

“Through the Bible in a Year with Pastor Don and the FBC Family”
May 24, 2016

- ✓ **1 Chronicles 14:1-15:29.** David’s double-mindedness: illicit sex vs. the ark.
- ✓ **2 Timothy 1:1-2.** Called to the ministry.
- ✓ **Psalms 83.** God’s name, Yahweh/’Ehyeh, will one day be known all over the earth.

COMMENTS:

1 Chronicles 14:1-15:29. We can see David following the world here by taking many wives (14:3), which is in direct violation of God’s Word (Deut. 17:17). It was the custom of his time for a king to accumulate a large harem of wives and concubines. David is succumbing to this custom. David is allowing the world to define his life rather than the Word of God. This will cause many problems down the road. Note that this act of disobedience takes place in the same section of Scripture where David is following God in other ways, as per bringing the ark, which symbolized the presence of God, to Jerusalem. One way we often deceive ourselves is when we think that it is OK to disobey God in one area as long as we obey Him in other areas. How many believers obey God by studying the Word of God every day, but in their private moments continue to actualize sins that become habits, thus vices? vices which gradually work their way, with every actualization, to thought patterns that eventually take over one’s life. How many single believers love to attend church and praise Jesus, only to continue to commit fornication and thus defile their bodies in their private lives? How many believers are dedicated to the local church on the one hand all the while fully dedicated to Mammon? The Christian life was never designed to be a way of life where just part of the life was dedicated to the Lord. We are to dedicate our entire lives to the Lord, Rom. 12:1-2. Observe how David went from sexual sins by having many wives (14:1) to proceeding to honor the Lord by bringing the ark to the Jerusalem. David will suffer dearly for his sexual sins, which will destroy his spiritual life, causing a degeneracy culminating in the atrocity of premeditated first degree murder of innocent Uriah to cover up his sexual relationship with (and possibly rape of) his wife, Bathsheba.

2 Timothy 1:1-2. Paul begins with his credentials: “Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God according to the promise of the life that is in Christ Jesus.” Nearly all godly people in the Bible were appointed directly by God or His messengers to a mission, and they were given very particular and unique gifts to fulfill those missions. The term apostle not only carries the highest authority; it also means to be sent on a mission from God. When I hear of the phrase “I am on a mission from God,” I always think of the Blues Brothers. Strangely enough, Paul experienced the same kind of reception as the Blues Brothers when they delivered that line, even if for different reason, as both were met with a less-than-enthusiastic reception. I have heard people say that being called to the ministry of studying and teaching is such a hard sacrifice (as if was more of a curse than a blessing). I have even heard fellow PhD students talk about how reading and doing so many papers is such a pain (=curse?). I guess I am weird, because I see both the pastorate and PhD studies a privilege, even if both are very difficult. It is a privilege to be able to devote my whole life to learning and advancing in God’s fascinating truth. My only “complaint” is there is so much of God and His truth to learn and so little time. I am still puzzled that God picked me to be a pastor-teacher and uncover so much truth, but I am glad that He did and that He gave me the ministry at FBC. I really do appreciate the FBC family’s love for Truth as such. I

am truly blessed, even when I am totally exhausted—which may explain why I am going off on this personal note. Thanks to all of you Whole Truth, Total Truth lovers.

Psalm 83. In these verses we have Asaph's lament over Judah's grave situation. Judah is besieged, in mortal danger from cunning and united foes. Verses 5–8 describe encirclement: Edomites, Ishmaelites, Hagrites, Gebal, Bedouin from the eastern and southern desert, Ammon and Amalek from the northeast, Philistia and Tyre from west and northwest, and Assyria. For encouragement, the psalmist turns to history to recall what God formerly did against two similar conspiracies (Judg. 5:19–21, 26; 6:33; 7:25; 8:10–12). So may God do to the present invaders, making them like tumbleweed rolling before the wind, chaff in a gale, fire in a forest, boats before a tempest, covering them with shame and disgrace. Thus they may discover that Israel's Lord is God of the whole earth. Asaph asks God to deliver His people so that God's name would be glorified: Psalm 83:18, *That they may know that You, whose name alone is the LORD, Are the Most High over all the earth.*

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

Pastor Don