

# Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 64 – Joab Heads Into Battle Through David’s Death – (I Chronicles 20-29)

1. Were the children of Ammon treated lightly by Joab and David?

- No, not at all: “(1) And it came to pass, that after the year was expired, at the time that kings go out to battle, Joab led forth the power of the army, and wasted the country of the children of Ammon, and came and besieged Rabbah. But David tarried at Jerusalem. And Joab smote Rabbah, and destroyed it. (2) And David took the crown of their king from off his head, and found it to weigh a talent of gold, and there were precious stones in it; and it was set upon David's head: and he brought also exceeding much spoil out of the city. (3) And he brought out the people that were in it, and cut them with saws, and with harrows of iron, and with axes. Even so dealt David with all the cities of the children of Ammon. And David and all the people returned to Jerusalem” (I Chronicles 20:1-3).

2. What happens to the descendants of Goliath?

- Yes: “(4) And it came to pass after this, that there arose war at Gezer with the Philistines; at which time Sibbechai the Hushathite slew Sippai, that was of the children of the giant: and they were subdued. (5) And there was war again with the Philistines; and Elhanan the son of Jair slew Lahmi the brother of Goliath the Gittite, whose spear staff was like a weaver's beam. (6) And yet again there was war at Gath, where was a man of great stature, whose fingers and toes were four and twenty, six on each hand, and six on each foot: and he also was the son of the giant. (7) But when he defied Israel, Jonathan the son of Shimea David's brother slew him. (8) These were born unto the giant in Gath; and they fell by the hand of David, and by the hand of his servants” (I Chronicles 20:4-8).

3. Who tempted David to number Israel?

- Satan (I Chronicles 21:1) with God’s permission (II Samuel 24:1; cf. Job 1:12; 2:6, James 1:13-16, and I Corinthians 10:13).

4. Who tried to stop David from erring in the numbering of Israel?

- Joab: “(2) And David said to Joab and to the rulers of the people, Go, number Israel from Beer-sheba even to Dan; and bring the number of them to me, that I may know it. (3) And Joab answered, The LORD make his people an hundred times so many more as they be: but, my lord the king, are they not all my lord's servants? why then doth my lord require this thing? why will he be a cause of trespass to Israel? (4) Nevertheless the king's word prevailed against Joab. Wherefore Joab departed, and went throughout all Israel, and came to Jerusalem” (I Chronicles 21:2-4; cf. II Samuel 24:3-4).

5. Why weren't Levi and Benjamin counted?

- “(5) And Joab gave the sum of the number of the people unto David. And all they of Israel were a thousand thousand and an hundred thousand men that drew sword: and Judah was four hundred threescore and ten thousand men that drew sword. (6) But Levi and Benjamin counted he not among them: for the king's word was abominable to Joab” (I Chronicles 21:5-6).
- Levi would normally not be counted anyway (Numbers 1:47-49).

6. What was God's reaction to the numbering of Israel?
  - *"And God was displeased with this thing; therefore he smote Israel" (I Chronicles 21:7).*
  - When there is a numbering of Israel, it has to be according to God's will (Numbers 3:42)
  
7. Did David ever see the error of his sinful action in numbering Israel?
  - Yes: *"And David said unto God, I have sinned greatly, because I have done this thing: but now, I beseech thee, do away the iniquity of thy servant; for I have done very foolishly" (I Chronicles 21:8).*
  - Cf. *"And David's heart smote him after that he had numbered the people {cf. Acts 13:22}. And David said unto the LORD, I have sinned greatly in that I have done: and now, I beseech thee, O LORD, take away the iniquity of thy servant; for I have done very foolishly" (II Samuel 24:10).*
  
8. What message was Gad instructed to deliver unto David?
  - *"(9) And the LORD spake unto Gad, David's seer, saying, (10) Go and tell David, saying, Thus saith the LORD, I offer thee three things: choose thee one of them, that I may do it unto thee. (11) So Gad came to David, and said unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Choose thee (12) Either three years' famine; or three months to be destroyed before thy foes, while that the sword of thine enemies overtaketh thee; or else three days the sword of the LORD, even the pestilence, in the land, and the angel of the LORD destroying throughout all the coasts of Israel. Now therefore advise thyself what word I shall bring again to him that sent me" (I Chronicles 21:9-12).*
  
9. How able was David to answer the choices set before him?
  - He was not able to: *"And David said unto Gad, I am in a great strait: let me fall now into the hand of the LORD; for very great are his mercies: but let me not fall into the hand of man" (I Chronicles 21:13).*
  
10. What did God choose to do as punishment for David numbering Israel?
  - *"(14) So the LORD sent pestilence upon Israel: and there fell of Israel seventy thousand men. (15) And God sent an angel unto Jerusalem to destroy it: and as he was destroying, the LORD beheld, and he repented him of the evil, and said to the angel that destroyed, It is enough, stay now thine hand. And the angel of the LORD stood by the threshingfloor of Ornan the Jebusite. (16) And David lifted up his eyes, and saw the angel of the LORD stand between the earth and the heaven, having a drawn sword in his hand stretched out over Jerusalem. Then David and the elders of Israel, who were clothed in sackcloth, fell upon their faces. (17) And David said unto God, Is it not I that commanded the people to be numbered? even I it is that have sinned and done evil indeed; but as for these sheep, what have they done? let thine hand, I pray thee, O LORD my God, be on me, and on my father's house; but not on thy people, that they should be plagued" (I Chronicles 21:14-17).*
  - David seems ignorant to the FACT that the people often fall with their leaders (Isaiah 9:16 and Matthew 15:14).

11. What happens when David goes to set up an altar to the Lord?

- “(18) Then the angel of the LORD commanded Gad to say to David, that David should go up, and set up an altar unto the LORD in the threshingfloor of Ornan the Jebusite. (19) And David went up at the saying of Gad, which he spake in the name of the LORD. (20) And Ornan turned back, and saw the angel; and his four sons with him hid themselves. Now Ornan was threshing wheat. (21) And as David came to Ornan, Ornan looked and saw David, and went out of the threshingfloor, and bowed himself to David with his face to the ground. (22) Then David said to Ornan, Grant me the place of this threshingfloor, that I may build an altar therein unto the LORD: thou shalt grant it me for the full price: that the plague may be stayed from the people. (23) And Ornan said unto David, Take it to thee, and let my lord the king do that which is good in his eyes: lo, I give thee the oxen also for burnt offerings, and the threshing instruments for wood, and the wheat for the meat offering; I give it all. (24) And king David said to Ornan, Nay; but I will verily buy it for the full price: for **I will not take that which is thine for the LORD, nor offer burnt offerings without cost.** (25) So David gave to Ornan for the place six hundred shekels of gold by weight. (26) And David built there an altar unto the LORD, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings, and called upon the LORD; and he answered him from heaven by fire upon the altar of burnt offering. (27) And the LORD commanded the angel; and he put up his sword again into the sheath thereof” (I Chronicles 21:18-27).

12. What was David fearful of that kept him from going to enquire of God at the altar in Gibeon?

- “(28) At that time when David saw that the LORD had answered him in the threshingfloor of Ornan the Jebusite, then he sacrificed there. (29) For the tabernacle of the LORD, which Moses made in the wilderness, and the altar of the burnt offering, were at that season in the high place at Gibeon. (30) **But David could not go before it to enquire of God: for he was afraid because of the sword of the angel of the LORD**” (I Chronicles 21:28-30).

13. Before David’s death, what did he abundantly make preparations for?

- “(1) Then David said, This is **the house of the LORD God**, and this is the altar of the burnt offering for Israel. (2) And David commanded to gather together the strangers that were in the land of Israel; and he set masons to hew wrought stones to build the house of God. (3) And David prepared iron in abundance for the nails for the doors of the gates, and for the joinings; and brass in abundance without weight; (4) Also cedar trees in abundance: for the Zidonians and they of Tyre brought much cedar wood to David. (5) And David said, Solomon my son is young and tender, and the house that is to be builded for the LORD must be exceeding magnifical, of fame and of glory throughout all countries: I will therefore now make preparation for it. So David prepared abundantly before his death” (I Chronicles 22:1-5).
- We later read how much that David used all his might in preparing for the temple to be built by Solomon (I Chronicles 29:2-5).

14. What did David tell Solomon concerning the house of God?

- “(6) Then he called for Solomon his son, and charged him to build an house for the LORD God of Israel. (7) And David said to Solomon, My son, as for me, it was in my mind to build an house unto the name of the LORD my God: (8) But the word of the LORD came to me, saying, Thou hast shed blood abundantly, and hast made great wars: thou shalt not build an house unto my name, because thou hast shed much blood upon the earth in my sight. (9) Behold, a son shall be born to thee, who shall be a man of rest; and I will give him rest from all his enemies round about: for his name shall be Solomon, and I will give peace and quietness unto Israel in his days. (10) He shall build an house for my name; and he shall be my son, and I will be his father; and I will establish the throne of his kingdom over Israel for ever. (11) Now, my son, the LORD be with thee; and prosper thou, and build the house of the LORD thy God, as he hath said of thee. (12) Only the LORD give thee wisdom and understanding, and give thee charge concerning Israel, that thou mayest keep the law of the LORD thy God. (13) **Then shalt thou prosper, if thou takest heed to fulfil the statutes and judgments which the LORD charged Moses with concerning Israel: be strong, and of good courage; dread not, nor be dismayed.** (14) Now, behold, in my trouble I have prepared for the house of the LORD an hundred thousand talents of gold, and a thousand thousand talents of silver; and of brass and iron without weight; for it is in abundance: timber also and stone have I prepared; and thou mayest add thereto. (15) **Moreover there are workmen with thee in abundance,** hewers and workers of stone and timber, and all manner of cunning men for every manner of work. (16) Of the gold, the silver, and the brass, and the iron, there is no number. Arise therefore, and be doing, and the LORD be with thee” (I Chronicles 22:6-16).
- We later see again that David assembled all the princes of Israel, the princes of the tribes, and the captains of the companies that ministered to the king by course, and the captains over the thousands, and captains over the hundreds, and the stewards over all the substance and possession of the king, and of his sons, with the officers, and with the mighty men, and with all the valiant men, unto Jerusalem. He tells them what he told Solomon here, that he could not build God a house because of the blood on his hands (I Chronicles 28:1-8).

15. What did David say to all the princes of Israel?

- “(17) David also commanded all the princes of Israel to help Solomon his son, saying, (18) **Is not the LORD your God with you?** and hath he not given you rest on every side? for he hath given the inhabitants of the land into mine hand; and the land is subdued before the LORD, and before his people. (19) **Now set your heart and your soul to seek the LORD your God; arise therefore, and build ye the sanctuary of the LORD God, to bring the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and the holy vessels of God, into the house that is to be built to the name of the LORD”** (I Chronicles 22:17-19).

16. What were the Levites no longer required to carry since there was a rest for God’s people?

- The tabernacle nor any vessels of it for the service thereof (I Chronicles 23:25-26).

17. Were the Levites still expected to carry out their remaining duties as instructed in the days of Aaron?

- Yes, (I Chronicles 23:13; 24:19).

18. What happened to Nadab and Abihu (recall why from our past studies)?
- They died (**I Chronicles 24:1-2**) as punishment for their error in worship to God (**Leviticus 10:1-2** and **Numbers 3:3-4**).
19. Was there preference of age or anything else in the casting of lots for duties?
- NO: “*These likewise cast lots over against their brethren the sons of Aaron in the presence of David the king, and Zadok, and Ahimelech, and the chief of the fathers of the priests and Levites, even the principal fathers over against [even as; ASV 1901; just as; NKJV] their younger brethren... And they cast lots, ward against ward, as well the small as the great, the teacher as the scholar... And they cast lots, as well the small as the great, according to the house of their fathers, for every gate*” (**I Chronicles 24:31; 25:8; 26:13**).
  - Equality, even with different duties and abilities, among the saints is important today as well (**Romans 12:4-5**, **I Corinthians 12:25**, and **I Peter 5:5**).
20. Were musical instruments used in prophesying?
- Yes, 288 were appointed to do so (**I Chronicles 25:1-7**).
  - This shows music [vocal in N.T.] is used in teaching (**Colossians 3:16**).
21. Was there a treasury of the house of God under the Old Law?
- Yes, (**I Chronicles 26:20**; cf. **Joshua 6:19; 24**, **I Chronicles 9:26; 28:11-12**, and **Mark 12:41**).
22. What was done for the Reubenites, the Gadites, and the half tribe of Manasseh?
- Rulers were appointed over them for every matter pertaining to God and affairs of the king (**I Chronicles 26:32**).
  - This had to be done since the Reubenites, the Gadites, and the half tribe of Manasseh stayed on the other side of the Jordan (**Joshua 22:1-6** and **I Chronicles 12:37**).
23. Why didn't David call those under twenty years of age into his service?
- “*But David took not the number of them from twenty years old and under: because the LORD had said he would increase Israel like to the stars of the heavens*” (**I Chronicles 27:23**).
24. What did David tell Solomon about serving God with his heart?
- “*And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the LORD searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: if thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever*” (**I Chronicles 28:9**).
25. Who gave Solomon the pattern to build the Lord's house?
- “(11) Then *David gave to Solomon his son the pattern of the porch*, and of the houses thereof, and of the treasuries thereof, and of the upper chambers thereof, and of the inner parlours thereof, and of the place of the mercy seat, (12) And *the pattern of all that he had by the spirit*, of the courts of the house of the LORD, and of all the chambers round



about, of the treasures of the house of God, and of the treasures of the dedicated things: (13) Also for the courses of the priests and the Levites, and for all the work of the service of the house of the LORD, and for all the vessels of service in the house of the LORD...

(19) *All this, said David, the LORD made me understand in writing by his hand upon me, even all the works of this pattern.* (20) And David said to Solomon his son, Be strong and of good courage, and do it: fear not, nor be dismayed: for the LORD God, even my God, will be with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee, until thou hast finished all the work for the service of the house of the LORD” (I Chronicles 28:11-13; 19-20).

- The pattern always has been and will be necessary to follow in building the Lord’s house (Exodus 25:9; 40, Joshua 22:28, and II Timothy 1:13).

26. Who had the ultimate choice of Solomon being the king in Israel?

- God did (I Chronicles 29:1).
- Notice the interesting wording of this passage: “Furthermore David the king said unto all the congregation, Solomon my son, whom alone God hath chosen, is yet young and tender, and the work is great: *for the palace is not for man, but for the LORD God.*”

27. Was the giving of the gold, silver, etc. for the temple done willingly by the people?

- Yes: “(6) Then the chief of the fathers and princes of the tribes of Israel, and the captains of thousands and of hundreds, with the rulers of the king's work, *offered willingly,* (7) And gave for the service of the house of God of gold five thousand talents and ten thousand drams, and of silver ten thousand talents, and of brass eighteen thousand talents, and one hundred thousand talents of iron. (8) And they with whom precious stones were found gave them to the treasure of the house of the LORD, by the hand of Jehiel the Gershonite. (9) Then the people rejoiced, for that *they offered willingly, because with perfect heart they offered willingly to the LORD:* and David the king also rejoiced with great joy” (I Chronicles 29:6-9).
- This must ring true of our own giving today (II Corinthians 9:6-7).

28. What are some things that David said in his public prayer?

- “(10) Wherefore David blessed the LORD before all the congregation: and David said, *Blessed be thou, LORD God of Israel our father, for ever and ever.* (11) Thine, O LORD, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: *for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O LORD, and thou art exalted as head above all.* (12) *Both riches and honour come of thee,* and thou reignest over all; and in thine hand is power and might; and in thine hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all. (13) Now therefore, our God, *we thank thee, and praise thy glorious name.* (14) But *who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly after this sort? for all things come of thee, and of thine own have we given thee.* (15) For we are strangers before thee, and sojourners, as were all our fathers: *our days on the earth are as a shadow, and there is none abiding.* (16) O LORD our God, *all this store that we have prepared to build thee an house for thine holy name cometh of thine hand, and is all thine own.* (17) I know also, my God, that *thou triest the heart, and hast pleasure in uprightness.* As for me, in the uprightness of mine heart I have *willingly offered all these things: and now have I seen with joy thy people,* which are present here, to offer willingly unto thee. (18) O LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and of

*Israel, our fathers, keep this for ever in the imagination of the thoughts of the heart of thy people, and prepare their heart unto thee: (19) And give unto Solomon my son a perfect heart, to keep thy commandments, thy testimonies, and thy statutes, and to do all these things, and to build the palace, for the which I have made provision” (I Chronicles 29:10-19).*

29. Did Israel willingly accept Solomon as their king?

- Yes, thanks to the Lord they did accept the rule of Solomon (**I Chronicles 29:22-25**).

30. Was David able to die in honor?

- Yes, “(26) *Thus David the son of Jesse reigned over all Israel. (27) And the time that he reigned over Israel was forty years; seven years reigned he in Hebron, and thirty and three years reigned he in Jerusalem. (28) And he died in a good old age, full of days, riches, and honour: and Solomon his son reigned in his stead. (29) Now the acts of David the king, first and last, behold, they are written in the book of Samuel the seer, and in the book of Nathan the prophet, and in the book of Gad the seer, (30) With all his reign and his might, and the times that went over him, and over Israel, and over all the kingdoms of the countries” (I Chronicles 29:26-30).*