

Read the Whole Bible with Pastor

Monday (September 18) – 1 Chronicles 12

Chapter 12 continues to innumerate the military strength of David. While much of chapter 11 focused on David's mighty men, this chapter focuses on the growth of David's military might. While many people today are increasingly uncomfortable with the idea of battle, especially God's people engaging in battle, King David was a man of war, just as the Lord God refers to Himself as a man of war in Exodus 15:3. Whether we like it or not, war will always surround God's people. Our battle, however, is not against flesh and blood but against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms (Ephesians 6:12). Therefore, let us engage in this spiritual battle (Ephesians 6:13-18) knowing that "your God helps you" (2 Chronicles 12:18).

Tuesday (September 19) – 1 Chronicles 13, 14

In chapter 13 the story of King David moving the Ark of the Covenant is repeated from 2 Samuel 6. This story is a stark reminder of the necessity to treat the holy things of God as holy, according to His commands. Though we are not under the same threat of immediate death as God's Old Testament people now that Christ has come, we would still be well-served to be careful to treat God's Holy Word and Sacraments with reverence and awe knowing that there is danger in mishandling them (1 Corinthians 11:27-32).

In chapter 14 David is confirmed as king as the Lord directs him to victory in battle over the Philistines, the enemy of God's people. In the same way, our Lord Jesus, the greater David, would be confirmed as king of all through His God-ordained victory over the enemies of God's people—sin, death, and the devil—by His death on the cross.

Wednesday (September 20) – 1 Chronicles 15, 16

In chapters 15 and 16, King David sets in order the worship life of Israel in Jerusalem. Worship has always been at the center of the life of God's people. As the tabernacle worship is re-instituted by King David in Jerusalem, notice that the pattern of praising God in Psalms and the offering of sacrifices in the Old Testament Church sets the pattern for much of the New Testament Church's Divine Service, where we gather around the Psalms and Word of God, and rather than offering up a sacrifice to the Lord, we receive the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus, which was sacrificed upon the altar of the cross for our forgiveness, life, and salvation. As for ancient Israel, so too must this worship life remain the center of our lives.

Thursday (September 21) – 1 Chronicles 17, 18

Chapter 17 is a parallel of 2 Samuel 7, where the Lord makes a covenant with David. If you compare the wording of the covenant as recorded in 2 Samuel 7 with this text, you will notice a couple of minor differences. Having read the entirety of King David and King Solomon's stories in 2 Samuel and 1 Kings, we know that Solomon was not the ultimate fulfillment of this covenant. So, the covenant recorded here in 1 Chronicles is written to highlight how Israel was still waiting for the fulfillment of this promise. We, too, await the

final fulfillment of this promise. Our Lord Jesus is the descendent of David who has established God's Kingdom forever. However, we live in the now/not yet reality of that kingdom. Christ has been established as king over all things upon His ascension into heaven. The Church now awaits the final revealing of Christ as King on the Last Day when He will establish a home for God's people for eternity in the new creation.

Chapter 18 gives further details of David's military conquests. As King David worked to establish peace in his kingdom, the Lord blessed his efforts, bringing him victory and tribute from the nations, a foreshadowing of the tribute from the nations and the victory that our Lord Jesus would receive.

Friday (September 22) – 1 Chronicles 19, 20

Those who despise the Lord will be put to shame. When the Ammonites and Syrians audaciously opposed King David, the Lord saw to it that they were subdued. So, too, with the Philistines who had been relentless enemies of God's people. These two chapters show how the Lord brings to nothing those who oppose Him. But for David and all who fear the Lord, victory and blessing will be theirs in the end.

Saturday (September 23) – 1 Chronicles 21, 22

In chapter 21 King David orders a census of the people of Israel. Joab warns the king against this because the people of Israel belong to the Lord. Only He has the right to order a census (see Exodus 30:12). The king's word prevails, however, and the Lord punishes David and Israel for the disobedience. This troubling event reveals to us that manpower or strength of arms do not bring prosperity. But the one who fears the Lord will be blessed.

In Chapter 22 we read of preparations that King David makes for the building of the temple, which will happen under the rule of Solomon. These details are not included in 2 Samuel or 1 Kings, and they reveal to us the great efforts which were necessary to construct the temple of Solomon, where the Lord would dwell between the cherubim in the Most Holy Place. As immense and glorious as this structure no doubt was, it was nothing compared to the glory of the Word made flesh who came to dwell not in a solitary room among God's people, but who came to live and walk among God's people so that the separation between God and man might be removed forever.

Sunday (September 24) – 1 Chronicles 23

As David prepares to die, he begins to set in order the final matters which will be necessary for the daily administration of the temple upon its completion. The Levites are the particular focus of chapter 23 as David ensures their duties will be tailored to the new permanent location of God's presence in Jerusalem. Men will always be needed to attend to the things of God in His Church. This is why the Church has always highly esteemed those who serve in God's house by assisting the pastor with his Word and Sacrament duties. It is necessary for the administrative matters in the Church to be attended in support of the Means of Grace.