

# Bible-Reading Coach Podcast Transcript

## Week 19: 1 Chronicles 13-23 & 2 Chronicles 1-12 *From David to Abijah*

Welcome to Week 19 of the Bible reading coach podcast. My name is Karl Vaters and I'm here to help you read through the entire Bible in 52 weeks.

Let's do a quick recap, first of all from where we are from last week, because reading through last week and reading through this week, there's a whole lot of déjà vu. And so we need to understand why we're reading about the same events again. So let's remind you of that. In First Second Samuel in first and second Kings, we read about the story of Israel's growth, the height of Israel's Kingdom, and the eventual fall of Israel. And we read it as a warning because that was how it was written. First and Second, Samuel versus Second Kings were written when the people were coming close to being enslaved and exiled, because of generations of sinfulness. So the story is longer, and it includes all of the negative parts, including as well as the positive parts.

Now, as we get to First and Second Chronicles, we're reading a dot two documents that were written at a different time, they were written after the exile after Israel had been punished. And they're in a time of rebuilding again. So first, the Samuels and the Kings were written as a warning, here's why you're about to get the punishment you're about to get. The First and Second Chronicles is shorter, because it's written to encourage the people who are now coming to reestablish the land after their punishment is over. So they're both accurate, they both have completely accurate parts of the story. There are a couple things that we're going to read that were not in First and Second Samuel, First and Second Kings. But mostly it's simply from a different angle, one for a warning and one for encouragement.

So let's take a look at where we are. When you begin this week. We're going to be at First Chronicles chapter 13. The reading this week we'll start with King David reestablishing the nation of Israel after it had been falling, falling and faltering for years under King Saul's madness at the end of his reign. Chapters 13 through 17, First Chronicles, the Ark of the Covenant will be the focus this is the place where God's presence literally physically lived on the earth, and when the ark was central than God's will was central to them. And so we see David reestablishing not just the ark, but God's Will as central to the nation. We'll then go into chapters 18 through 20, we'll see some of David's victories, David has to go on to reclaim the land that was lost during Saul's madness and claim some of the land that he left unclaimed during his madness, as well. Then we're going to see David prepare the temple, or prepare for the temple, at least in First Chronicles 22. David wants to thank God by building him a grand temple. Because up until this point, God has been living in this tent called the tabernacle that they could carry with them when they were wandering. And even though now they've been in the land for a lot of years. God still lives in this tent called the tabernacle. David says, I want to build you a temple, God tells him No, that's not going to be your job, David, that will be your son Solomon's job. So David spends the last years of his life, gathering the materials, the supplies and the plans, so that Solomon can hit the ground running when he starts to build the temple.

We then get to First Chronicles 23, to 27. And we will finish up First Chronicles in these chapters. And it begins this way, First Chronicles 23. One, when David was old and full of years, he made his son, Solomon king over Israel. But then make a note of that Solomon, Solomon became the king before David died, David wanted to be sure that the transition of power was smooth and that it was good. And so David planned for it and actually did it during his lifetime. It's really an important thing for us to understand.

And then in the chapters immediately after that, we get a long list of people, priests and Levites, and so on, who are assigned to various tasks in the new temple. It's really easy to skim over this because it's this person was assigned to this job and this person was assigned to this job and it, it feels really boring to read. But as you read chapters 23 through 27, take note of a couple things. Take note, first of all, that what this is telling us that is that worship, because we're talking about people who are going to be working in the temple where they will worship right, worship is important enough to organize thoroughly. Right? We're assigning people as priests, as Levites, as singers. as gatekeepers, as treasurers. We're giving them the jobs they're going to do.

It's boring to read, but it's important to note, there's a lot of planning in this, which also leads us to the second main point as we read through the chapters, the idea of an organized religion, we've got this thing that organized religion is somehow a bad thing. We think the organized religion isn't right or that it's a new idea. And that's ridiculous. We always organize anything that really matters to us and worship in the Old Testament and New were extremely well organized. The problem isn't organization, the problem is, are we going to organize it biblically, according to God's ideas? Or are we going to organize it unbiblically according to our ideas, or are we not going to organize it at all? And if you don't organize it at all, if you don't plan for it, if you don't put it on the schedule, it tends not to happen at all. So organizing our religion or religious practices is biblical. It's extremely important.

And then we have in chapters, we have this amazing peaceful transition of power. So as you're reading through that, pay attention to that, in 28 through 29 of First Chronicles. First Chronicles ends with David presenting all of this, all of the materials and all the organizational structure to his son, Solomon, he passes the baton of leadership. And there are very few things greater or more important than a peaceful transition of power and authority. And they pull that off at the end of first Chronicles.

Then we get the Second Chronicles. And as Second Chronicles opens God asks Solomon a question. And I want you to think about it this way, if God gave you one wish, what would you ask for? And don't jump to it too quickly, or think that it's going to be awesome for you? Because think of how many, you know, three wishes, stories we've heard, right? The genie gives people three wishes. And in every story, as part of the lesson of the story is that we tend to choose very, very badly and we don't recognize the consequences of our choices. Well, of course, all of those stories are fictional, and they're meant to teach us lessons. And those lessons are good, I guess. But it actually did happen once God actually at one time gave one man his wish. And Solomon made the most of it and made the best choice possible.

He said, I wish for wisdom. And then we will see in chapter one, verses 11 and 12. God basically says, Wow, good choice, because you chose so wisely, I'm going to throw all the other stuff in as well. And we have been the beginning of between David and Solomon, the greatest pair of kings that Israel ever had. We then see that Solomon then gets immediately to the job that his father David had prepared for him, the building of and dedication of the temple in Second Chronicles, two through seven. It's an amazing episode of dedication of worship and a blessing. And when we get to the blessing of the temple, and the presence of God filling the temple, it is about as close to heaven on earth, as we have seen since Genesis. It's it is it is really that moment, Heaven touching Earth, it is just, it is without question, the peak and the pinnacle of it. And then that peak continues in chapters eight and nine, a Second Chronicles, where this really is the apex of Israel, which is short lived, and it starts to fade really quickly. But it happens.

So we have this amazing thing at the temple, you then have the visit of the queen of Sheba who comes and marvels at the wonderful way that God has blessed this nation. And then it starts to fade. And we get Second Chronicles, 8 and 9, were destroyed segment of it ends with Solomon's death. And by the time Solomon has died, the glory has started to fade. Again, Second Chronicles doesn't outline the fall as much as we saw earlier, because this is about an encouragement. But we'll still see that happen here. And then Second Chronicles 10, through 12, which is where our reading, for this week will end, we see a split begin in the kingdom.

Remember, at the beginning of Solomon's reign, we saw one of the world's great transitions of power from David Solomon. And at the end of Solomon's reign, we will see one of the worst ever transitions of power, where we go from a man who used to be wise, but who allowed the pagan idolatries of the world to poison his mind, so that by the time he ends, in His kingdom, that the Kingdom will split in just horrible, horrible ways. So what are we going to look for this week, the main thing to concentrate is take a look at the character of David, what it takes to let go of power and why that matters, and how he prepared his son for the job ahead of him. And then contrast that to Solomon, who although at the beginning, he had such great wisdom and power. He let the ways of the world. So infiltrate his heart, his soul and His Spirit, and it became all about him. And note the contrast between how David ended it and how Solomon ended when it's all for God's glory, like David saw, it ends well, not just for him, but for the benefit of others for the entire kingdom. And when we let that go, and we start making it all about ourselves, things go badly. So let's concentrate on the character, David, especially, because that's the good news for this week. Take a look at that and see the amazing things that happen when we do things God's way. All right, thanks. We'll see you next week.

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