

THROUGH THE BIBLE STUDY

1 CHRONICLES 11-16

One of the keys to learning is *repetition*.

It's sad, but true, seldom do we learn anything the first time. Because we're hard of hearing, and slow to apply, often the lesson has to be repeated.

I heard of a man who'd been on the job for 25 years.

Every year he was passed over for a promotion. Finally, he complained to his supervisor. "Why am I not qualified for a better job? I've got 25 years experience."

His boss corrected him, "No Joe, you've got 1 year experience 25 times."

Hey, Joe had lots of opportunity, but had learned and applied very little.

And this was the case with God's people, Israel. Chronicles is the second time their history had been recorded. Samuel wrote a history of Saul and David. The prophet Jeremiah wrote the history of the Kings of the divided kingdom.

And both histories were chalked full of lessons... lessons God's people had failed to listen to and learn. Israel had 1 year of experience 900 times.

Don't misunderstand, God holds us responsible to learn His lesson the moment it's taught – but He knows our frame and frailties. And God is often patient. 1 and 2 Chronicles proves that God is willing to repeat His lessons when needed.

Chapter 11 begins the chronicles of the reign of David.

“Then all Israel came together to David at Hebron, saying, "Indeed we are your bone and your flesh. Also, in time past, even when Saul was king, you were the one who led Israel out and brought them in; and the LORD your God said to you, 'You shall shepherd My people Israel, and be ruler over My people Israel.' ”

After the death of Saul only the tribe of Judah recognized David as God’s appointed successor. David ruled the southern tribe for 7½ years at Hebron.

The northern tribes made Saul’s son, Ishbosheth, king. But when Ishbosheth was assassinated they turned to David, and came to Hebron to make peace.

And they point to three reasons why they’re embracing David’s leadership...

First, David was an Israelite. He was their blood relative. *Second*, David had proved himself a capable leader. He had formerly been a general in Saul’s army. And *third*, David had been directly called by God to shepherd and lead Israel.

These are also three traits you should look for in a spiritual leader...

First, is he one with God’s people? Is there a heart connection? Is he part of those he leads? *Second*, has he been tested and proven in battle? *Third*, is he called by God? A spiritual leader should be *connected, confirmed, and called...* **Connected to the people – confirmed by his actions - called by God.**

“Therefore all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron, and David made a covenant with them at Hebron before

the LORD. Then they anointed David king over Israel, according to the word of the LORD by Samuel.” This is the third time David was anointed king. **First** was at Jesse’s house – as a young boy. **Second**, was when he was made king over Judah... **And now**, at Hebron, by all Israel...

And David’s first move to consolidate a united kingdom is to relocate his capitol further north. He wants a more central location – easier access to the northern tribes – so he sets his sites on the Jebusite stronghold of Jerusalem...

Jerusalem was the perfect capitol for all Israel because of its neutrality. None of the tribes claimed it as their own - since it had been a Jebusite city for 400 years.

“David and all Israel went to Jerusalem, which is Jebus, where the Jebusites were, the inhabitants of the land. Then the inhabitants of Jebus said to David, “You shall not come in here.” The Jebusites were defiant. They thought their city was unconquerable. Even before David Jerusalem was a strong city.

“Nevertheless David took the stronghold of Zion (that is, the City of David).”

“Now David said, “Whoever attacks the Jebusites first shall be chief and captain.” David wants to light a fire under his army. Whoever is first to show initiative and take aggression will be promoted to the rank of 5-star general.

“And Joab the son of Zeruiah went up first, and became chief.”

Then David dwelt in the stronghold; therefore they called it

the City of David.

And he built the city around it, from the Millo (or the tower) to the surrounding area. Joab repaired the rest of the city. Then David went on and became great, and the LORD of hosts was with him.” And I’m sure there’s a connection here...

The reason David “*became great*” was because “*the LORD... was with him.*”

Verse 10, “Now these were the heads of the mighty men whom David had, who strengthened themselves with him in his kingdom, with all Israel, to make him king, according to the word of the LORD concerning Israel.” The rest of chapter 11 recounts some of the brave exploits of the men who rallied around David.

It’s been said, “Strong beliefs win strong men - then make them stronger.” This was the dynamic at work among David’s men. His influence rubbed off on them.

“And this is the number of the mighty men whom David had: Jashobeam the son of a Hachmonite, chief of the captains; he had lifted up his spear against 300, killed by him at one time. After him was Eleazar the son of Dodo, the Ahohite (No, I don’t have a son named *Eleazar* – thank you!), who was one of the 3 mighty men.

He was with David at Pasdammim. Now there the Philistines were gathered for battle, and there was a piece of ground full of barley. And the people fled from the Philistines. But they stationed themselves in the middle of that field, defended it, and killed the Philistines. So the LORD brought about a great victory.”

2 Samuel 23:10 recounts how Eleazar's hand froze around his sword – he had clutched its handle so tightly he couldn't release his grip when the battle was over.

This is the key to victory for you and me... in our battles we also need a vice-grip on the sword - our spiritual sword – the sword of the Spirit, God's Word.

“Now 3 of the 30 chief men went down to the rock to David, into the cave of Adullam; and the army of the Philistines encamped in the Valley of Rephaim.

David was then in the stronghold, and the garrison of the Philistines was then in Bethlehem. And David said with longing, "Oh, that someone would give me a drink of water from the well of Bethlehem, which is by the gate!" Before the war Bethlehem was David's hometown. Now, it was overrun by Philistines.

David is hid away in the cave reminiscing - thinking of old times! He recalls how sweet the water tasted from the well at Bethlehem. *Oh, for a drink of that water...*

“So the three broke through the camp of the Philistines, drew water from the well of Bethlehem that was by the gate, and took it and brought it to David.”

In response to David's wish – call it “*a whim*” - 3 of David's men go behind enemy lines. They risk their necks to bring David some refreshment. And David is overwhelmed by their act of affection... He doesn't deserve such devotion...

Verse 18 “Nevertheless David would not drink it, but poured it out to the LORD.

And he said, "Far be it from me, O my God, that I should do

this! Shall I drink the blood of these men who have put their lives in jeopardy? For at the risk of their lives they brought it." Therefore he would not drink it. These things were done by the three mighty men." David realized he didn't deserve this kind of sacrifice.

Such extravagant love and loyalty should be reserved for God alone.

To me this is such a powerful story because it illustrates *the lavishness of love*.

Real love is lavish. It looks reckless, and wasteful, and uncouth to everyone, but the person in love. But when you really love someone you're willing to take risks, and expend resources to express your love. Love is not afraid to lose.

Remember when Mary broke the vial of expensive perfume, and anointed Jesus' feet. It was the pragmatic Judas who questioned her wisdom. "It could've been sold, and given to the poor." But Judas didn't understand the logic of love. To Mary nothing was more important than showing Jesus how much He meant to her.

How about you? **Do you understand the logic of love?** When was the last time you took a risk - or was accused of a waste - to let the Lord know you love Him?

The intensity of a love is measured by its extravagance. A love that never takes risks - never exhausts effort - never spends time - is love that's grown cold as ice.

Verse 20 "Abishai the brother of Joab was chief of another three. He had lifted up his spear against 300 men, killed

them, and won a name among these three.

Of the three he was more honored than the other two men. Therefore he became their captain. However he did not attain to the first three.

Benaiah was the son of Jehoiada, the son of a valiant man from Kabzeel, who had done many deeds. He had killed two lion-like heroes of Moab. He also had gone down and killed a lion in the midst of a pit on a snowy day.

And he killed an Egyptian, a man of great height, 5 cubits tall.” Or 7’6”, the height of Yao Ming – the Chinese basketball player for the Houston Rockets.

“In the Egyptian's hand there was a spear like a weaver's beam; and he went down to him with a staff, wrested the spear out of the Egyptian's hand, and killed him with his own spear. These things Benaiah the son of Jehoiada did, and won a name among 3 mighty men. Indeed he was more honored than the 30, but he did not attain to the first three. And David appointed him over his guard.”

Verses 26-47 list the rest of David’s mighty men... I wonder how many of us would make the Son of David’s list if Jesus published a list of His mighty men?

And notice the first name listed in verse 41, “**Uriah the Hittite**”.

This made David’s sin with Bathsheba all the more diabolical. He took the wife of one of his own mighty men. *David betrayed a man who was loyal to him...*

One comment, David's "mighty men" didn't all being as "mighty men".

1 Samuel 22:2 tells us, "everyone who was in distress, everyone who was in debt, and everyone who was discontented gathered to him." The disenfranchised gathered around David – weak people - but his influence made them mighty.

And the Son of David uses the same strategy. 1 Corinthians 1:27 teaches us that Jesus chooses the foolish and weak to confound the wise and mighty.

We come to Him distressed, in debt, and discontent – but the influence of Jesus rubs off on us. Jesus turns the weak and foolish into His mighty men.

Chapter 12, **Now these were the men who came to David at Ziklag while he was still a fugitive from Saul the son of Kish;** For a time David took refuge from the madman Saul among the Philistines. The King of Gath gave him the city of Ziklag. The people listed in chapter 12 joined David's merry men at Ziklag.

"And they were among the mighty men, helpers in the war, armed with bows, using both the right hand and the left in hurling stones and shooting arrows with the bow." Rock slinging was not just a pastime – like skipping rocks across the lake. It was one of the arts of ancient warfare – especially in a land like Israel - where you're never out of ammo. Israel is a rocky land covered with stones.

Imagine, John Smoltz with a bag of rocks. Baseball size rocks coming at your head at 95 mph. Pitchers today would

be crack sharpshooters in ancient Israel.

Perhaps David popularized stone slinging in his victory over Goliath. Ironically, today it's the Palestinians – not the Israelis – who are the expert rock throwers.

The men who came to David at Ziklag “were of Benjamin, Saul's brethren.” This is ironic. Saul's own kinfolk rebelled against him, and defected to David.

“The chief was Ahiezer...” And Ezra lists more of David's mighty men...

Verse 8 “Some Gadites joined David at the stronghold in the wilderness, mighty men of valor, men trained for battle, who could handle shield and spear, whose faces were like the faces of lions, and were as swift as gazelles on the mountains...” They had deer-like speed and lion-hearted courage.

He lists 11 such men from the tribe of Gad.

Verse 14, “These were from the sons of Gad, captains of the army; the least was over 100, and the greatest was over 1000. These are the ones who crossed the Jordan in the first month, when it had overflowed all its banks; and they put to flight all those in the valleys, to the east and to the west.

“Then some of the children of Benjamin and Judah came to David at the stronghold. And David went out to meet them, and answered and said to them, “If you have come peaceably to me to help me, my heart will be united with you; but if to betray me to my enemies, since there is no wrong in my hands, may the God of our fathers look and bring judgment.” Then the Spirit came upon Amasai, chief of the captains, and

he said: "We are yours, O David; we are on your side, O son of Jesse! Peace, peace to you, and peace to your helpers! For your God helps you."

So David received them, and made them captains of the troop.

As Saul's insanity became more evident – more Israelis sought refuge with David. It was obvious God's hand of blessing was on David not Saul.

“And some from Manasseh defected to David when he was going with the Philistines to battle against Saul; but they did not help them, for the lords of the Philistines sent him away by agreement, saying, "He may defect to his master Saul and endanger our heads." When he went to Ziklag, those of Manasseh who defected to him were Adnah, Jozabad, Jediahel, Michael, Jozabad, Elihu, and Zillethai, captains of the thousands who were from Manasseh.

And they helped David against the bands of raiders, for they were all mighty men of valor, and they were captains in the army.” Remember while David was away raiders from the south plundered Ziklag. They took the women and children captive. The men of Manasseh helped David recover what belonged to him.

“For at that time they came to David day by day to help him, until it was a great army, like the army of God.” At Ziklag, David assembled quite a fighting force.

Verses 23-40 number David's army...

Judah brought 6800. Simeon 7100. Levi 4600.

Of Benjamin, the tribe of Saul, there were 3000 soldiers.

Ephraim 20,800. West Manasseh 18,000. Isaachar had 200 chiefs – of which it was said, “who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do...”

Zebulun had 50,000. And we’re told in verse 33, they were “expert in war with all weapons of war, stouthearted men who could keep ranks;”

Naphtali had 37,000. Dan mustered 28,600. Asher brought 40,000.

And the 2½ tribes East of the Jordan numbered 120,000 fighting men.

Add up the numbers and David had an army well over 300,000 troops.

Evidently, a large percentage of Israelis had defected to David. Apparently, at the end of his term Saul’s approval rating was lower than President Bush.

Verse 38, “All these men of war, who could keep ranks, came to Hebron with a loyal heart, to make David king over all Israel; and all the rest of Israel were of one mind to make David king. And they were there with David three days, eating and drinking, for their brethren had prepared for them.

Moreover those who were near to them, from as far away as Issachar and Zebulun and Naphtali (around Galilee), were bringing food on donkeys and camels, on mules and oxen - provisions of flour and cakes of figs and cakes of raisins, wine and oil and oxen and sheep abundantly, for there was joy in Israel.”

The kingdom was free from Saul’s tyranny and given to a man who loved God.

Chapter 13, “Then David consulted with the captains of thousands and hundreds, and with every leader. And David said to all the assembly of Israel, “If it seems good to you, and if it is of the LORD our God, let us send out to our brethren everywhere who are left in all the land of Israel, and with them to the priests and Levites who are in their cities and their common-lands, that they may gather together to us; and let us bring the ark of our God back to us, for we have not inquired at it since the days of Saul.” Then all the assembly said that they would do so, for the thing was right in the eyes of all the people.”

This is commendable. David’s first act as king is to seek God. He wants to bring the Ark into Jerusalem. He wants God’s presence at the heart of Israel.

Verse 5 “So David gathered all Israel together, from Shihor in Egypt to as far as the entrance of Hamath, to bring the ark of God from Kirjath Jearim.

And David and all Israel went up to Baalah, to Kirjath Jearim, which belonged to Judah, to bring up from there the ark of God the LORD, who dwells between the cherubim, where His name is proclaimed. So they carried the ark of God on a new cart from the house of Abinadab, and Uzza and Ahio drove the cart. Then David and all Israel played music before God with all their might, with singing, on harps, on stringed instruments, on tambourines, on cymbals, and with trumpets.

And when they came to Chidon's threshing floor, Uzza put out his hand to hold the ark, for the oxen stumbled.” The im-

plication is the sacred Ark started to slide. Uzza was doing a good deed. He wanted to save God's Holy Ark from disaster.

Verse 10 "Then the anger of the LORD was aroused against Uzza, and He struck him because he put his hand to the ark; and he died there before God.

And David became angry because of the LORD's outbreak against Uzza; therefore that place is called Perez Uzza to this day. *Outbreak against Uzza.*

David was afraid of God that day, saying, (Apparently, his anger turned to fear.) "How can I bring the ark of God to me?" So David would not move the ark with him into the City of David, but took it aside into the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite.

The ark of God remained with the family of Obed-Edom in his house 3 months. And the LORD blessed the house of Obed-Edom and all that he had."

Understand, David's desire to bring the Ark to Jerusalem and seek the Lord was noble, but his methods were ill-informed. The Law of Moses (Numbers 4:15) made it clear that the Ark was suppose to be carried on poles. Instead, David acts like he's from Alabama, and places the Ark on a flat-bed truck – literally a cart.

David and Uzza became victims of their own ignorance. Yes, they both may have meant well - but when it comes to the worship of God good intentions are never enough. God has a prescribed way He wants to be worshipped.

David and Uzza ignored God's commandments and paid the price. Hey, David was angry at God, but he should've been angry with himself!

Guys, so often in our excitement to worship God we don't consider how He wants to be worshipped. Good intentions are never enough in our worship.

Jesus said in John 4:23, "true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth..." Right motives *and* right methods matter to God. The key ingredient in worship is obedience. Lots of people want to worship God in ways that are convenient to them. But our newest and shiniest cart is no substitute for obedience. Folks who worship in the flesh eventually fall off the wagon.

Chapter 14, "Now Hiram king of Tyre sent messengers to David, and cedar trees, with masons and carpenters, to build him a house. So David knew that the LORD had established him as king over Israel, for his kingdom was highly exalted because of His people Israel. Then David took more wives in Jerusalem, and David begot more sons and daughters."

Deuteronomy 17:17 prohibited the Hebrew king from building a harem – and multiplying wives. David sinned.

"And these are the names of his children whom he had in Jerusalem: Shammua, Shobab, Nathan, Solomon, Ibhar, Elishua, Elpelet, Nogah, Nepheg, Japhia, Elishama, Beeliada, and Eliphelet." 13 children.

Verse 8 "Now when the Philistines heard that David had been anointed king over all Israel, all the Philistines went up

to search for David. And David heard of it and went out against them. Then the Philistines went and made a raid on the Valley of Rephaim.” Or *the Valley of the Giants...* “Facing the Giants”.

And David inquired of God, saying, "Shall I go up against the Philistines? Will You deliver them into my hand?" Notice, David seeks *God* before he *takes action*.

“And the LORD said to him, "Go up, for I will deliver them into your hand.”

So they went up to Baal Perazim, and David defeated them there.”

Then David said, "God has broken through my enemies by my hand like a breakthrough of water." Therefore they called the name of that place Baal Perazim.” which means “Lord of the Breakthroughs.” Hey, if you’re stuck in a rut, and spinning your wheels, and going nowhere spiritually... seek Jesus.

Some of us have beaten our heads against the wall for years. We’ve tried a million ways to get rid of our ball-and-chain. What we need is a breakthrough!

Well, I know Who can help... *Jesus specializes in breakthroughs!*

“And when they left their gods there (the Philistine idols), David gave a commandment, and they were burned with fire.” Like Donald Trump on the Apprentice he said to the false gods of the Philistines... “You’re fired!”

“Then the Philistines once again made a raid on the valley.” Notice the Philistines launch another raid under almost identical circumstances.

I’m afraid most of us would just assume that God would want to win the victory with the same strategy. But David doesn’t take anything for granted.

“Therefore David inquired again of God, and God said to him, "You shall not go up after them; circle around them, and come upon them in front of the mulberry trees. And it shall be, when you hear a sound of marching in the tops of the mulberry trees (In other words, the wind rustling the tops of the trees)...

“Then you shall go out to battle, for God has gone out before you to strike the camp of the Philistines.” God commands David and his army to wait on the wind.

Verse 16 **“So David did as God commanded him, and they drove back the army of the Philistines from Gibeon as far as Gezer. Then the fame of David went out into all lands, and the LORD brought the fear of him upon all nations.”**

Here’s the moral of the story. Just because God works one way in the past doesn’t mean He’ll work the same way in the future. Don’t assume... seek!

Hey, God’s command to us today is the same as it was to David. We also need to wait on the wind – we need to be lead by the fresh breeze of God’s Spirit.

Pre-programmed, patterned solutions are not God’s method. God’s will is blowing in the wind. God wants His people led by the Spirit not a formula.

Chapter 15 “David built houses for himself in the City of David; and he prepared a place for the ark of God, and pitched a tent for it.

Then David said, "No one may carry the ark of God but the Levites, for the LORD has chosen them to carry the ark of God and to minister before Him forever." David has learned his lesson. He's read up on God's methods.

“And David gathered all Israel together at Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the LORD to its place, which he had prepared for it. Then David assembled the children of Aaron and the Levites...” There were 862 Levites.

Verse 11 “And David called for Zadok and Abiathar the priests, and for the Levites: for Uriel, Asaiah, Joel, Shemaiah, Eliel, and Amminadab.

He said to them, "You are the heads of the fathers' houses of the Levites; sanctify yourselves, you and your brethren, that you may bring up the ark of the LORD God of Israel to the place I have prepared for it.

For because you did not do it the first time, the LORD our God broke out against us, because we did not consult Him about the proper order."

“So the priests and the Levites sanctified themselves to bring up the ark of the LORD God of Israel. And the children of the Levites bore the ark of God on their shoulders, by its poles, as Moses had commanded according to the word of the LORD.” David adds knowledge and obedience to his spiritual fervor – and God gets glorified. But as we saw with Uzza - zeal without knowledge is dangerous.

This is why churches that downplay Bible teaching and focus only on worship are destined for failure. Without His Word, how do you know you're worshipping God properly? Again, Jesus tells us to worship the Father "in spirit and truth."

"Then David spoke to the leaders of the Levites to appoint their brethren to be the singers accompanied by instruments of music, stringed instruments, harps, and cymbals, by raising the voice with resounding joy." This time David adds music to the processional. He appoints singers and musicians to accompany the Ark to Jerusalem. He tells the Levitical ensemble *to raise the praise!*

I love the expression at the end of verse 16, "resounding joy." This is biblical worship in two words. True praise is the echo of the joy God puts in our hearts. God fills us with His joy - then praise is the *re-sounding* of that joy back to Him.

Verses 17-24 list the names of the singers, musicians, and attendants who were recruited for the moving of the Ark. And after what happened earlier to Uzza you could probably add that these were men of courage and faith.

"So David, the elders of Israel, and the captains over thousands went to bring up the ark of the covenant of the LORD from the house of Obed-Edom with joy.

And so it was, when God helped the Levites who bore the ark of the covenant of the LORD, that they offered seven bulls and seven rams.

David was clothed with a robe of fine linen, as were all the Levites who bore the ark, the singers, and Chenaniah the music master with the singers.

David also wore a linen ephod. (the ephod was a priestly apron).

Thus all Israel brought up the ark of the covenant of the LORD with shouting and with the sound of the horn, with trumpets and with cymbals, making music with stringed instruments and harps.” *It was a joyous day in all Israel except...*

In the king's own household... Verse 29 “And it happened, as the ark of the covenant of the LORD came to the City of David, that Michal, Saul's daughter...

Notice, Ezra refers to her as Saul's daughter, but she was also David's wife.

And Michal “looked through a window and saw King David whirling and playing music; and she despised him in her heart.” David went home that night with a *resounding joy* in his heart. The Ark was now in the capitol of Jerusalem.

But when he arrives home his wife, Michal, throws a damper on the day. She greets him with a *resounding thud*. 2 Samuel 6 tells us the couple had words.

The two love birds lay an egg... David does a jig for Jesus! He throws off all inhibition and dances His praise - while his wife resents his undignified ways.

Michal was Saul's daughter... and above all else, Saul was concerned with image. Saul's idol was not a *graven image*,

but his own *self-image*. Saul would always try to act royal and dignified. He would never humble himself in public.

Michal thought David's uninhibited display of worship – his whirling about – lacked the dignity of a king. David though, had a different idea of what it meant to be king. David was more concerned with pleasing God, than maintaining a proper public image. Saul followed his approval ratings on CNN. David followed his heart.

Saul wanted the people's worship. David wanted to worship God.

Chapter 16 “So they brought the ark of God, and set it in the midst of the tabernacle that David had erected for it.” This was not the Tabernacle of Moses – nor Temple of Solomon. This was a tent David manufactured for this purpose.

“Then they offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before God.

And when David had finished offering the burnt offerings and the peace offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the LORD.

Then he distributed to everyone of Israel, both man and woman, to everyone a loaf of bread, a piece of meat, and a cake of raisins.” David feeds the worshippers. Hey, real worship can work up an appetite. David follows up the moving of the Ark with sacrifices to God and a box lunch for the people – bread, meat, and raisins.

“And he appointed some of the Levites to minister before the ark of the LORD, to commemorate, to thank, and to praise

the LORD God of Israel...” Notice the threefold function of music in the Temple... *commemorate, thanks, and praise.*

Music needs to memorialize God’s work – show gratitude – and give praise.

Verse 5 “Asaph the chief, and next to him Zechariah, then Jeiel, Shemiramoth, Jehiel, Mattithiah, Eliab, Benaiah, and Obed-Edom: Jeiel with stringed instruments and harps, but Asaph made music with cymbals; Benaiah and Jahaziel the priests regularly blew the trumpets before the ark of the covenant of God.

And on that day David first delivered this psalm into the hand of Asaph and his brethren, to thank the LORD:” This psalm seems to be a compilation of several other songs David had written at different times: Psalm 96, 105, and 106.

Compare verses 8-22 with Psalm 105:1-15 – then verses 23-33 with Psalm 96:1-13 – and finally verses 34-36 with Psalm 106:1, 47-48. For now let’s read through this Psalm and we’ll study it when we get to the book of Psalms.

Verse 8 “Oh, give thanks to the LORD! Call upon His name; make known His deeds among the peoples! Sing to Him, sing psalms to Him; talk of all His wondrous works! Glory in His holy name; let the hearts of those rejoice who seek the LORD!” I hope this is what happens before and after the services here at CCSM... we “talk of all His wondrous works”... not the latest TV shows.

“Seek the LORD and His strength; seek His face evermore! Remember His marvelous works which He has done, His

wonders, and the judgments of His mouth, O seed of Israel
His servant, you children of Jacob, His chosen ones!

He is the LORD our God; His judgments are in all the earth. Remember His covenant forever, the word which He commanded, for a thousand generations, the covenant which He made with Abraham, and His oath to Isaac, and confirmed it to Jacob for a statute, to Israel for an everlasting covenant, saying, "To you I will give the land of Canaan as the allotment of your inheritance," when you were few in number, indeed very few, and strangers in it. When they went from one nation to another, and from one kingdom to another people, He permitted no man to do them wrong; yes, He rebuked kings for their sakes, saying, "Do not touch My anointed ones, and do My prophets no harm." Understand the Bible is crystal clear... all the Earth belongs to the Lord. God is the ultimate landholder.

Thus the land of Israel, or Canaan, belongs to God and He's chosen to give it to the Hebrews. And the Bible isn't fuzzy about this assertion. Ezra calls God's promise an "everlasting covenant"... His word to "a thousand generations..."

"Sing to the LORD, all the earth; proclaim the good news of His salvation from day to day. Declare His glory among the nations, His wonders among all peoples.

For the LORD is great and greatly to be praised; He is also to be feared above all gods. For all the gods of the peoples are idols, but the LORD made the heavens. Honor and majesty are before Him; strength and gladness are in His place. Give to the LORD, O families of the peoples, give to

the LORD glory and strength. Give to the LORD the glory due His name; bring an offering, and come before Him. Oh, worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness! Tremble before Him, all the earth. The world also is firmly established, it shall not be moved.

Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; and let them say among the nations, "The LORD reigns." Let the sea roar, and all its fullness; let the field rejoice, and all that is in it. Then the trees of the woods shall rejoice before the LORD, for He is coming to judge the earth.

Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever.

And say, "Save us, O God of our salvation; gather us together, and deliver us from the Gentiles, to give thanks to Your holy name, to triumph in Your praise."

Blessed be the LORD God of Israel From everlasting to everlasting and all the people said, "Amen!" and praised the LORD.

"So (David) left Asaph and his brothers there before the ark of the covenant of the LORD to minister before the ark regularly, as every day's work required; and Obed-Edom with his 68 brethren, including Obed-Edom the son of Jeduthun, and Hosah, to be gatekeepers; and Zadok the priest and his brethren the priests, before the tabernacle of the LORD at the high place that was at Gibeon, to offer burnt offerings to the LORD on the altar of burnt offering regularly morning and evening, and to do according to all that is written in the Law of the LORD which He commanded Israel; and with them He-

man and Jeduthun and the rest who were chosen, who were designated by name, to give thanks to the LORD, because His mercy endures forever; and with them Heman and Jeduthun, to sound aloud with trumpets and cymbals and the musical instruments of God.” How do you become a he-man? A heman is a heavy lifter. In this case, he’ll raise God’s praise.

Now the sons of Jeduthun were gatekeepers. Then all the people departed, every man to his house; and David returned to bless his house.”