**February 5, 2021**

**BIBLE STUDY**

**Straightway Church of Christ, Inc.**

**37 Market Street, New Haven, CT 06513**

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**The Late Bishop E. Samuel Green, Establishmentarian**

**“THINE [ARE WE],”**

**1 Chronicles 12:1-40**

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﻿***I Chronicles 12:1 "Now these [are] they that came to David to Ziklag, while he yet kept himself close because of Saul the son of Kish: and they [were] among the mighty men, helpers of the war."***

The Philistine king Achish had given Ziklag to David as a place to live. Ziklag was where David stayed in exile, just before the death of Saul. David was in Ziklag for a year and a half. Saul wanted to kill David, and David just stayed away from Saul because he knew Saul was God’s anointed.

***1 Samuel 24:6 “And he said unto his men, The Lord forbid that I should do this thing unto my master, the Lord's anointed, to stretch forth mine hand against him, seeing he is the anointed of the Lord.”***

David’s loyalty to Saul drew loyal men of all types and tribes to him and they were with him all the time he was running from Saul. Some came by divine revelation and some came by human inspiration. Most of the mighty men were from David’s own tribe of Judah. But many fighting men from other Israelite tribes also came to serve David.

***1 Chronicles 11:1-2***

***1 Then all Israel gathered themselves to David unto Hebron, saying, Behold, we are thy bone and thy flesh.***

***2And moreover in time past, even when Saul was king, thou wast he that leddest out and broughtest in Israel: and the Lord thy God said unto thee, Thou shalt feed my people Israel, and thou shalt be ruler over my people Israel.***

***1 Samuel 22:1-2***

***1 David departed from there and escaped to the cave of Adullam. And when his brothers and all his father's house heard it, they went down there to him.***

***2And everyone who was in distress, and everyone who was in debt, and everyone who was bitter in soul, gathered to him. And he became commander over them. And there were with him about four hundred men.***

***I Chronicles 12:2 "[They were] armed with bows, and could use both the right hand and the left in [hurling] stones and [shooting] arrows out of a bow, [even] of Saul's brethren of Benjamin."***

These particular men had been with Saul, until they determined he was not fair in his dealings. They were some of the choice ambidextrous fighters, who could use both hands in battle. They determined that David was right in the problem with Saul, and they came to serve David. Saul was a Benjamite, but they could not follow him, because of his cruelty toward David.

***I Chronicles 12:3 "The chief [was] Ahiezer, then Joash, the sons of Shemaah the Gibeathite; and Jeziel, and Pelet, the sons of Azmaveth; and Berachah, and Jehu the Antothite,"***

The list of men, who helped David at this time, would not be the same as the later list. Some will die in battle and be replaced. This is the beginning of the earliest list.

***I Chronicles 12:4 "And Ismaiah the Gibeonite, a mighty man among the thirty, and over the thirty; and Jeremiah, and Jahaziel, and Johanan, and Josabad the Gederathite,"***

David had about 600 men with him who had been with him from the time he had to flee from Saul. The men, listed in the verses above and the next few verses, are the men who were over that 600.

***I Chronicles 12:5 "Eluzai, and Jerimoth, and Bealiah, and Shemariah, and Shephatiah the Haruphite,"***

***I Chronicles 12:6 "Elkanah, and Jesiah, and Azareel, and Joezer, and Jashobeam, the Korhites,"***

***I Chronicles 12:7 "And Joelah, and Zebadiah, the sons of Jeroham of Gedor."***

***I Chronicles 12:8 "And of the Gadites there separated themselves unto David into the hold to the wilderness men of might, [and] men of war [fit] for the battle, that could handle shield and buckler, whose faces [were like] the faces of lions, and [were] as swift as the roes upon the mountains;"***

These men, that followed David, were not just from Judah. They were valiant men from several of the tribes. They followed David, because they believed in him and his God. They knew what Saul was doing was wrong. These were all brave men who were willing to fight for the right, even if they were greatly outnumbered. They were strong as lions. They were even better than what their physical power would let them be, because God strengthened them for battle. God was with David and his men.

***I Chronicles 12:9 "Ezer the first, Obadiah the second, Eliab the third,"***

***I Chronicles 12:10 "Mishmannah the fourth, Jeremiah the fifth,"
I Chronicles 12:11 "Attai the sixth, Eliel the seventh,"
I Chronicles 12:12 "Johanan the eighth, Elzabad the ninth,"
I Chronicles 12:13 "Jeremiah the tenth, Machbanai the eleventh."
I Chronicles 12:14 "These [were] of the sons of Gad, captains of the host: one of the least [was] over an hundred, and the greatest over a thousand."***

This is a list of the men of Gad that came to serve with David. Verse 14, says that the least of these men were over 100 and the greatest was over 1,000. This could have been the number they were over, when they served with the tribe of Gad. It could, also, be saying that the least of these men were like 100 and the greatest like 1000. The third thing it could mean, is that David's army of 600 had grown mightily, and they were over the larger army.

***I Chronicles 12:15 "These [are] they that went over Jordan in the first month, when it had overflown all his banks; and they put to flight all [them] of the valleys, [both] toward the east, and toward the west."***

There is a mention of the Jordan overflowing in Joshua chapter 3 verse 15. That is not the same instance as this, however. That just shows that sometimes around March, or April, the Jordan does overflow.

***I Chronicles 12:16 "And there came of the children of Benjamin and Judah to the hold unto David."***

***I Chronicles 12:17 "And David went out to meet them, and answered and said unto them, If ye be come peaceably unto me to help me, mine heart shall be knit unto you: but if [ye be come] to betray me to mine enemies, seeing [there is] no wrong in mine hands, the God of our fathers look [thereon], and rebuke [it]."***

These of Benjamin and of Judah are in addition to those already mentioned. David had been deceived and betrayed so many times, that he was very cautious here. He would welcome them, if they were on his side; but if they were there to destroy, he warned them that God would destroy them. David knew the LORD was with him, even though he was in hiding from Saul.

***I Chronicles 12:18 "Then the spirit came upon Amasai, [who was] chief of the captains, [and he said], Thine [are we], David, and on thy side, thou son of Jesse: peace, peace [be] unto thee, and peace [be] to thine helpers; for thy God helpeth thee. Then David received them, and made them captains of the band."***

Amasai is, probably, the same as Amasa. He would have been David's nephew by his sister, Abigail. This Amasai was led by the Spirit. He spoke as the Spirit gave him utterence. David believed the words that he said and welcomed him. He even made him a captain of some of the men.

***2 Chronicles 20:14-15***

***14Then upon Jahaziel the son of Zechariah, the son of Benaiah, the son of Jeiel, the son of Mattaniah, a Levite of the sons of Asaph, came the Spirit of the Lord in the midst of the congregation;***

***15And he said, Hearken ye, all Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem, and thou king Jehoshaphat, Thus saith the Lord unto you, Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle is not yours, but God's.***

***Ephesians 4:3-6***

***3Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.***

***4There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;***

***5One Lord, one faith, one baptism,***

***6One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.***

***I Chronicles 12:19 "And there fell [some] of Manasseh to David, when he came with the Philistines against Saul to battle: but they helped them not: for the lords of the Philistines upon advisement sent him away, saying, He will fall to his master Saul to [the jeopardy of] our heads."***

***I Chronicles 12:20 "As he went to Ziklag, there fell to him of Manasseh, Adnah, and Jozabad, and Jediael, and Michael, and Jozabad, and Elihu, and Zilthai, captains of the thousands that [were] of Manasseh."***

David had gone to the battlefront with the Philistines, but some of the Philistines did not trust David. They thought David would turn against them and help Saul. David did not fight against Saul but went back home. It appears, that some of Manasseh went back home with him. These men of Manasseh that fell to David had been captain over thousands. They were, now, part of David's army.

***1 Samuel 29:4-7***

***4And the princes of the Philistines were wroth with him; and the princes of the Philistines said unto him, Make this fellow return, that he may go again to his place which thou hast appointed him, and let him not go down with us to battle, lest in the battle he be an adversary to us: for wherewith should he reconcile himself unto his master? should it not be with the heads of these men?***

***5Is not this David, of whom they sang one to another in dances, saying, Saul slew his thousands, and David his ten thousands?***

***6Then Achish called David, and said unto him, Surely, as the Lord liveth, thou hast been upright, and thy going out and thy coming in with me in the host is good in my sight: for I have not found evil in thee since the day of thy coming unto me unto this day: nevertheless the lords favour thee not.***

***7Wherefore now return, and go in peace, that thou displease not the lords of the Philistines.***

***I Chronicles 12:21 "And they helped David against the band [of the rovers]: for they [were] all mighty men of valour, and were captains in the host."***

When David got back to Ziklag, there had been a raid, and they had taken the women and the children captive. David, now, pursued them, and got the people back. These men of Manasseh helped with the raid on the rovers to get the families of David and his men back. He not only recovered all they had taken, but took all they had of their own, as well. David divided the spoil with his 600 men.

***I Chronicles 12:22 "For at [that] time day by day there came to David to help him, until [it was] a great host, like the host of God."***

At the time of the raid in verse 21 above, there were just 600 fighting men with David. In verse 22, it seems, that many came to join David, and they were growing in number every day. The army would eventually be a huge force.

***I Chronicles 12:23 "And these [are] the numbers of the bands [that were] ready armed to the war, [and] came to David to Hebron, to turn the kingdom of Saul to him, according to the word of the LORD."***

Now, we will see how the LORD sent men to the extent for David's army, that they became a huge army. The following are a list of those who came to Hebron to help David become sole king of all of Israel. Notice, all of it was according to the Word of God.

***I Chronicles 12:24 "The children of Judah that bare shield and spear [were] six thousand and eight hundred, ready armed to the war."***

***I Chronicles 12:25 "Of the children of Simeon, mighty men of valour for the war, seven thousand and one hundred."***

We have already read that some of the tribe of Judah and of Simeon were following David. Now, it seems the entire army had come to serve David. The men of Judah bearing arms were 6,800, and the men of Simeon 7,100.

***I Chronicles 12:26 "Of the children of Levi four thousand and six hundred."***

***I Chronicles 12:27 "And Jehoiada [was] the leader of the Aaronites, and with him [were] three thousand and seven hundred;"***

All of the Levites were in the service of the Lord. It is unusual to see the priestly line of Aaron separated here. There were 4,600 who were not from the family of Aaron and 3,700 that were from the family of Aaron. Jehoiada was leader of the priests. We must remember, that they are all coming to show their allegiance to David at Hebron.

***I Chronicles 12:28 "And Zadok, a young man mighty of valour, and of his father's house twenty and two captains."***

This is, possibly, the high priest, Zadok, mentioned here. His sons would have been priests. Twenty-two captains could, also, mean leaders.

***I Chronicles 12:29 "And of the children of Benjamin, the kindred of Saul, three thousand: for hitherto the greatest part of them had kept the ward of the house of Saul."***

Saul was a Benjamite. It would have been natural for most of the Benjamites to have followed Saul. Now at his death, they put their lot in with David. There were just 3,000 fighting men of Benjamin. The small number of men of Benjamin could be because of their being nearly annihilated at one time.

***I Chronicles 12:30 "And of the children of Ephraim twenty thousand and eight hundred, mighty men of valour, famous throughout the house of their fathers."***

Ephraim had a large standing army of 20,800. Even they gave their loyalty to David.

***I Chronicles 12:31 "And of the half tribe of Manasseh eighteen thousand, which were expressed by name, to come and make David king."***

We see from this, that it was not just the elders and the priests that came to make David king, but vast numbers of people. These 18,000 were from the western side of the Jordan river.

***I Chronicles 12:32 "And of the children of Issachar, [which were men] that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do; the heads of them [were] two hundred; and all their brethren [were] at their commandment."***

It appears that, in the case of Issachar, they sent 200 men who were their leaders to represent them before David. There seemed to be a large army that this 200 represented.

***I Chronicles 12:33 "Of Zebulun, such as went forth to battle, expert in war, with all instruments of war, fifty thousand, which could keep rank: [they were] not of double heart."***

It is the opposite with Zebulon who brought their entire army to crown David king. They numbered 50,000. These men seemed to be of one mind and one accord. They were not divided in their allegiance.

***I Chronicles 12:34 "And of Naphtali a thousand captains, and with them with shield and spear thirty and seven thousand."***

***I Chronicles 12:35 "And of the Danites expert in war twenty and eight thousand and six hundred."***

***I Chronicles 12:36 "And of Asher, such as went forth to battle, expert in war, forty thousand."***

A thousand captains was an unusually large number for the 37,000 men of Naphtali that came. Dan had 28,600. Asher brought 40,000 men. Just these three tribes would have made up a vast army by themselves.

***I Chronicles 12:37 "And on the other side of Jordan, of the Reubenites, and the Gadites, and of the half tribe of Manasseh, with all manner of instruments of war for the battle, an hundred and twenty thousand."***

These were the three tribes that lived on the eastern side of the Jordan River. They had 120,000 men of war. These were not just a large number, but well equipped for war, as well.

***I Chronicles 12:38 "All these men of war, that could keep rank, came with a perfect heart to Hebron, to make David king over all Israel: and all the rest also of Israel [were] of one heart to make David king."***

We can see from the verses which go before this verse, that David was unanimously accepted by all 12 tribes. He would be the second king to rule over all Israel. They were a mighty force to reckon with when they were united. David would pull them together again. He was blessed of God, and they would be blessed of God, as well.

***I Chronicles 12:39 "And there they were with David three days, eating and drinking: for their brethren had prepared for them."***

***I Chronicles 12:40 "Moreover they that were nigh them, [even] unto Issachar and Zebulun and Naphtali, brought bread on asses, and on camels, and on mules, and on oxen, [and] meat, meal, cakes of figs, and bunches of raisins, and wine, and oil, and oxen, and sheep abundantly: for [there was] joy in Israel."***

The huge celebration lasted three days and nights. It appears from this that, all of Israel was in a time of celebration of the crowning of their king, David. The neighboring area brought food and drink to the celebration. There had to be a tremendous amount of food to feed these hundreds of thousands of people. One lesson we can learn from David, is to wait upon the LORD. When He is ready to bless, He will. David had not tried to overthrow Saul. He did not even demand to be king of all Israel. God made him king.

**QUESTIONS**

1. Where had David stayed for over a year, before the death of Saul?
2. Why did David not kill Saul, when he had the opportunity?
3. What was unusual about the men of Benjamin, that came to David {in verse 2}?
4. Why had they come to David?
5. About how many men did David have with him at Ziklag?
6. Where were the valiant men from?
7. The least of the men of Gad were over \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
8. When these extra men of Judah and Benjamin came to David, what did David ask them?
9. What happened to Amasai, that made him answer David?
10. Why did David not fight with the Philistines against Saul?
11. What did David find, when he got back to Ziklag?
12. Who did David divide the spoil with?
13. When David was at Ziklag, how many men were with him?
14. Why is there a difference in the Levites and the Aaronites?
15. Who was Zadok?
16. Why were there so few men of Benjamin?
17. What is different about the group from Issachar?
18. Who were the tribes on the eastern side of the Jordan.
19. David would be the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ king to reign over all Israel.
20. How long did the huge celebration last?
21. Who really made David king?