

## 1 Chronicles Chapter 12

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V: 1 David in Ziklag: ([Map / Tel Sera](#)) David is in a compromised place, he's weary of running from Saul, he's had some close calls - and now sadly he seeks refuge in the enemies camp.

### 1 Samuel 27-28

- This is a fiery dart from the enemy, spiritual warfare - David is suddenly afraid of Saul, perhaps he's afraid that this saga will never end. This is a picture of depression, the battle ground for Christianity is almost always in the mind.

**Psalm 13:1-3**      “<sup>1</sup>How long wilt thou forget me, O Lord? For ever? How long wilt thou hide thy face from me? <sup>2</sup>How long shall I take counsel in my soul, having sorrow in my heart daily? How long shall mine enemy be exalted over me? <sup>3</sup>Consider and hear me, O Lord my God: lighten mine eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death.”

- Our enemy is always eager for us to compromise and like Achish the Philistine king of Gath, he will always receive us.
- David like us, like so many of the things that we are afraid of at times, is fearful of something that will never happen or come to pass.

**Proverbs 29:25**      “The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the Lord shall be safe.”

- Discouragement and despair are more potent enemies than Saul himself.

David being in Ziklag, he's on the wrong side of things: [Jesus said:](#)

**Matthew 12:30**      “He that is not with Me is against me; and he that gathereth not with Me scattereth abroad.”

- Achish gives David and his men the city of Ziklag (Tel Sera).
- David and his men live amongst the Philistines for 16 months.
- There is no record of David writing any Psalms during this time, a low point, a dark time for David.
- Sometimes our battles and our struggles are within the household of faith, we can get weary and worn down – and withdraw to the enemy's camp.
- Once there the attacks seem to stop, we're not being chased – all we need to do is stop going to church, pull away from fellowship, stop serving – the harassment

ceases, we isolate ourselves from our Christian friends and Satan will stop bugging you so much – but there are consequences to this as we'll see.

**Psalm 106:15** “And he gave them their request; but sent leanness into their soul.”

- David is living among the Philistines and he's adopted their tactics, he's become a bandit or a robber; he's not going to battle against the Amalekites, he's just taking their goods and covering his tracks.
- Now we have this list of men that came to David while he was in Ziklag:

V: 2-7 Skilled men of war from all the tribes, including the men of Benjamin, Saul's tribe.

V: 8 Here we read about the Gadites who were specifically singled out as experts in the art of war, David has moved on from Ziklag, out of the enemies camp onto the cave of Adullam ([Map / pictures](#)) back where he should be.

V: 9-15 More skilled men of war listed. These guys were tough and determined, crossing the Jordan River in March, when it was flooding, overflowing it's banks.

V: 16-18 Men of Benjamin and Judah

- David went out to meet them, uncertain of their intent.

“If you're with me, if you've come in peace, then our hearts shall be knitted together...”

“But if you're come out against me, then the Lord will deal with you...” - Not “I will deal with you, because I'm innocent.”

**Isaiah 54:17** “No weapon that is formed against thee will prosper...”

- This is the heritage of the children of the Lord. If you are wrongly accused, or someone comes against you wrongfully, because of your commitment to the Lord, the Lord will take care of you. The Lord will be your defense.
- It is also true that if we seek to defend ourselves, He'll let us.
- If we trust in Him, He'll take care of the situation, but if I trust in myself, then He'll let me flounder on my own.
- David was fully aware that God was his defense:

**Psalm 27:1** “The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?”

- The Spirit came upon Amasai who then affirmed that they were on his side, and that they were there to bless David and help him.
- There is the growing recognition amongst the people that God is with David, that God is blessing David, keeping him, giving him victory, and favor with the people.

V: 19-22 Looking back to the time when David was with Achish, residing in Ziklag - the Philistines were preparing to go to battle against Saul. David had aligned himself with Achish and was willing to go with him against Saul, but ultimately the Philistines didn't trust David - which I believe was really the Lord keeping David's hand from being involved in Saul's death.

- During this time men from Manasseh joined David and helped him in recovering their wives and kids, and their stuff from the Amalekites who had raided Ziklag in David's absence.
- David's "army" continued to grow until He was becoming a great host of men. Less and less a rag tag group of losers, more and more into the mighty men of valor, a fearsome fighting force.

V: 23-38 Fast forward again to those that came to David when he reigned in Hebron to make him their king. All 12 tribes (13 with Manasseh & Ephraim) are listed for a total of 359,600 men of war.

- They were all of one heart to make David king over Israel.

**Psalms 133:1** "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!"

V: 39-40 So they had a great feast together for 3 days, celebrating David's coronation, and three of the tribes, Issachar, Zebulun brought the majority of the food for the celebration.

The nation was united over a good meal:

**Acts 2:42** "And they continued steadfastly in the apostles doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers."

- We need to have more potlucks!

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## ***1 Chronicles Chapter 13***

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- Now that the nation is united under his leadership, the first thing that we read about David is that he wants to bring the presence of God back into the center of Jewish life, he wants the nation to be focused on the Lord.

This is consistent with what Jesus taught us:

**Matthew 6:33** “But seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you.”

- Wedding ceremony: pronouncement, communion, then the kiss.
  1. Their first activity as husband and wife is a spiritual activity, putting God first in their relationship, remembering Him.
  2. After communion then the kiss, the marriage built on proper priorities, spiritual things first.

V: 1-4 “David consulted”... a good leader is willing to receive counsel:

**Proverbs 11:14** “Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety.”

- Everyone seems to be in agreement on bringing the Ark of God to the capital of the nation, back to a central place of focus.
- It is again very telling that the Ark was neglected during the 40 years of Saul’s reign, he had no heart for the things of the Lord.

V: 5 David gathered all the nation together for this momentous occasion, they were going to bring the Ark from Kirjath-Jearim to Jerusalem.

([Map / pictures](#))

**History of the Ark:** [Pictures # 1](#) [# 2](#) [# 3](#)

- The Ark of the Covenant, or the Ark of the Testimony represented the presence of God in their midst, this is where the “Chabod” or the glory of God dwelled in between the cheribum.

The Ark spent:

1. 1 year at Mount Sinai.
2. 40 years wandering in the wilderness.
3. 14 years in first in Gilgal, Shechem, Bethel, and finally Gilgal during the conquest of Canaan.
4. 369 years at Shiloh.
5. 7 months in 5 Philistine cities until they couldn’t take it any more.
6. The Philistines sent the Ark to Beth-Shemesh, a Levitical city where 70,050 men were killed for looking into the ark, lifting the Mercy Seat off.
7. 70 years in the house of Abinadab in Kirjath-Jearim, in the area of Gibeah.
8. 3 months in the house of Obed-Edom.
9. Then onto Jerusalem, or Nob right next to Jerusalem.
10. Solomon’s Temple.

11. Then lost during the Babylonian destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple.

V: 6-8 David and 30,000 chosen men go to retrieve the Ark of God with great fan fare:

- They carried the ark in a new cart, and they worshipped fervently as they proceeded away from Abinadab's house on the way now to Jerusalem.

**Romans 10:2** "For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge."

- We can have a love for God and a passion for His presence in our lives that leads or compels us to worship Him - but it must always be on His terms - and according to His Word.

**Leviticus 10:1-2** "1And Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took either of them his censer, and put fire therein, and put incense thereon, and offered strange fire before the Lord, which He commanded them not. 2And there went out fire from the Lord, and devoured them, and they died before the Lord."

- We must worship God on His terms and according to His Word.

**John 4:24** "God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth."

- According to the Law there was a right way to do this, and this isn't it.

**Exodus 25:12-14** "12And thou shalt cast four rings of gold for it, and put them in the four corners thereof; and two rings shall be in the one side of it, and two rings in the other side of it. 13And thou shalt make staves of shittim wood, and overlay them with gold. 14And thou shalt put the staves into the rings by the sides of the ark, that the ark may be borne with them."

**Deuteronomy 10:8** "At that time the Lord separated the tribe of Levi, to bear the ark of the covenant of the Lord, to stand before the Lord to minister unto Him, and to bless in His name, unto this day."

- Instead of transporting the Ark in the manner prescribed by God, they adopted the practices of the world, the ways of the Philistines.

**1 Samuel 6:2, 7** "2And the Philistines called for priests and the diviners..." –  
"7Now therefore make a new cart, and take two milk kine, on which there hath come no yoke..."

- We will see that mimicking the ways of the world will have disastrous effects.

**Psalm 1:1** “Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful...”

- Then it was the way of the Philistines, today it's the ways or the methods of Maddison Avenue “market driven” techniques - whether it's church growth or fund raising schemes - we must rely on Jesus, the Word of God, and the Holy Spirit to do what they want to do with His church, He said He'd build it.
- This issue here didn't seem to be about moving the ark as opposed to how it was moved.

Bringing it out of the house of Abinadab, negotiating a narrow and steep path.  
(Pictures)

V: 9-10 As they got away from Abinadab's house to Chidon / Nachon's threshingfloor, the oxen stumble on the path, the ark of God tips – and Uzza puts out his hand to steady it, and dies by the hand of the Lord.

**Numbers 4:15** “And when Aaron and his sons have made an end of covering the sanctuary, and all the vessels of the sanctuary, as the camp is to set forward; after that, the sons of Kohath shall come to bear it: but they shall not touch any holy thing, lest they die. These things are the burden of the sons of Kohath in the tabernacle of the congregation.”

- Threshing floor; where the wheat is separated from the chaff.

Following the death of Nadab & Abihu:

**Leviticus 10:3** “Then Moses said unto Aaron, this is it that the Lord spake, saying, I will be sanctified in them that come nigh me, and before all the people I will be glorified. And Aaron held his peace.”

The standard is always the same:

**Romans 6:23** “For the wages of sin is death...” (including un-intentional sin.)

V: 11-13 David was displeased: At that point he didn't understand why God wrecked the party.

- David was displeased: (H-2734) charah; to glow or grow warm; fig. to blaze up, of anger, zeal, jealousy:--be angry, burn, be displeased, fret self, grieve, be wroth
- David was afraid: He learned to fear and respect the Lord, to reverence Him, and to obey Him.

**Proverbs 9:10** “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.”

- No amount of unity or enthusiasm can compensate for disobedience, there is never any justification for sin.
- David didn't seem to know what to do so he turned aside to the house of Obed-edom, the Gittite.

V: 14 Kirjath-Jerim is about 12 miles from Jerusalem, the house of Obed-edom was somewhere in between.

- What if you had been Obed-edom? Would you have taken the Ark into your house?
  1. Taking the Ark into their house ended poorly for the Philistines - pun intended.
  2. 50,070 men died in Beth-shemesh when they received the ark.
  3. Uzza had just died for touching it.
- Why Obed-edom's house? Speculating, I'm guessing there were probably options. I believe that Obed-edom wanted the presence of God in his house and figured that it would be worth the risk - and he ended up being blessed!

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- David didn't know what to do. He was trying to do a good thing, yet at this moment he didn't know how to discern the will of God.
  - One of the biggest struggles in Christendom is simply knowing the will of God.
  - David will figure this out, his understanding will come through two things: the same two things that God will use in our lives. Prayer, seeking His face, and the Word of God.

**Romans 12:1-2** “<sup>1</sup>I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. (commitment) <sup>2</sup>And be not conformed to this world: (Philistines / Madison Ave.) but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God.”

**Psalms 119:105** “Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.”

**Isaiah 30:21** “And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, this is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.”