

I CHRONICLES 15-16

REVIEW...

- ESTABLISHING THE KINGDOM...
 - David was firmly established as the King of all Israel...
 - He had the full support of the army - all 12 tribes had sworn allegiance to him...
 - He conquered Jerusalem - and established it as a new capitol for Israel...
 - But he understood that ultimately the nation needed to be led by the Lord...
 - So he decided to bring the Ark of God into the city of David!
 - David set the Ark of God on a new cart...
 - The two sons of Abinadab - Uzzah (*strength*) and Ahio (*brother*) - drove the cart...
 - But when the Ark was just outside of Jerusalem - the ox stumbled...
 - Uzzah reached out to steady the Ark - to keep it from falling off the cart...
 - The moment he touched it - God struck him dead!
 - So David left the Ark at the house of Obed-Edom for 3 months - and God blessed their house!

BRINGING THE ARK INTO JERUSALEM... (2 THINGS)

- 1ST - MOVING THE ARK... vs. 1-29 READ: I CHRONICLES 15:1-15
 - 1ST - David built houses for himself in Jerusalem... vs. 1
 - David needed more than one house - because he had more than one wife...
 - The practice of adding wives was forbidden for a King - **Deuteronomy 17:17**...
 - And King Solomon followed / exceeded his father by having 1000 wives - **I Kings 11:3**
 - We must be very careful of the example we give to others / our children...
 - We may be able to 'handle' temptation - but it might destroy them!
 - One man's freedom in Christ - can be another man's undoing...
 - Be sensitive to each other's weaknesses - protecting each other from sin!
 - David prepared a Tent (*Tabernacle*) for the Ark in Jerusalem...
 - The Tabernacle was not a Jewish church...
 - The Tabernacle was not a 'church' for the Jews to come and worship on the Sabbath...
 - The Israelites could not come into the Tabernacle - only the priests...
 - The Tabernacle was not a house for God...
 - It was never intended to be a 'house' for God - God does not need a place to live...
 - **Acts 7:49** - "Heaven is my throne, the earth is my footstool. Could you ever build me a temple as good as that?" asks the Lord. "Could you build a dwelling place for me?"
 - The Tabernacle was a place to meet with God...
 - It would be a place where people could come and meet with the Lord...
 - It provided unique access to an unapproachable / holy / righteous God...
 - The Tabernacle was a tent - everything was portable...
 - Because this is not our home - we are only here for a short stay - **Hebrews 11:13-16**
 - Far too often we get way too attached to things in this life and forget...
 - We are not home yet - our home is a place we have yet to see - our home is heaven...
 - We need to remember to keep a light touch on things here - just living in tents!
 - 2ND - Looking to the example of the Word ... vs. 2-15
 - David gathered all the people of Israel to Jerusalem (*possibly during one of the festivals*)...
 - He then assembled the children of Aaron and the Levites...
 - The Levites were divided into 3 different families (*the 3 sons of Levi*)...

- From Gershon - 130 men led by Joel - responsible to take care of the Tabernacle...
- From Merari - 220 men led by Asaiah - responsible for the courtyard...
- From Kohath - who were responsible for the menorah / table / altar / and the Ark...
- 120 men led by Uriel / 200 men - Shemaiah / 80 men - Eliel / 112 men - Amminadab...
- David also called on Zadok and Abiathar the priests (*sons of Aaron*)!
- David told the Priests and Levites they had to carry the Ark...
 - David understood the reason why they had failed the first time...
 - Was because they had not gone to the Word of God to consult how to carry the Ark...
 - So rather than bring the Ark on a cart (*following the example of the Philistines*)...
 - Or looking to the abilities of others (*trusting in the strength of Uzzah*)...
 - David went to the Word - God had specific instructions on how to move the Ark!
 - **Exodus 25:14** - “Fit the poles into the rings at the sides of the Ark to carry it.”
- If you want to have a great church / blessed life – follow the Word...
 - Happiness / our eternity depends on what we do with the life God has given us...
 - He has given us an instruction manual so we can be successful...
 - It is through hearing the Word we get to know and have a relationship with God...
 - It is in the Word we learn about God’s expectations / will for our lives...
 - It is through hearing God’s Word we learn how to enter eternal life!
 - **John 5:24** - “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life...”
- o 3rd - Worshiping in the presence of the Lord... vs. 16-24 **READ: I CHRONICLES 15:16-24**
 - David then organized Levities from Merari into a worship team...
 - They were divided up into 3 different sections:
 - The singers - Heman / Asaph / and Ethan - were to sound the cymbals of bronze...
 - Zechariah and 8 others - led on the stings - along with the women (*Alamoth*)...
 - Mattithiah and 6 others - played harps - 8 stringed instruments (*Sheminith*)...
 - Leading them all was the worship leader - Chenaniah - because he was skilled...
 - Shebaniah and some priests also blew trumpets before the Ark of God!
 - This is one of the rare places in the Bible where we get an example of a worship team...
 - We see a couple of important principles here when it comes to worship...
 - It is nice to have a variety of instruments to allow lots of people to get involved...
 - It is important to make sure that those who are leading - are skilled!
 - It is necessary to have order and structure in the worship - **I Corinthians 14:40**
 - But most importantly - worship prepare our hearts to enter the presence of the Lord!
 - We come to church full of all the business of the week – our mind racing...
 - Worship is important – it prepares our heart to listen to the Word of God!
- o 4th – The bitterness of Michal... vs. 25-29 **READ: I CHRONICLES 15:25-29**
 - David along with the Levites / singers / and priests came into Jerusalem with joy!
 - David and the Levites were wearing robes of fine linen...
 - The Linen garments were meant to keep them from sweating...
 - **Ezekiel 44:18** - “They must wear line linen undergarments. They must not wear anything that would cause them to perspire.”
 - If we are ‘burnt out’ – it is likely because we are depending on ourselves – not Jesus
 - Not that we do not get tired IN serving the Lord – just not tired OF serving the Lord...
 - Working for God - serving the Lord - should not be a burden - it should be ‘no sweat’...
 - We should find serving Jesus is not a burden – **Matthew 11:28-30**
 - When Michal – the daughter of Saul saw David dancing – she despised him...

- She came out and mocked David for making a fool of himself with his dancing...
 - It is likely Michal was still upset about David taking her from Phaltiel – **II Samuel 3**
 - That bitterness and spite now erupted in open contempt for David...
 - **When we are hurt by someone - and refuse to forgive - it plants a seed in our heart...**
 - **It grows into bitterness - we become consumed with what 'they did to us'!**
 - **Its roots grow down deep - poisoning and hardening our hearts!**
- Michal never had any children...
 - The suggestion is that David never again went to be with Michal...
 - In the end Michal's bitterness did not hurt David – she only hurt herself!
 - **Forgiveness is not for the one who did us wrong - it is for us...**
 - **It sets us free - we do not dwell on the past - we get to move forward in Jesus!**
- David answered – 'I danced before the Lord' - **II Samuel 6:21-23**...
 - And David was more than willing to be even more 'foolish' for the Lord...
 - **We worry too much about what other people think about us...**
 - **If we stand out – what will the people think / what will they say...**
 - **WHO CARES – God was willing to become a man and die for us on the cross!**
- Dancing is a controversial topic in the church today...
 - There are certainly sensual dances that are inappropriate – do not honor God...
 - Yet David danced – and the 'Lame man' leapt in the Temple – **Acts 3**
 - **So run through the streets shouting out praises for God...**
 - **Dance for Jesus so the whole world knows – the goodness of God!**
 - **Do something crazy – because God did something crazy to save you!**
- **2ND – THE PSALM OF DAVID... vs. 1-43 READ: I CHRONICLES 16:1-6**
 - 1ST - David placed the Ark in the Tabernacle in Jerusalem...vs. 1-6
 - He then offered burnt offerings before God...
 - The burnt offering is an offering of submission - surrendering yourself totally to God...
 - A free will offering - no one was required to offer the burnt offering...
 - God is a gentleman - He will not force us to do anything we don't want to...
 - God does not make anyone go to heaven - He just provides the way...
 - God does not make us surrender our lives to Him - we have to choose to give it!
 - The whole animal would be burnt on the bronze Alter - completely consumed by fire...
 - **God does not just want part of us - He wants us to be completely sold out to Him!**
 - **A tool is only effective when it submits itself to the master's commands....**
 - **If we only follow the Lord when we want to - we are not much use to the Lord...**
 - **If we are to be effective for the Lord - we must submit ourselves to the Lord...**
 - **Hebrews 12:29 - "For our God is a consuming fire."**
 - Then he offered peace offerings before God...
 - The peace offering is an offering of fellowship - having a meal with the Lord...
 - The fat of the animal was burnt on the bronze Altar - but the rest was to share...
 - The 'picture' - having a meal with God - He got part / you got part...
 - By having fellowship daily with the Lord - you grow to know the Lord!
 - **Instead of hanging out with the world - spend time with the Jesus!**
 - **How can we tell others / teach others / lead others to someone we do not even know...**
 - **The more we read our Bibles – the more we spend time in fellowship with believers....**
 - **The more we take time to pray and hear from the Lord – the better we will know Him!**

- A sweat aroma to the Lord...
 - The smell must have been amazing - BBQ at God's house !
 - Often when we think of animal sacrifices - we get a negative picture in our mind...
 - But in truth God was inviting His people to share a meal with Him!
- When David had finished - he blessed the people and gave them bread / meat / and raisins!
- o 2nd - Psalm for the dedication of the Tabernacle... vs. 7-36 **READ: I CHRONICLES 16:7-36**
 - On the day the Ark arrived in Jerusalem - David gave a 7 part Psalm to Asaph / Levites...
 - 1st - Talk about the Lord... vs. 7-9
 - He opened up the Psalm calling o the people to talk about the Lord...
 - Talking about the wonderful things he had done - so people would know about Him!
 - If we do not tell people about Jesus - who will - **Romans 10:13-17**
 - 2nd - Because those who seek the Lord - find him... vs. 10-11
 - Those who seek His strength - seek His face - those who seek the Lord rejoice...
 - In Acts 8 – an Ethiopian eunuch traveled hundreds of miles – to come to the Temple...
 - And because the Eunuch was seeking God – God was seeking the Eunuch!
 - If we are truly looking to find God - He is always willing to answer...
 - **Jeremiah 29:13** – “You will find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.”
 - 3rd - So remember what the Lord has done... vs. 12-22
 - David called in Israel to remember the marvelous works of God - how He choose Israel...
 - Remember the covenant He made with Abraham / Isaac / and Jacob...
 - The promise to give them the Promised Land - while they were still few in number...
 - When God protected them - even from kings / nations far greater than they were!
 - God choose Israel to be His special treasure - but not cause they were the best...
 - In fact for just the opposite reason - because they were the least!
 - No one credited Israel for destroying the armies of Egypt...
 - Israel was a nation of slaves – all the credit went to God alone - **Deuteronomy 7:7-16**
 - God does not look at our qualification to see if we can be saved...
 - God does not pick just the brightest – beautiful – wealthy – **I Corinthians 1:27**
 - In fact those are the exceptions – God tends to choose the ‘foolish’ of the world...
 - God picks us – the foolish because then the world sees God in us!
 - Then the world knows that God can save/use anyone – **I Timothy 1:16**
 - 4th - And proclaim the salvation of the Lord - every day... vs. 23-27
 - Tell the nations about Him - because he is not like their false gods...
 - The gods of the people are idols made by their hands - God made the Heavens!
 - The world looks to false answers for hope - Money / Freud / Governments...
 - But these things have not power to save them - only Jesus is the answer!
 - 5th - By giving sacrifices to the Lord... vs. 28-29
 - What does God want us to give Him - we are to give Him the glory due His name...
 - We are to give him a sacrifice - the sacrifice of living a holy life - **Romans 12:1**
 - We like to be in control - we really like to be in the driver's seat of our lives...
 - But God is asking us that we lay down our desires / dreams / ambitions...
 - A sacrifice that is holy and acceptable (*well pleasing*) to God!
 - **I Samuel 15:22** – “Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice...”
 - 6th - Then the world will tremble before the Lord... vs. 30-33
 - Because the world is firmly established - and it will not be moved...
 - God has established His plan for the world - and nothing will change it - **Matthew 5:18**
 - He is coming to judge the nations - and every knee will bow - **Philippians 2:10**

- There are only two kinds of people when it comes to God...
- Sinner who have received the free gift of salvation in Jesus - and sinners who have not...
- For those who reject Jesus - all that waits them is certain and terrifying judgment...
- **Hebrews 10:31** - "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God..."
- 7th - And give thanks to the Lord - Amen... vs. 34-36
 - Because He is good / because His mercy endures forever / because He saves us!
 - We tend to focus in life on the things we do not have – but think we need...
 - If it was a need God would provide - **Luke 12:31** - if we do not have it - do not need it!
 - We overlook the important things - the goodness of God / His mercy / His salvation...
 - God calls us to be thankful for all things - for all God has done for us - every day!
 - **I Thessalonians 5:18** - "In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God..."
- o 3rd - Where to worship God... vs. 37-42 **READ: I CHRONICLES 16:37-43**
 - David left Asaph and his brothers to minister before the Ark in Jerusalem daily...
 - It is thought that Abiathar the priest was included in this list...
 - He was the high priest there in Jerusalem - ministering before the Ark...
 - But Zadok was also high priest - he offered sacrifices at the Tabernacle in Gibeon...
 - The one that Moses had built - it was still the official location sacrifice to the Lord!
 - Then all the people departed - and David returned to bless (*worship*) at his own house!
 - So where was the best place to worship - Jerusalem / Gibeon / at home...
 - Often we assume we are blessed because of where we are...
 - We pray in a church building - because we assume God hears us better there...
 - But being blessed by God has nothing to do with our location...
 - God blesses us because we chose to worship / live as a sacrifice / and obey His Word!