

“Through the Bible in a Year with Pastor Don and the FBC Family”
May 22, 2016

- ✓ **1 Chronicles 11:1-47.** David becomes king over “all Israel.”
- ✓ **1 Timothy 6:3-10.** If we have food and clothes, we should be content.
- ✓ **Psalms 80:1-19.** Prayer for protection and restoration.

COMMENTS:

1 Chronicles 11:1-47. With this chapter, the Chronicler comes to the heart of the story: the rise of David and the establishment of the Davidic kingdom. His theological point is to stress the significance of David and the Davidic kingdom. What made the difference between Saul’s failure on the one hand and David’s and Solomon’s success on the other was seeking the Lord (cf. 1 Chr 13:3; 14:10, 16; 2 Chr 14:4)—the only reason for any success among the people of God. After the defeat and death of Saul and the collapse of his house, David comes to the fore and is recognized as the Lord anointed, as emphasized in the first three verses of this chapter. David certainly had his flaws, which are emphasized more in 2 Samuel than in Chronicles, but he loved the Lord God with all his heart, soul, and mind and provided the pattern for future kings to follow (2 Chron. 29:2). Note the unity that David brought in verses 1-3 and verse 10 (“all Israel”). The kingdom is finally united. By capturing Jerusalem and driving out the enemies of God, David finally did what was started back in the time of Joshua. It is at this time that Jerusalem is established as the place of the throne in the time of David and in the future kingdom. Although David was a brilliant man, his greatness was only due to the fact that the Lord was with him: 1 Chronicles 11:9: *Then David went on and became great, and the LORD of hosts was with him.* There is no true greatness, as recognized by God, apart from the Lord. It is God who is the First Cause who gives each person existence and the power (as 2nd causes) to actualize choices for good (or evil). We all play *instrumental* roles in shaping our characters. We are instruments in His hands, instruments with power of free choices. Analogous to God’s creation of the universe, we actually create our own character from the contents of our minds. The fact that He is act of existence who continuously gives us our acts of existence for our essence with all of our properties guarantees that God is the most intimate being to us. Not only does He, as the act of existence, gives us power to actualize natural virtues, He is there to infuse our new natures with supernatural faith, hope, and love. Apart from God directly infusing His love into our natures, it is impossible for us to have supernatural love. The best that we can do with our natural natures is a natural love that is but an analogue to the perfect, transcendent love of God Himself, which He shares with those that He infuses His grace into. However, each believer must be serious about putting the Lord first, for velleities are nothing but a waste of time and God-given potentials. There is a radical difference, in kind, between the velleities of the two million Israelites in the desert and the volition (+ intellect/will) set on the Lord and His plan.

1 Timothy 6:3-10. After Paul discusses the fighting over words, which is often a sign of false motivations, he moves into the issue of finances. I touched on this passage in yesterday's Bible class and noted the importance of contentment in God and the problem of putting money and temporal issues ahead of contentment in God. Like Paul said, if we have food and clothing, we should be content. This contentment is complete contentment, of being satisfied with what we have and feeling secure in the life that God has given us. As Paul notes in verse 10, when money becomes the guiding principle, we not only lose satisfaction in life, we run the risk of losing our faith altogether. When money becomes the driving force of life, one can never become satisfied in life. He ends up living the insatiable empty, frustrated life. It is not that making or having a great deal of money is evil in itself, for in the next section Paul has advice for the rich—and it was not to give it all away. There is not a scintilla of evidence indicating that Paul ever hinted that riches in themselves were evil. What makes them evil is when they become our god that we serve and put before practically everything else.

Psalms 80:1-19. In his prayer that the Lord would restore Israel, the psalmist cries out to the Lord, the "Shepherd." He recognizes that the disaster upon Israel was a result of God's discipline on His people. He asks for God to save the people and then promises future obedience. He appeals to God as the Shepherd (80:1) for shepherdlike protection. He also uses the figure of a withering vine that reached from the Mediterranean to the Euphrates; he desires that God protect the vine of Israel that she may flourish and provide fruit for Him. In sum, the psalmist is asking God to take a very bad situation and turn it around for His own sake and glory. No matter what situation you find yourself in, God is always there to turn it all around. No human can plump the resources that God has available for each of us right now.

Romans 11:36 For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen.

Pastor Don