

Seven Bible Studies 2017

History

August 8: 1 Chronicles 1-4 (Nick Hermon)

HISTORY: 1 Chronicles 1-4

Last week we finished 2 Kings and this week we dive into the book of 1 Chronicles. The start of this letter truly fits the historical category as it simply lists the genealogical record.

Chp. 1- Lists those from Adam to Abraham to Mizzah, the family of Seir, and the kings of Edom

Chp. 2- Lists the sons of Israel & Judah

Chp. 3- Lists the sons of David, kings of Judah, and the royal line after exile

Chp. 4- Lists the other clans of Judah & descendants of Simeon

Comment:

Charles Fry:

Important connective tissue, especially for the exiles returning to Jerusalem from the Babylonian dispersion. Interesting historical tidbits here and there, like the notice of Jabez, the scribes, the linen workers, the potters...

Comment:

Butch O'Neal:

Thanks Nick!

Comment:

LuAnn Woody:

I enjoyed reading this passage out loud. a mother lode of baby names!

Comment:

Ginger Hermon:

I'm not sure why this didn't post last night? Wanted to say happy born again birthday, Nick! Truly there's no greater joy than witnessing your child obey the gospel and continue to grow in spirit and truth! This list we read for Tuesday's study makes me ponder how important our lineage is. Teach it to your children and to their children so they may be added to the Book of Life!

Comment:

Kevin Crittenden:

Thanks Nick! In looking at the sons of David in Chpt 3, I noticed all the different mothers who were wives and concubines. It makes me wonder if there were any proscriptions in Mosaic Law against marrying more than one woman. 1 Cor 7:2 says " But because of the temptation to sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband." This New Testament teaching pretty well tells us God's take on the subject of multiple wives. And in Genesis, God made 1 woman (Eve) to be Adam's wife. So my question is why was bigamy allowable in those times? Did not this custom of multiple wives and various concubines disturb God?

Comment:

Charles Fry:

Kevin Crittenden, did polygamy disturb God? Surely it did, but as in Jesus' comment about Moses (the Law) allowing divorce, it was tolerated because of hard hearts (Matt 19:8... "but it was not this way from the beginning"). Polygamy originates in the lineage of Cain in Genesis 4 (not a happy indicator!), and every time it turns up we see it created problems, conflict, distress. The family conflicts are highlighted with Abraham, Jacob, Gideon, Elkanah, Saul, David, Solomon, Rehoboam, etc. There were some restraints in the Law, as in not marrying living sisters, Lev 18:18. And then there was this bit for the king, which David pushed, and Solomon smashed:

Deuteronomy 17:17 (NIV-WS)

17 He must not take many wives, or his heart will be led astray. He must not accumulate large amounts of silver and gold.

That list of David's sons by various wives, 3 of the eldest 4 died in internecine conflict. Not a great endorsement for the practice.

Replies:

Kevin Crittenden:

Thank you! I guess I'll take finding concubines off of my To-Do list.

Charles Fry:

Good choice!

1 Timothy 3:12 (CSB)

12 Deacons are to be husbands of one wife, managing their children and their own households competently.

Kevin Crittenden:

Ummm . . . How competently?

August 15: 1 Chronicles 5-9 (Nick Hermon)

HISTORY: 1 Chronicles 5-9

Chp. 5- Reuben was the firstborn, but as but when he defiled his father's marriage bed (Genesis 35:22), he lost his firstborn status. The chapter goes on to list the Gadites, Reubenite & half tribe of Manasseh who came together for battle. And lastly, in verse 23 we have the name of the coolest mountain.

Chp. 6- Is a list of: the sons of Levi, temple musicians, descendants of Aaron, and locations of settlements.

Chp. 7- Lists the sons of lots of individuals - most notably - Isaachar, Benjamin, Naphtali, Manasseh, Ephraim, and Asher

Chp. 8- Genealogy of Saul the Benjamite. One thing I thought was interesting was the last verse: "The sons of Ulam were brave warriors who could handle the bow. They had many sons and grandsons— 150 in all."

I'm wondering who in the church today has the most sons & grandsons

Chp. 9- "All Israel was listed in the genealogies recorded in the book of the kings of Israel and Judah. They were taken captive to Babylon because of their unfaithfulness" (v1)

Records the people in Jerusalem and genealogy of Saul

Comment:

Butch O'Neal:
Thank you, Nick!

Comment:

Kevin Crittenden:
You could take a census of the church and get the answer to your question!

Comment:

Ginger Hermon:
Thanks, Nick! That would be an interesting answer to your question. I'm glad the Chronicler offered commentary between lists. I've overlooked all the responsibilities of the Levites until reading these passages.

Comment:

Joanne Caffie:
I like the name of that 'famous' mountain'. LOL

Comment:

Kevin Crittenden:
Mount Nick. Good name!

August 22: 1 Chronicles 10-14 (Nick Hermon)

HISTORY: 1 Chronicles 10-14

This week's reading is another account of things that happened in 1 & 2 Samuel. It does not include a few things from the book of Samuel, and sometimes it adds new information to the narrative.

We start off this week's study with the story of Saul's death. It is written nearly word-for-word as the account told in 1 Samuel 31. Slight additions I found from 1 Chron. 10 that I didn't see in 1 Samuel 31 is that they put Saul's head in the temple of Dagon, the valiant men who recovered their bodies buried their bones under the great tree of Jabesh, and the reasoning for Saul's death.

Chp. 11- We have David becoming king (2 Samuel 1), him conquering Jerusalem (2 Samuel 5), the list of David's mighty warriors (2 Samuel 23), and a couple fascinating stories of these mighty warriors

Chp 12- Lists the ambidextrous warriors of David while he was banished and the numbers from each tribe who served for David to make him king... 340,000+ warriors

Chp. 13- Is the story of the ark being moved and Uzzah reaching out and touching it (2 Samuel 6)

Chp. 14- David's house and family grows and he has a breakthrough (v11) with the Philistines (2 Samuel 5)

Comment:

Butch O'Neal:
Thank you, Nick!

August 29: 1 Chronicles 15-19 (Nick Hermon)

HISTORY: 1 Chronicles 15-19

We start off with the ark being brought to Jerusalem- a story also told in 2 Samuel 6.

The 16th chapter is unique in reference to it in the book of Samuel. Here, David appoints Asaph and his associates to give praise to the Lord. Part of this praise is also found in Psalm 96 as well as well as chapter 16.

Chapter 17 passages I like:

"This is what the Lord Almighty says: I took you from the pasture, from tending the flock, and appointed you ruler over my people Israel. I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name like the names of the greatest men on earth." (17:7-8)

"I declare to you that the Lord will build a house for you: When your days are over and you go to be with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, one of your own sons, and I will establish his kingdom. He is the one who will build a house for me, and I will establish his throne forever." (17:10-12)

And David's response:

"Who am I, Lord God, and what is my family, that you have brought me this far?" (17:16)

"There is no one like you, Lord, and there is no God but you" (17:20)

I also like how the NIV uses the word "awesome" in reference to the power of God in verse 21... it's not often you hear that word today in its correct context.

Chp. 18 records David's victories and officials (Tou, king of Hamath also found in 2 Samuel 8)

And chp. 19, David defeats the Ammonites (2 Samuel 10)

Comment:
Butch O'Neal:
Thank you, Nick!

Comment:
Ginger Hermon:
Good thoughts and take-aways, Nick! I broke out in song when I read, "Give thanks to the Lord; for He is good. His love endures forever!" May have to request this for song night Wednesday. 😊

September 5: 1 Chronicles 20-24 (Nick Hermon)

HISTORY: 1 Chronicles 20-24

We start off this week's reading with the capture of Rabbah and an incredibly heavy crown. The king's crown consists of gold & precious jewels and weighs a talent (approx. 75lbs!) and is given to David. More wars with the Philistines occur and Lahmi, one of the brothers of Goliath, is brought down. It also references to the warrior with 24 phalanges (2 Samuel 21:20).

In chp, 21, David's evil imagination gets the best of him. He decides to take up a census of Israel (2 Samuel 24). It is interesting how the first verse is told in each of these passages.

2 Samuel 24 reads:

"Again the anger of the Lord burned against Israel, and he incited David against them, saying, "Go and take a census of Israel and Judah."

while 1 Chronicles 21 reads:

"Satan rose up against Israel and incited David to take a census of Israel."

My understanding from this is that God allowed Satan to tempt him. David sinned, revealing his pride, and God then dealt with David accordingly. We've seen multiple instances that God can use Satan in various ways, with the result being the refining, disciplining, and purification of disobedient believers.

As to why God was angry at David, in those times, a man only had the right to count or number what belonged to him. Israel did not belong to David; Israel belonged to God. In Exodus 30:12 God told Moses, "When you take a census of the Israelites to count them, each one must pay the LORD a ransom for his life at the time he is counted. Then no plague will come on them when you number them." It was up to God to command a census, and if David counted he should only do it at God's command, receiving a ransom to "atone" for the counting.

Because of this, God gave David a choice of three punishments for his sin (2 Samuel 24) and David begrudgingly chose the shortest option- three days of the plague.

But as is the way with David, he constantly repents of his sins and is with the Lord in prayer. He builds an altar and in the 22nd chapter does all he can to prepare for the temple without the permission to build it himself.

Kind of an interesting side note- the recorded census determined David had "one million one hundred thousand men who could hand a sword, including four hundred and seventy thousand in Judah" (v5)... plus if you include Levi and Benjamin in the numbering, it could outnumber the present number of active military in the United States (1.3mil).

Chp 23-24 lists descendants, the instructions for the Levites in the temple, and division of priests

Comment:

Cherris Lehman:

Very interesting! Thanks Nick!

Comment:

Charles Fry:

Two or three decades ago I heard an archaeologist who excavated in Ammon talk about knowing what David's crown looked like, meaning the crown he took from the Ammonite king of Rabbah.

"A king of Ammon, with plaited hair, curled beard, earrings and crown, may be depicted in this life-size ninth- to eighth-century B.C.E. limestone sculpture found east of the Jordan in the ancient Ammonite capital of Rabbah (modern Amman). According to the Book of Samuel, the Ammonites numbered among the monarchy's fiercest adversaries until David subdued them at the battle of Rabbah and seized the crown of their king (2 Samuel 12:26–31)"



Replies:

Cherris Lehman:

I've been trying to find this crown since I read Nick's scriptures. So thanks Charles Fry

Comment:

LuAnn Woody:

How old was the tabernacle at this point in time? I suppose it was like their shoes in the wilderness, suspended from deterioration. It was mentioned in this passage as a place David was too ashamed to visit .

Replies:

Charles Fry:

From 1 Kings 6:1 we know the temple was begun 480 years after the Exodus, in Solomon's 4th year. (Other sources indicate Solomon began to reign in about 960 B.C., and David began to reign in about 1000 B.C.) Supposing the incident in 1 Chron 21 was fairly late in David's reign, the tabernacle must have been on the order of 470 years old. I don't think we need suppose it was divinely protected or kept from wearing out that whole time, remember what happened to Shiloh in Samuel's youth? The "built by Moses" ascription reminds us of the origin (as opposed to the temple soon to be built on the threshing floor acquired in this story), and shouldn't be seen as a comment on the endurance of the parts. Remember that Solomon's temple required upkeep and repair during the centuries of its use. Also, David's fear of the sword of the angel that was there at Jerusalem prompted him to offer sacrifices right there (more than the one sacrifice commanded by Gad) rather than travel to Gibeon where the altar and most of the tabernacle resided (but not the ark). This story is here in part to tell Israel how the transition from tabernacle to temple took place, with God's sanction.

Comment:

Ginger Hermon:

Thanks, Nick! Excellent summary. After LuAnn's question and my own questions about some of this reading I want to search for a good timeline during David's life. If anyone has a good reference please let me know. Thx.

Replies:

Charles Fry:

I thought maybe Steven Wright would comment on this chronology question, but maybe he hasn't seen it. 😊 Yet.

Steven Wright:

Just did. Charles!

Steven Wright:

Is the link showing up? I don't see it on my phone?

Charles Fry:

Maybe... I see the link when I touch the notification of your previous comment, but not when I touch the notification of your most recent comment.

Steven Wright:

Hmm! Did it on the pc?

Charles Fry:

It's okay, the link is posted.

Comment:

Steven Wright:

Just caught the thread. How about good old Mr Rudd. Charles Fry, LuAnn Woody, and, Ginger Hermon? Here ya go ! <http://www.bible.ca/archeology/bible-archeology-maps-timeline-chronology-2samuel-6-7-1chron-13-17-22-king-david-new-spiritual-order-temple-reorganizes-levitical-priesthood-997-964bc.htm>

Comment:

Butch O'Neal:

Thanks, Nick!

September 12: 1 Chronicles 25-29 (Nick Hermon)

HISTORY: 1 Chronicles 25-29

We finish 1 Chronicles today and the EIGHTH book of our history study!

The reading starts off with the listing of musicians. It gives a specific number: 288 trained and skilled in music to the Lord... I bet it would be quite a group to hear perform!

It also lists the amount of lots cast by each group.

Chp. 26-27 lists the gatekeepers, the lots they cast, and the Israelites and their divisions

One verse I found interesting-

"David did not take the number of the men twenty years old or less, because the LORD had promised to make Israel as numerous as the stars in the sky." (27:23)

Chp. 28-29 David goes into detail planning the layout of the temple and how it is to be handled.

David give some of the final words and much like the wise leaders before him, he encourages the people to serve God only and keep His commands.

He explains to the people that his dream is to build a house for God, but God has chosen his son Solomon to reign after him and to be the one to build the temple.

He gives a public prayer and Solomon is acknowledged as king. David dies and "As for the events of King David's reign, from beginning to end, they are written in the records of Samuel the seer, the records of Nathan the prophet and the records of Gad the seer, together with the details of his reign and power, and the circumstances that surrounded him and Israel and the kingdoms of all the other lands." (29:29-30)

Comment:

Butch O'Neal:
Thank you, Nick!

Comment:

Ginger Hermon:
8 books! That puts it in perspective. I wonder where we are at for the whole year? I'll look into it and post. Thanks for your faithfulness to the study, Nick. A set of verses I appreciated were, "Be strong & courageous and do the work of the Lord. Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord God, my God, is with you. He will not fail or forsake you." Words of wisdom and faith for all of us to pass on to each generation.

Replies:

Ginger Hermon:
We are around 35 books read thus far. 8: history, 12: epistles, 3.5: law, 2/3: psalms, 1.33: poetry, 7: prophecy, 3.6: gospels. Only 16 weeks left. So grateful for the leaders in this study and all those who have participated. Your insight and knowledge has edified me beyond measure. You have helped my Christian walk immensely; changing my lifestyle to prioritize reading scripture. It's been an honor. Acts 17:11

Joanne Caffie:
It has definitely been an honor!