



Chronicles of Israel

A study on Israel, her kings, and truth versus consequence

Magnolia Bible Church Alexander Sunday Bible Study | Lesson #3 – August 16, 2026

The Reign of David (1 Chronicles 11:1 – 16:43)

Provided in the table below is a high-level overview of 1st and 2nd Chronicles. As we go through this series it will be useful to keep this overview in mind.

Chapters	Content	Significance
1 Chronicles 1 – 9	Genealogies, emphasis on tribes of Judah and Levi	Preparing the stage for the Kingdom of Judah and the priestly tribe
1 Chronicles 10	Reign of Saul	Transition to David's Kingdom; declaration that the throne belonged to the tribe of Judah
1 Chronicles 11 – 29	Reign of David	Phase 1 of the ideal Kingdom; detailed preparation for the Temple
2 Chronicles 1 – 9	Reign of Solomon	Phase 2 of the ideal Kingdom; construction and installation of the Temple
2 Chronicles 10 – 26	Kings of Judah	Succession of kings, all of whom were descended from David; implemented the standards of David and Solomon to varying degrees

This is the first of three lessons in this series focused on the reign of David. Approximately two-thirds of 1 Chronicles (chapters 11 through 29) are focused on David's reign. It's easy to argue that David was one of the most important characters in the Old Testament and played a central role in the coming of the future Messiah. Listed below are a few facts about David.

- David was from the tribe of Judah and was the youngest of eight brothers.
- David grew up tending to sheep, and likely started at a young age.
- David was anointed king as a young man by Samuel (1 Samuel 16).
- David defeated Goliath in a battle widely known around the world (1 Samuel 17).
- David was described as a man after God's own heart (1 Samuel 13:14) at a time when God rejected Saul as king.
- David became Saul's son-in-law when he married Michal.
- Saul was extremely jealous of David and tried to kill him on more than one occasion. Saul ordered the killing of priests and their families because they assisted David.
- David became king at the age of 30 and reigned for 40 years.
- David was a great warrior and known for his military prowess.
- We learn a lot of about David, God, and how they worked through the adultery with Bathsheba.
- David wrote most of the Psalms.



As we did with Saul in obtaining extra information outside 1 Chronicles, “eager students” are encouraged to read (or scan) 1 Samuel 16 through 31, 2 Samuel, and 1 King 1-2. These texts provide excellent background on David, how he became king, the struggles he had, his triumphs and successes, his failures as a husband and father, and the legacy he left through his successor, Solomon. As men it is critically important that we study the life of David. We all make mistakes, sometimes very bad ones. Seeing how David was able to overcome the sins associated with adultery and murder is an example of how a man who’s pursuing God can overcome sin. David understood forgiveness and God’s grace better than anyone in the Old Testament (and perhaps in the entire Bible).

Questions

1. Consider the time in David’s life before he became king (1 Samuel 16 to 2 Samuel 1), what were some of the successes David had and what were some of the disappointments?
2. In what ways did God prepare David to be a king? Think in terms of people, places, and events.
3. Read 1 Chronicles 11:10-47 about David’s “Mighty Men.”
 - a. Who were some of the notable characters from among this list?
 - b. From your perspective how important is male friendship in your life? If you had to do life over again, would you change anything in terms of the friends you made (or didn’t make)?
4. 1 Chronicles 13 through 16 talks about the Ark of the Covenant being brought back to Jerusalem.
 - a. What happened to Uzzah after he touched the Ark? Do you think this was harsh?
 - b. The interaction between David and his wife, Michal (Saul’s daughter), is an interesting one in relation to David bringing back the Ark to Jerusalem (1 Chronicles 15 and 2 Samuel 6:16-23). What does this passage tell us about David’s zealousness for the Lord? How can this apply to us?

Next Meeting (Lesson #4): In our next lesson we’ll read 1 Chronicles 17:1 – 20:8 and discuss David’s “Undefeated Season” of life.