tell you I am not their friend. Most of you know by now I am a one note song: Bible Study! I insist on it. I insist you are not saved if you do not *LOVE* the Word of God and are found learning it. We are definitely judged by our enemies – who are *YOUR* enemies today? Do you have any enemies – or do you think we should just love, love, love everyone? ~

***<sup>11</sup> And this is the number of the mighty men whom David had; Jashobeam, an Hachmonite, the chief of the captains: he lifted up his spear against three hundred slain by him at one time.***

***<sup>12</sup> And after him was Eleazar the son of Dodo, the Ahohite, who was one of the three mighties.***

***<sup>13</sup> He was with David at Pasdammim, and there the Philistines were gathered together to battle, where was a parcel of ground full of barley; and the people fled from before the Philistines.***

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***14 And they set themselves in the midst of that parcel, and delivered it, and slew the Philistines; and the LORD saved them by a great deliverance.***

***15 Now three of the thirty captains went down to the rock to David, into the cave of Adullam; and the host of the Philistines encamped in the valley of Rephaim.***

***16 And David was then in the hold, and the Philistines' garrison was then at Bethlehem.***

***17 And David longed, and said, Oh that one would give me drink of the water of the well of Bethlehem, that is at the gate!***

~ There are three groups of David's mighty men we should pay respect to in this section of Scripture. First are the three who risked their lives to break through enemy lines and bring David water back from the well in Bethlehem. These three are singled out as the best of the best. What we have is a vivid picture. David was raised in Bethlehem, and there was a well there at the entrance to the city. I'm sure David stopped by the well many times after coming back from the fields with his sheep. At the time in which we are studying, David was unable to get to that well. So, he makes a wish for the water – he doesn't give a command – but these three spring into action! It almost seems indignant for David to pour it out as a drink offering – but that's what he did.

See, the water from the well in Bethlehem is none other than the Lord Jesus Christ Himself — the Word of God, friends. Now consider the exploits of the men throughout the ages who broke through enemy holds to take the Word of God to a thirsty world. Henry Martin, David Livingston, Judson, Spurgeon, McGee – and there are *MANY* others – as well as missionaries. Many men have left their homes, jobs, families and friends and have absolutely risked it *ALL* to get the water for and to a dehydrated world. Don't think for a moment there aren't very real and high sacrifices to be made by the man who actually believes God and desires to take His Word

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to the entire world properly, correctly and completely in the sound doctrine of the apostles. If *YOU* are going to be rewarded by God – you’re going to make a serious sacrifice – you can just write that down. The idea today that everyone will receive a reward just for being saved is absolute bunk, according to Scripture – make no mistake.

The Lord took note of David’s men. These three had no command to get water – but they understood David desired it. See, the right men loved David and were willing to suffer with him – because David was willing to suffer with them. David wasn’t about to drink the water when the others had none. He simply recognized the bravery of these men and took his place with them. Remember, Jesus, on the cross, said, *“I am poured out like water!”* That’s Psalm chapter twenty-two; Jesus took His Own life and poured it out on the ground for *YOU*, and me....

***18 And the three brake through the host of the Philistines, and drew water out of the well of Bethlehem, that was by the gate, and took it, and brought it to David: but David would not drink of it, but poured it out to the LORD,***

***19 And said, My God forbid it me, that I should do this thing: shall I drink the blood of these men that have put their lives in jeopardy? for with the jeopardy of their lives they brought it. Therefore he would not drink it. These things did these three mightiest.***

***20 And Abishai the brother of Joab, he was chief of the three: for lifting up his spear against three hundred, he slew them, and had a name among the three.***

***21 Of the three, he was more honourable than the two; for he was their captain: howbeit he attained not to the first three.***



***22 Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, the son of a valiant man of Kabzeel, who had done many acts; he slew two lionlike men of Moab: also he went down and slew a lion in a pit in a snowy day.***

***23 And he slew an Egyptian, a man of great stature, five cubits high; and in the Egyptian's hand was a spear like a weaver's beam; and he went down to him with a staff, and plucked the spear out of the Egyptian's hand, and slew him with his own spear.***

***24 These things did Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and had the name among the three mighties.***

***25 Behold, he was honourable among the thirty, but attained not to the first three: and David set him over his guard.***

***26 Also the valiant men of the armies were, Asahel the brother of Joab, Elhanan the son of Dodo of Bethlehem,***

***27 Shammoth the Harorite, Helez the Pelonite,***

***28 Ira the son of Ikkesh the Tekoite, Abiezer the Antothite,***

***29 Sibbecai the Hushathite, Ilai the Ahohite,***

***30 Maharai the Netophathite, Heled the son of Baanah the Netophathite,***

***31 Ithai the son of Ribai of Gibeah, that pertained to the children of Benjamin, Benaiah the Pirathonite,***

***32 Hurai of the brooks of Gaash, Abiel the Arbathite,***

***33 Azmaveth the Baharumite, Eliahba the Shaalbonite,***

***34 The sons of Hashem the Gizonite, Jonathan the son of Shage the Hararite,***

***35 Ahiam the son of Sacar the Hararite, Eliphal the son of Ur,***

***36 Hephher the Mecherathite, Ahijah the Pelonite,***

***37 Hezro the Carmelite, Naarai the son of Ezbai,***

***38 Joel the brother of Nathan, Mibhar the son of Haggeri,***

***39 Zelek the Ammonite, Naharai the Berothite, the armourbearer of Joab the son of Zeruiah,***

***40 Ira the Ithrite, Gareb the Ithrite,***

***41 Uriah the Hittite, Zabad the son of Ahlai,***

***42 Adina the son of Shiza the Reubenite, a captain of the Reubenites, and thirty with him,***

***43 Hanan the son of Maachah, and Joshaphat the Mithnite,***

***44 Uzzia the Ashterathite, Shama and Jehiel the sons of Hothan the Aroerite,***

***45 Jediael the son of Shimri, and Joha his brother, the Tizite,***

***46 Eliel the Mahavite, and Jeribai, and Joshaviah, the sons of Elnaam, and Ithmah the Moabite,***

***47 Eliel, and Obed, and Jasiel the Mesobaite.***

## **XII**

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***<sup>1</sup> Now these are they that came to David to Ziklag, while he yet kept himself close because of Saul the son of Kish: and they were among the mighty men, helpers of the war.***

***<sup>2</sup> They were armed with bows, and could use both the right hand and the left in hurling stones and shooting arrows out of a bow, even of Saul's brethren of Benjamin.***

***<sup>3</sup> The chief was Ahiezer, then Joash, the sons of Shemaah the Gibeathite; and Jeziel, and Pelet, the sons of Azmaveth; and Berachah, and Jehu the Antothite,***

***<sup>4</sup> And Ismaiah the Gibeonite, a mighty man among the thirty, and over the thirty; and Jeremiah, and Jahaziel, and Johanan, and Josabad the Gederathite,***

***<sup>5</sup> Eluzai, and Jerimoth, and Bealiah, and Shemariah, and Shephatiah the Haruphite,***

***<sup>6</sup> Elkanah, and Jesiah, and Azareel, and Joezer, and Jashobeam, the Korhites,***

***<sup>7</sup> And Joelah, and Zebadiah, the sons of Jeroham of Gedor.***

***<sup>8</sup> And of the Gadites there separated themselves unto David into the hold to the wilderness men of might, and men of war fit for the battle, that could handle shield and buckler, whose faces were like the faces of lions, and were as swift as the roes upon the mountains;***

***<sup>9</sup> Ezer the first, Obadiah the second, Eliab the third,***

***<sup>10</sup> Mishmannah the fourth, Jeremiah the fifth,***

***<sup>11</sup> Attai the sixth, Eliel the seventh,***

***<sup>12</sup> Johanan the eighth, Elzabad the ninth,***

***<sup>13</sup> Jeremiah the tenth, Machbanai the eleventh.***

***<sup>14</sup> These were of the sons of Gad, captains of the host: one of the least was over an hundred, and the greatest over a thousand.***

***<sup>15</sup> These are they that went over Jordan in the first month, when it had overflowed all his banks; and they put to flight all them of the valleys, both toward the east, and toward the west.***

***<sup>16</sup> 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.***

~ I sincerely love this section of Scripture, friends. We don't get here often. I hope everyone reads the text carefully and completely. Here are a group of men who swam the river Jordan at flood tide. They're exhausted; and David doesn't know whether they're friend or foe. David tells them in no uncertain terms that if they make any stupid moves, he'll kill them without a second thought. These men truly desired to serve David; and, make a note, this isn't an illustration of consecration – this just happens to be *SERVICE!* These men made a decision to live for their king – King David. They wanted to be on the *RIGHT* and *JUST* side of this conflict.

The biggest problem with most Christians today is *NOT* service; because everyone seems to think they stay very busy — and some do. But that's not our problem: the problem is most do not want to live in obedience to and

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for the Lord Jesus. There is little interest in actually learning the Word of God in an educated manner. These men wanted to be on David's side. They wanted to live for him, and they were willing to do whatever it took to yield themselves to his authority.

Christ brought *YOU* over Jordan by His death, burial and resurrection, spiritually speaking. *You've* been blessed with all spiritual blessings in the Heavens - but - *you* still have to live your life for Christ in this world. You're going to live your eternal life for Christ in Heaven, but He wants you to start right here – right now. Jesus prayed to the Father, *"I pray not that You will take them out of the world but that You will keep them safe from the evil one IN the world!"* This world is the only place you are ever going to have the opportunity to prove your loyalty to the Lord Jesus Christ, my beloved.

Most people treat their lives down here as a cheap expendable; and, as a result, they are filled with compromise and pussy-footing hypocrisy. May I say this kindly? – You're dead wrong; you're going to have to swim that water and present yourself to the One Who is greater than David. You're going to have to surrender to Him or you will *NEVER – NEVER – NEVER* win. Oh, what a joy it really is to have the opportunity to be in the *DIRECT* will of God and to come into His Service and direct will under His rule....

***18 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.***

***19 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.***

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***20 As he went to Ziklag, there fell to him of Manasseh, Adnah, and Jozabad, and Jediahel, and Michael, and Jozabad, and Elihu, and Zilthai, captains of the thousands that were of Manasseh.***

***21 And they helped David against the band of the rovers: for they were all mighty men of valour, and were captains in the host.***

***22 For at that time day by day there came to David to help him, until it was a great host, like the host of God.***

***23 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.***

***24 The children of Judah that bare shield and spear were six thousand and eight hundred, ready armed to the war.***

***25 Of the children of Simeon, mighty men of valour for the war, seven thousand and one hundred.***

***26 Of the children of Levi four thousand and six hundred.***

***27 And Jehoiada was the leader of the Aaronites, and with him were three thousand and seven hundred;***

***28 And Zadok, a young man mighty of valour, and of his father's house twenty and two captains.***

***29 And of the children of Benjamin, the kindred of Saul, three thousand: for hitherto the greatest part of them had kept the ward of the house of Saul.***

***30 And of the children of Ephraim twenty thousand and eight hundred, mighty men of valour, famous throughout the house of their fathers.***

***31 And of the half tribe of Manasseh eighteen thousand, which were expressed by name, to come and make David king.***

***32 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.***

***33 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.***

***34 And of Naphtali a thousand captains, and with them with shield and spear thirty and seven thousand.***

***35 And of the Danites expert in war twenty and eight thousand and six hundred.***

***36 And of Asher, such as went forth to battle, expert in war, forty thousand.***

***37 And on the other side of Jordan, of the Reubenites, and the Gadites, and of the half tribe of Manasseh, with all manner of instruments of war for the battle, an hundred and twenty thousand.***

***38 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.***

***39 And there they were with David three days, eating and drinking: for their brethren had prepared for them.***

***40 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.***

~ If you say you have given your life to Christ, then I ask you: what are you doing to serve Him? There are principles of service to the Lord — and to other believers — and those principles can only be found in *ONE* place: the Word of God. I must say this again: if you do not *love* the Word of God and if you do not *love* to study it and learn from it — then you aren't saved — don't bother writing me back telling me I am wrong because, it just so happens to be *YOU* who is wrong. We're going to leave it at that in this leg of our expedition. Pray for me as I attempt to take the Word of God to the entire world in the sound doctrine of the apostles, will you, please? ~

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