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 to 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 minster 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!