

Summary of Readings

Day One: I Chronicles 1; Psalm 139

The first nine chapters of I Chronicles contains a comprehensive genealogy of the Israelite people.

Psalm 139 is described this way in the NIV Study Bible

A prayer for God to examine the heart and see its true devotion. Like Job, the author firmly claims his loyalty to the Lord. Nowhere [outside Job] does one find expressed such profound awareness of how awesome it is to ask God to examine not only one's life but also one's soul - God, who knows every thought, word and deed, from whom there is no hiding, who has been privy even to one's formation in the dark concealment of the womb. The thought progresses steadily in four poetic paragraphs of six verse each, and each paragraph concludes with a couplet that elaborates on the unit's central theme. References to God's searching and knowing begin and end the prayer.

Day Two: I Chronicles 9:14-34; I Corinthians 12:12-31

Beginning in the 14th verse, a listing of the Levites is included along with information related to the various roles played by the Priest including the gatekeepers. The gatekeepers not only protected the Temple 24 hours a day, they also provided oversight for the Temple articles, furnishings, and other elements used in the Temple.

The text from Corinthians contains Paul's explanation of the many "services" present in the various people who participate in the life of the community. Using the metaphor of the many different parts of the bodies and the importance of each particular function, Paul lifts up and affirms each different act of service as essential elements for the community.

Day Three: I Chronicles 11

Israel joins together at Hebron to anoint David as the next King of Israel. David's prior acts of leadership as a military commander are affirmed in this act of anointing as well. David then conquers Jerusalem by defeated the Jebusites. Joab is placed in command of the army of Israel following his acts of leadership in the battle for Jerusalem. David's Kingship is supported by his "might men." A brief summary of David's might men follows. Jashoheam, Eleazar, and Abishai are described as "the three mighty men" and a story of them fighting to find water for a thirsty David is included in this section. Benaiah is also mentioned as a mighty men who was held in greater honor than the other thirty might men which are then listed from verse 26 to 47.

Day Four: I Chronicles 15:1-16:6

After the completion of David's house in Jerusalem, he prepares the tent to receive the Ark of the Covenant. David gathers Israel and instructs the Levites to carry the Ark into Jerusalem. Gathering the heads of the Levite families, he tells them to purify & consecrate themselves for this task in order to avoid what transpired during the first unsuccessful attempt to move the Ark. The Ark enters the city to great rejoicing, song, sacrifices, and the King, clothed in fine linen, dancing and celebrating. This display causes Michal, daughter of Saul, to despise David in her heart. The Ark is placed inside the tent and David presents sacrifices, burnt offerings, and fellowship offerings after which David blesses the people. Bread, dates, and raisins were then distributed to the people. Finally, David gives instructions to the Levites about a continual petition and thanksgiving that was to be made before the Ark.

Day Five: I Chronicles 17

David conveys to the Prophet Nathan that he desires to build a “house for God” since he has been living in a, “palace of cedar” while the Ark of the Covenant was, “under a tent.” Nathan affirms David’s vision because he believes that God is with him. That evening, Nathan is given alternative instructions from God in a vision. God tells Nathan to instruct David not to build a house because 1) God has not asked for it. 2) God is more interested in establishing David’s house. 3) David’s son will sit on David’s throne and he will build God’s house.

David responds to Nathan’s vision with a prayer of Thanksgiving in which he celebrates 1) The future that God has for David’s throne. 2) There is no one like God. 3) God has redeemed God’s people from Egypt. 4) God’s continual faithfulness to the promises God has shared. 5) the courage that David has found in God’s promises.

Day Six: I Chronicles 21:1-22:1

After another great battle with the Philistines, Satan incited David to instruct Joab to take a census of Israel. Joab expresses concern at this request, but David’s word prevailed. Joab reports the numbers to David by saying that there were 1.1 million men who could handle a sword of which 470,000 were in Judah. God seeks to punish Israel for the sin of the census. God gives David three options to atone for his sin. The options are three years of famine for Israel, three months of being swept away by Israel’s enemies, or three days of the sword of the Lord. David opts for three days in which 70,000 men in Israel die. As the angel that God had sent to destroy Jerusalem was moving towards the city, “the Lord saw it and was grieved because of the calamity and said to the angel who was destroying people, ‘enough’.” The angel of the Lord stopped over the site of of Araunah, the Jebusite’s, threshing floor. David falls before the Angel carrying the sword and begs God to spare the people saying, “I am the one who sinned. These are but sheep.” David is then instructed to go up to the threshing floor and build an altar. David purchases the property from Araunah for six hundred shekels and there he built an altar to the Lord. After David’s sacrifice, the Lord instructs the Angel to put the sword back in it’s sheath. David then dedicates the site as the place of the future temple.

Day Seven: I Chronicles 28:1-29:20

David gathers all of the officers, commanders, officials mighty men and brave warriors to speak to them about the future. David expresses again his desire to build the Temple, but shares God’s directive that his son would complete that task. Solomon is the son who has been given that task. David warns the people to follow God’s commands so that, “you may possess this good land and pass it on as an inheritance to your descendants forever.” David also instructs Solomon to serve God with “wholehearted devotion.” David then shares with Solomon the plans he has developed for the Temple structure as well as the division of the priests, information about the articles to be used in the Temple, as well as the other elements of the Temple structure design. Finally, David instructs Solomon to, “be strong and courageous,” for the Lord is with him.

David then tells the crowd to assist Solomon in this great work of construction by assisting with the provision of materials necessary to complete the Temple. David first shares with the people all that he will be giving to the project. The people respond to David’s request by providing money, stones and other items needed. David then praises God and the assembly with a final prayer and proclamation to the people to, “Praise the Lord your God.”

I & II Chronicles

Four Sections

II Chronicles 1:1 - 9:34 :

I Chronicles 9:35 - II Chronicles 9:31 :

II Chronicles 10:1 - 28:27 :

II Chronicles 29:1 - 36:23 :

Influences

Leviticus 26:27-28, 24-42; Jeremiah 29:10-14; Ezekiel 18:19-22; 30-32

Key Questions

Psalm 126

A stimulating beginning

“The first nine chapters of genealogies are like lions guarding the gates, driving away the fainthearted from the treasures inside.”



Sacred Living

In what ways might we reclaim a sense of the sacred in our lives?

What more can you do to claim sacred space in your life?

What are some things in my life that should be receiving that same level of care?

The Mighty Men

Who are your mighty friends?

What relationship do you see as a blessing from God in your life?

Have you shared that with that person?

Setting up the Sequel