

Read the Whole Bible with Pastor

Monday (September 11) – 1 Chronicles 3

This genealogy lists the descendants of David up to, during, and following Israel's exile to Babylon. Note Zerubbabel and his sons in v. 19-20. Zerubbabel is mentioned as an ancestor of the line from which Joseph and Mary—and therefore Jesus—sprang, according to the genealogical lists of Matthew 1 and Luke 3. Out of all of Israel, only David's descendants are traced for seven generations following the exile (v. 19-24). The hope of Israel was still in God's promise to David, and his genealogy above all others was to be recorded as a reminder of this enduring grace.

According to church tradition, the prophet Jeremiah wrote 1–2 Kings, and the prophet Ezra wrote 1–2 Chronicles. Jeremiah wrote prior to and in the beginning of the exile to Babylon. Ezra writes after God's people have returned to the land after exile. Ezra repeats some things from Kings but carefully note the things that Ezra leaves out or expounds on in more detail in Chronicles. Jeremiah and Ezra both wrote by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit never wastes words.

Tuesday (September 12) – 1 Chronicles 4, 5

Chapters 4–7 contain genealogies of the descendants of the sons of Israel (Jacob) up through the reign of King David. As you read these chronologies, look for names familiar to you from your reading. More importantly, consider how these chronologies ground the people of Israel in history. See Romans 11. “Although [you were] a wild olive shoot, [you] were grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing root of the olive tree” (Romans 11:17b). You, a baptized child of God, are joined to Christ. You have been grafted into Israel. This is your history. These are your ancestors, your forefathers in the faith.

Wednesday (September 13) – 1 Chronicles 6

Chapter 6 traces the priestly line of Aaron the Levite to the time of the exile. Reading about the Levitical priesthood and their service to God's people helps us to understand Christ's service to us. As you read these chronologies, see how God cared for his people for generations through these men. These are the pastors and cantors of Old Testament Israel.

Thursday (September 14) – 1 Chronicles 7

Chapter 7 contains genealogies of the tribes of Issachar, Benjamin, Naphtali, Manasseh, Ephraim, and Asher. These tribes rebelled against Rehoboam, David's grandson (2 Chronicles 10). Notice how some of the tribes (Issachar, Benjamin, and Asher) include details about military strength. These tribes did not prosper by military might. Military might is false grounds for hope. “His delight is not in the strength of the horse, nor his pleasure in the legs of a man, but the Lord takes pleasure in those who fear him, in those who hope in his steadfast love (Psalm 147:10-11).

Friday (September 15) – 1 Chronicles 8

Focus on verse 33, where Saul, Israel's first king, is mentioned. Also, see Jonathan, Saul's son and David's friend, listed. Even though King Saul died in disgrace, his line continues through his son Jonathan (v. 34-40). Jonathan served David valiantly, and God raised up men from Jonathan's line who would serve Him and their fellow Benjamites faithfully. Look back to 1 Kings 12:21, where these valiant men joined forces with the tribe of Judah to place David's grandson, Rehoboam, back on David's throne.

Saturday (September 16) – 1 Chronicles 9, 10

One of Ezra's (the Chronicler's) favorite ways of characterizing the piety of faithful Israelites is to say that they "seek the Lord." This Hebrew verb occurs over forty times in 1-2 Chronicles' narrative chapters, beginning in 1 Chr 10:13; 14.

1 Chr 10:13-14 gives a theological analysis of Saul's death: Saul did not "seek the Lord." Instead, he sought guidance from a medium (1 Samuel 28:7). For this, God put him to death. Failure to "seek the Lord" is why God raised up the Empire of Babylon to discipline Israel (2 Chr 36:15-16).

The Lord who has already sought you out and claimed you as His own wants to "be sought." Seek Him in His Word where He promises to be found. Seek Him in His Church (which He established by His Word) and in the Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper (which He established by His Word). See Isaiah 55:6-11: "Seek the Lord while He may be found; call upon Him while He is near..."

Sunday (September 17) – 1 Chronicles 11

Note verses 10-47 which describe David's mighty men. The parallel to this section is 2 Samuel 23:8-39. David was a lord of hosts. He commanded great armies with valiant military leaders who reported to him. See Isaiah 6:1-7. The Lord, our God, is the general of the heavenly armies. In the Service of the Sacrament, we sing this song of the angels in heaven: "Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of Sabaoth; Heaven and earth are full of Thy glory" (LSB, D.S. III, Sanctus). Sabaoth is a Hebrew word which means hosts (armies) of the Lord. David's Son and Lord, Jesus Christ, our Savior, came as a mighty warrior to crush the head of the ancient serpent and win salvation for us by His suffering and death on the cross and by His resurrection from the dead. David's mighty men of old are a type of the heavenly armies who do battle for us under the command of our Lord Jesus. We pray for our King's ongoing protection by these heavenly armies when we pray Luther's Morning Prayer, "Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen."

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