

Making Promises

Part 6: The Kingdom



Review

- The book of 1 Chronicles is a parallel account of Israel's history. The purpose of the book is to record the history of Israel from the viewpoint of the Davidic dynasty. It is a history that avoids repetition of certain facts already well known through 2 Samuel but retells or amplifies events in David's life and career that are essential to the Chronicler's own purposes.
- After the death of Ish-bosheth, David became king over all Israel, as the tribes of Israel (that is, the tribes other than Judah) came to David at Hebron and claimed him as a kinsman. The need to face up to reality led David to relocate the capital shortly after his coronation.
- Once he had conquered, David got to work on various building projects. He built up all around the stronghold from the Millo and inward, and David also built himself a house of cedar and stone.

David's Kingdom

- David pushes back against a Philistine offensive after **twice consulting** the Lord, and strikes down the Philistines (**2 Sam. 5:17-25**).
 - ▶ As the Philistines fled before the Lord, they **left** their **idols** behind (**v. 21**). The verb "abandoned" is 'azab and the word for "idol" is 'atsab. Thus, there is a **pun** on "abandonment" and "idol." The Philistines abandoned their idols on the field, but this revealed the nature of idols, namely, that they abandon their worshipers when they come face-to-face with the "master of the breakthrough."
 - ▶ In spite of their loss, the Philistines tried again, but this time David was to circle around behind the Philistines. David was to wait for **Yahweh to go before him**. The sound of marching in the tops of the shrubs was the signal for David to attack, because it was the sign that **the Lord's army** had marched out before the armies of Israel.
 - ▶ These are apparently the first battles with the Philistines since the **death of Saul** more than seven years before. As long as David was occupied

fighting Ish-bosheth, the Philistines remained **securely in control** of Israelite territories. But an Israel united under David was a threat and they launched a preemptive strike.

- ▶ Interestingly, in the battle with the Jebusites over Jerusalem, David did not **inquire of the Lord**. Instead, the victory was David's (and Joab's, according to 1 Chr.), and David's **house** was built immediately thereafter.
 - ◆ When David fought the Philistines, by contrast, the Lord not only directed David to fight but also **marched before** David. Yahweh was the victor of these battles with the Philistines, and it was therefore appropriate for David to think immediately about **building a house for Yahweh**.

The Ark

- David has arranged for the ark of the covenant to be taken from **Kiriath-Jearim** (Baale-judah), where it was last seen, to Jerusalem where the tabernacle would be (**Josh. 15:9–10; 1 Sam. 7:1**). The ark, being transported on an ox cart, and along the way it begins to fall. A **Kohathite** priest named Uzzah reaches out to stabilize the cart and the Lord kills him instantly (**2 Sam. 6:1-11**).
 - ▶ So closely was the ark identified with **Yahweh's presence** that when the ark set out to lead Israel Moses would say, 'Advance, O Lord!' and when the ark was put down in the next camping spot, he would exclaim, 'Return, O Lord!' (**Num. 10:35-36**)
 - ▶ Yahweh had long ago given specific instructions to Moses and the priesthood about how the ark, among other items, was to be transported (**Num. 4:4–6, 15, 17–20; 7:9**). The Kohathites could not **touch it, look at it**, and they must **carry it**, lest they die.
 - ▶ This event is also serving as a valuable warning that the author makes clear (**2 Sam. 6:8; 5:20**): Yahweh may **break out** against the Philistines—or Israel. God's **lethal holiness** levels both pagans and churchmen. You dare not trifle with a God who is both real and holy. Yahweh is not your neat, warm, fuzzy friend in the sky. (**SPROUL QUOTE**)
- Initially David was petrified over the Lord's dealing with Uzzah, so he placed the ark in the home of Obed-edom. But then Yahweh makes clear that his true intent is to **bless** not **destroy** his people via the ark (**2 Sam. 6:12-15**).
 - ▶ This time however, as verse 13 indicates, the Israelites were sure **to carry** the ark as God had commanded from the beginning. The ark is then received with **joy**.
 - ▶ Fearfulness and gladness are held together. In Yahweh's presence you should both **shudder** and **dance**!

Part 6: The Kingdom

<p>2 Samuel 5:17–25</p>	<p>17 When the Philistines heard that David had been anointed king over Israel, all the Philistines went up to search for David. But David heard of it and went down to the stronghold. 18 Now the Philistines had come and spread out in the Valley of Rephaim. 19 And David inquired of the Lord, "Shall I go up against the Philistines? Will you give them into my hand?" And the Lord said to David, "Go up, for I will certainly give the Philistines into your hand." 20 And David came to Baal-perazim, and David defeated them there. And he said, "The Lord has broken through my enemies before me like a breaking flood." Therefore the name of that place is called Baal-perazim. 21 And the Philistines left their idols there, and David and his men carried them away. 22 And the Philistines came up yet again and spread out in the Valley of Rephaim. 23 And when David inquired of the Lord, he said, "You shall not go up; go around to their rear, and come against them opposite the balsam trees. 24 And when you hear the sound of marching in the tops of the balsam trees, then rouse yourself, for then the Lord has gone out before you to strike down the army of the Philistines." 25 And David did as the Lord commanded him, and struck down the Philistines from Geba to Gezer.</p>
<p>Joshua 15:9–10</p>	<p>9 Then the boundary extends from the top of the mountain to the spring of the waters of Nephtoah, and from there to the cities of Mount Ephron. Then the boundary bends around to Baalah (that is, Kiriath-jearim). 10 And the boundary circles west of Baalah to Mount Seir, passes along to the northern shoulder of Mount Jearim (that is, Chesalon), and goes down to Beth-shemesh and passes along by Timnah.</p>
<p>1 Samuel 7:1</p>	<p>And the men of Kiriath-jearim came and took up the ark of the Lord and brought it to the house of Abinadab on the hill. And they consecrated his son Eleazar to have charge of the ark of the Lord.</p>
<p>2 Samuel 6:1–11</p>	<p>1 David again gathered all the chosen men of Israel, thirty thousand. 2 And David arose and went with all the people who were with him from Baale-judah to bring up from there the ark of God, which is called by the name of the Lord of hosts who sits enthroned on the cherubim. 3 And they carried the ark of God on a new cart and brought it out of the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill. And Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, were driving the new cart, 4 with the ark of God, and Ahio went before the ark. 5 And David and all the house of Israel were celebrating before the Lord, with songs and lyres and harps and tambourines and castanets and cymbals. 6 And when they came to the threshing floor of Nacon, Uzzah put out his hand to the ark of God and took hold of it, for the oxen stumbled. 7 And the anger of the Lord was kindled against Uzzah, and God struck him down there because of his error, and he died there beside the ark of God. 8 And David was angry because the Lord had broken out against Uzzah. And that place is called Perez-uzzah to this day. 9 And David was afraid of the Lord that day, and he said, "How can the ark of the Lord come to me?" 10 So David was not willing to take the ark of the Lord into the city of David. But David took it aside to the house of Obed-edom the Gittite. 11 And the ark of the Lord remained in the house of Obed-edom the Gittite three months, and the Lord blessed Obed-edom and all his household.</p>
<p>Numbers 10:35–36</p>	<p>35 And whenever the ark set out, Moses said, "Arise, O Lord, and let your enemies be scattered, and let those who hate you flee before you." 36 And when it rested, he said, "Return, O Lord, to the ten thousand thousands of Israel."</p>

<p>Numbers 4:4-6</p>	<p>4 This is the service of the sons of Kohath in the tent of meeting: the most holy things. 5 When the camp is to set out, Aaron and his sons shall go in and take down the veil of the screen and cover the ark of the testimony with it. 6 Then they shall put on it a covering of goatskin and spread on top of that a cloth all of blue, and shall put in its poles.</p>
<p>Numbers 4:15</p>	<p>And when Aaron and his sons have finished covering the sanctuary and all the furnishings of the sanctuary, as the camp sets out, after that the sons of Kohath shall come to carry these, but they must not touch the holy things, lest they die. These are the things of the tent of meeting that the sons of Kohath are to carry.</p>
<p>Numbers 4:17-20</p>	<p>17 The Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying, 18 "Let not the tribe of the clans of the Kohathites be destroyed from among the Levites, 19 but deal thus with them, that they may live and not die when they come near to the most holy things: Aaron and his sons shall go in and appoint them each to his task and to his burden, 20 but they shall not go in to look on the holy things even for a moment, lest they die."</p>
<p>Numbers 7:9</p>	<p>But to the sons of Kohath he gave none, because they were charged with the service of the holy things that had to be carried on the shoulder.</p>
<p>2 Samuel 6:8</p>	<p>And David was angry because the Lord had broken out against Uzzah. And that place is called Perez-uzzah to this day.</p>
<p>2 Samuel 5:20</p>	<p>And David came to Baal-perazim, and David defeated them there. And he said, "The Lord has broken through my enemies before me like a breaking flood." Therefore the name of that place is called Baal-perazim.</p>
<p>2 Samuel 6:12-15</p>	<p>12 And it was told King David, "The Lord has blessed the household of Obed-edom and all that belongs to him, because of the ark of God." So David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-edom to the city of David with rejoicing. 13 And when those who bore the ark of the Lord had gone six steps, he sacrificed an ox and a fattened animal. 14 And David danced before the Lord with all his might. And David was wearing a linen ephod. 15 So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the Lord with shouting and with the sound of the horn.</p>