I Chronicles 18-20

Review…

- **An Everlasting Kingdom…**
  - David wanted to build a Temple for God…
    - The Ark was lying in a simple tent - it just did not seem right – God needed a better house!
    - Nathan encouraged David to do all that was in his heart – God was with him…
    - But that night the Lord told Nathan he was wrong – God did not need a house!
    - From the day God brought Israel out of Egypt – He never had a house…
    - He had commanded Moses to build the Tabernacle – a tent!
  - God called David to lead Israel when he was just a simple shepherd boy…
    - God had been with David every step of the way – destroyed all his enemies…
    - And God would make David famous throughout the whole earth!
    - When David died – his son would become the next King of Israel - Solomon!
    - And although David could not build the Temple because of the wars he fought…
    - God promised to allow Solomon to fulfill the plan of David – build the Temple!
    - And God would give David an EVERLASTING dynasty – referring to Jesus Christ!
  - David thought he was going to do something great for God…
    - But He realized he had done nothing – God was the one who had done it all!
    - David came to the Lord with his idea – build a temple for God…
    - But God had an even better idea – build a house for David!

Get ready for the Battles… (*3 things*)

- **1st – Victory on all sides… vs. 1-17** Read: I Chronicles 18:1-17
  - 1st - David had just had a mountain top experience…
    - And as so often is the case – immediately afterwards came the battles…
    - David went to battle against 4 different nations – from every side!
    - Philistines to the east / Moab to the west / Syria to the North / and Edom to the South!
    - When we step out to serve / live for the Lord – get ready – it means the battle is coming…
    - **John 16:33** – "In the world you will have tribulation…"

- God will allow us - bring us into trials so that we learn the most important lesson…
- We must learn not to trust in ourselves! Instead we learn to trust in God!
- We want God to use us – we want to draw closer to the Lord - but…
- Often we will find that before God a work through us – He first does one in us!
- So do not be surprised if you ask God to use you - only to find you are in a trial!
- **I Peter 4:12** – "Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you."

o 2nd – David conquered the city of capitol city of Gath from the Philistines… vs. 1

- Saul had failed to conquer the Philistines – and in the end been destroyed by them…
- But David sought God first – Ark in Jerusalem / House for God…
- And so he was able to finally defeat the mortal enemy of Israel – the Philistines!
- It brought peace to the Eastern border of Israel!
- We must learn to put God first – then everything else will fall into place!
- Victory over sin in life does not come from what we do – but who we know!
- **I John 4:4** – "He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world."

o 3rd - David conquered the land of Moab… vs. 2

- Bringing peace to the Western border of Israel…
  - David had all the people of Moab lie down on the ground in rows – **II Samuel 8:2**
  - He then 'measured' out two groups to be put to death – one group to be spared…
  - Killing $^{2}/_{3}$ of a nation seems harsh – Jewish writings give us some insight…
  - David left his Father and Mother in Moab for protection – **I Samuel 22:3**
  - His grandmother Ruth was from Moab – so they would be safe there from Saul…
  - But tradition says the Moabites betrayed David and murdered his parents!
- The Kings harsh treatment – was reprisal for his the death of his family…
  - Yet the whole nation was not responsible for their deaths – David overreacted!
  - **Proverbs 11:17** – "The merciful man does good for his own soul, But *he who is* cruel troubles his own flesh."
  - Anger/ bitterness / cruelty are like a cancer in your soul – they eat you up inside…
  - Jesus calls us to forgive others – vengeance is the Lords – **Romans 12:19-21**

o 4th - David conquered Hadadezer – the king of Syria (*Zobah*)… vs. 3-6

- Hadadezer wanted to conquer the area near the Euphrates River…
  - But instead David captured 1000 chariots / 7000 horsemen / and 20,000 foot soldiers…
  - David then crippled all but 100 of the horses – rendering them useless in battle!
- The Syrians of Damascus came to help…

- David was able to kill 22,000 of them – and set up fortresses in Damascus!
- Forcing the inhabitants of Syria to pay yearly tribute to Israel!
- It brought peace to the Northern border of Israel!

- The decision to cripple the horses seems like a bad one…
  - It would have been wiser to keep the horses and add them to Israel's army…
  - But David was following the command – **Deuteronomy 17** – 'Do not add horses'…
  - Because God did not want Israel to trust in the power/wealth of this world!
  - Did you ever wonder since God can do anything – why does he not make us all rich!
  - One of my favorite movies is 'Fiddler on a roof' – the story of poor Russian Jews…
  - In the on of the prayers of Tevye he says – 'O dear Lord. You made many many poor people. I realize of course it is no shame to be poor... but it is no great honor either. So what would be so terrible... if I had a small fortune?'
  - When we are lacking - we often pray for God to provide for our needs...
  - But suppose God gave us ten million dollars - what would it do to our prayer life...
  - The reality is if there is not a need - we rarely take the time to seek the Lord...
  - The easier life becomes - the harder it is for us to depend on the Jesus!

- 5th - David took plunder from each of his victories… vs. 7-11
  - David took the gold shields from the officers of Hadadezer…
    - He also took a large amount of bronze from the cities of Syria…
    - When the king Tou of Hamath (*North of Syria*) heard David had defeated Hadadezer…
    - He sent David silver / gold / and Bronze – because Hadadezer was his enemy!
    - David also took silver and gold from the Philistines / Moabites / and Edomites…
    - So not only was David successful in whatever he did – he became VERY wealthy!
  - David dedicated all of it to the Lord…
    - David did not use the wealth for himself – he set it aside for the Temple - **I Kings 7:51**
    - When we put the Lord first – we will find the Lord blesses us…
    - But the question is what do we do with those blessings…
    - The story of William Colgate is an interesting one - he formed the 'Colgate' company
    - From his earliest days he gave 10% of all he earned to the Lord..
    - As the Lord blessed his company - he began to give 20/ 30 / finally 50% to God...
    - We cannot out give God - He will always bless far beyond what we give to Him...
    - But if we try and keep all my money/time for myself - we always seem to be lacking!
    - **Luke 6:38** – "Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.".
- 6th – Abishai (*brother of Joab*) killed 18,000 Edomites in the 'Valley of Salt'… vs. 12-17
  - The battles David fought were not just against strangers - they were with family…
    - Edom (*red*) was the 'brother' of Israel - the descendants of Esau - son of Isaac...
    - Moab and Ammon were the descendants of Lot - the nephew of Abraham…
    - Both nations were the result of an incestuous relationship - **Genesis 19:37-38**
    - All 3 nations were 'family' - whom you would assume would have stood with Israel!
  - We expect family to understand - be accepting of us...
    - But the Gospel of Jesus does not always bring people together - it can also divide...

- **Matthew 10:34** - "Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword."
- Jesus came to bring peace between God and fallen sinful world - but with a sword…
- The sword that Jesus brought was the cross – through it he defeated satan and death...
- And to this day the Gospel message sill comes across as a sword – causing division…
- The reason is the Gospel leaves no middle ground – it causes you to make a stand…
- **Luke 11:23** – "He who is not with Me is against Me…"
- The Gospel makes you either stand for Jesus – or against Him – it divides
- There is no middle ground – no grey – if you are not for Him then you're against Him

▪ The defeat of Edom brought peace to the Southern border of Israel…

- So David reigned over all of Israel – with peace on all 4 borders…
- David was successful – because he did not trust in men!
- **Psalm 60:1, 11-12** – "A Psalm of David… When he fought against Syria… returned and killed twelve thousand Edomites in the Valley of Salt… the help of man *is* useless. Through God we will do valiantly, for *it is* He *who* shall tread down our enemies."
- If we want to have peace all around – we must learn 'man is useless'…
- Although it is easer to trust in someone we can touch and see - then to trust in God...
- If we trust in people – we are guaranteed to be disappointed – they will fail us…
- The only way to have victory over sin / peace in life – is to trust completely in the Lord!

- **2ND - MAKING ASUMPTIONS… VS. 1-19** READ: I CHRONICLES 19:1-19
  - 1st - King Nahash of Ammon died – David wanted to send his condolences for the loss…vs. 1-3

▪ He had been a good friend to David – perhaps helping him when he hid from Saul…

- So he sent ambassadors to his son Hanun to comfort him…
- But the advisors of Hanun were suspicious of David…
- David had conquered all the nations surrounding Israel – they thought they were next…
- They warned the king the ambassadors were not there to comfort – but to spy!

▪ People tend to make assumption about others...

- A lot of times we get into trouble because we rush to a conclusion…
- Or we listen to the 'counsel' of others who make false assumptions…
- The problem is only the Lord can see the heart – so we need to be careful!

  - 2nd - The new king shaved the ambassador's beards / cut their robes… vs. 4-8

▪ In Jewish culture – the beard is sacred / never to be cut – **Leviticus 19:27**

- So the men were humiliated with ½ a beard – clothes cut to show their underwear!
- The ambassadors were so humiliated they refused to come back to Jerusalem…
- David had them stay in Jericho to wait until their beards grew back…
- Making assumptions about the men – caused them to treat them unfairly!
- **James 2:3-4** – "If you give special attention and a good seat to the rich person, but you say to the poor one, "You can stand over there, or else sit on the floor"—well, doesn't this discrimination show that you are guided by wrong motives?"
- We judge people by the outside - then act on that limited information…
- And in doing so we end up saying / doing things that will come back to haunt us!

▪ The people of Ammon saw they had REALLY upset King David…

- So they hired an army to prepare for the coming war…

- 32,000 chariots from Maachah - mercenaries from Syria / Mesopotamia …
- When David found out he sent Joab will the whole army to fight them…
- The assumptions of Ammon had turned comfort to war…
- That is the problem with making assumptions – is it turns friends into enemies…
- There is no faster way to ruin a friendship – than by making assumptions!
- Better to think the best of others – do not assume their intentions...
- Then people will also think the best of our motives and us!
- **Luke 6:27** - "Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn others, or it will all come back against you. Forgive others, and you will be forgiven."

○ 3rd - The battle began at the Ammonite city of Medeba… vs. 9-19

▪ Joab was immediately faced with huge problem – there were two armies to fight…

- The Ammonites attacked from the city / the mercenaries from the fields…
- So Joab fought the mercenaries - his younger brother Abishai attacked the city…
- If either group began to lose their battle – the other would come to help them!
- The mercenaries quickly abandoned the battle – money was not worth dying for…
- When the Ammonites saw their mercenary army running away…
- They quickly ran to hide behind the walls of their city – and barred the gates!

▪ The Syrian mercenaries were bitter about their defeat…

- They brought reinforcements from beyond the Euphrates River…
- King Hadadezer – the same king David had defeated earlier – sent his army…
- King David mobilized all of Israel – and personally marched out to war…
- And David defeated them - killing 7,000 charioteers / and 40,000 of their soldiers…
- The kings of Syria paid tribute to Israel – and were afraid to help Ammon again!

▪ This was not Syria's war – it started with Ammon…

- But they chose to take a side – and as a result got pulled into the battle…
- When there is a division among our friends / family – we tend to choose sides…
- We usually only listen to one side of the story – then attack the other person…
- Rather than taking sides – and adding to the problem…
- Take the time to listen to both sides of the argument…
- **Proverbs 18:17** - "Any story sounds true until someone sets the record straight."
- Then rather than taking sides – point both people to Jesus!

- **3rd – The sin of David… vs. 1-8** Read: I Chronicles 20:1-8

○ 1st - Being in the wrong place… vs. 1-3

▪ The following spring – David was at his palace…

- It was the time of year when Kings go out to war – but David was taking it easy…
- Instead he sent Joab to finish off the Ammonites – conquer their city…
- Missing from the account in **I Chronicles** is the sin of David with Bathsheba…
- As well as his efforts to hide the sin - including the murder of Uriah the Hittite…
- David sinned because he was not were he was supposed to be – and it cost him!

▪ The best solution to sin – is to avoid it…

- If you are tempted to sin – if you think you will compromise - run away!

- Be accountable – do not trust yourself – because given the chance – you will likely fall!

- About a year later - after David had repented - Joab conquered the capitol of Ammon…
  - He called for David so that he would receive the credit for the conquest of the city…
  - So David conquered the city – and made slaves out of people of Ammon…
  - In the end – God restored honor to David – and gave him the victory!
  - Sin separates us from God – but the Holy Spirit convicts us of sin to restore us...
  - And when we repent and turn to the Lord - there is forgiveness and restoration!
  - Condemnation is when we dwell on our mistake - we know we messed up...
  - Instead of keeping our eyes on Jesus - we focus on ourselves - and sink into despair…
  - Conviction draws us closer to God - condemnation pulls us away from Him!
  - Once there is repentance – God forgets the sin - **Psalms 103:12** – so should we!

- 2nd - The giants of the Philistines… vs. 4-8

  - Once again Israel went to war with the Philistines…
    - It is worth noting that the sin of David's son Amnon (*the rape of his half sister Tamar*)…
    - The rebellion of Absalom - which led to civil war in Israel - had already taken place…
    - But they not recorded / mentioned in the book of I Chronicles

  - David had defeated the Philistines…
    - But as a result of his sin - the Philistines were allowed to rebel and bring war again!
    - And every time they had a giant – they became bold and attacked - **II Samuel 21:15-17**
    - Sippai - the son of the Giant / Lahmi the brother of Goliath (*Jr. - son of Goliath Sr.)*…
    - Another had 6 fingers and 6 toes – all of them were the sons of Goliath…
    - But David and his mighty warriors killed all of them!

  - Satan is a defeated foe – God conquered him on the cross of Calvary…
    - But that does not mean satan does not like to rebel – and cause problems…
    - He likes to send giants into our lives – HUGE problems to try and distract us…
    - But as we keep our eyes on Jesus – no matter how big they are – they fall down!