

“Through the Bible in a Year with Pastor Don and the FBC Family”
May 30, 2016

- ✓ **1 Chronicles 26:1-27:34.** The gatekeepers.
- ✓ **2 Timothy 4:1-8.** Preach the Word, always keeping in mind the eternal perspective.
- ✓ **Psalm 89:23-52.** Temporal punishment and eternal security in God.

COMMENTS:

1 Chronicles 26:1-27:34. Chapter 26 covers the Levitical gatekeepers (26:1-19), treasurers (20-28), and administrators. The gatekeepers consisted of a paramilitary security force. They possessed three significant roles in the Jerusalem temple-state: (1) the governance of the state, (2) the administration of temple revenue, and (3) the maintenance of the temple and its paraphernalia. The Levitical gatekeepers were temple servants, responsible for protecting the palace and the temple from those who would desecrate it or steal its treasures. One could also draw the spiritual application that every believer must guard his own heart, be a gatekeeper over evil things that can come in and destroy his relationship with the Lord. In other words, do not expose yourself to things that you do not want in your soul. Chapter 27 entails David’s organization of civil and military matters. These are non-Levitical administrative personnel. David’s organization of the army of Israel consisted of 12 divisions of 24,000 men with each division serving on active duty one month each year (27:1). This marks two important military innovations. First, there is a standing army with troops on duty each month of the year; those not on duty serve as a ready reserve. This contrasts with the old citizen army at the beginning of Saul’s reign. Second, the armies are under the control of royal officers instead of local tribal elders.

2 Timothy 4:1-8. Note Paul’s instructions to Timothy regarding his job as pastor-teacher. He tells Timothy that regardless of the circumstances, he was never to cede to apathy, rather he was to “Preach the Word, be ready in season and out of season, reprove, rebuke, exhort, with all patience and instruction” (4:2). Note the motivation: Paul points to the certainty of Christ’s return, which translates to always teaching the Word of God with an eye to eternity rather than the responses or lack thereof of the people of God. Christ’s return and Kingdom are to be the chief motivations (4:1). Like Timothy and Paul, all Christians are to live in light of the eternal perspective. As I have often noted, no believer can live the Christian life, the spiritual life, apart from the eternal perspective. Is it not the only perspective that Christ taught? Is it not the only perspective that invites the ministry of the Holy Spirit to illuminate and convince the believer of the certainty of salvation, Christianity, and our future home? Apart from the eternal perspective the believer will default to a functional view of God and live downward, meaning that his end, his goal, is on the temporal appetites and ends, a category that Paul classifies as “enemies of the Cross” (Philip. 3:17-19). Having an eternal perspective does not mean that you lose all interest in this life as such. It just means that every day of your life in all that you do, you have in your sights your eternal home. This can be illustrated by comparing it to taking a vacation. Say you are taking a trip to a fantastic resort, like in Belize. While you are very excited about getting there, you should also enjoy the trip along the way. We are headed for a much greater resort than Belize, and when we keep that in mind it tends to put things in the right perspective. Consider the couple that begins a trip to Belize only to get distracted and lost on the trip and end up thinking

that the motel rooms and airports along the way were their destinations. Believers, it will not be long before we all leave this planet. None of us have much time left. While the very young may be excused for getting distracted with the things of this world, what about the rest of us who only have 10, 20, 30 years left here? The believer who does not look with great anticipation in the next life is not, by any stretch of the imagination, living the Christian life—and the fact that he does not or cannot look forward to the next stage of life in great anticipation demonstrates that tremendous attrition of his faith has already occurred. Quo Vadis?

Psalm 89:23-52. Note both the justice of God and the grace of God in verses 30-37—how God both disciplines His wayward children and is absolutely committed to them: *If his sons forsake My law And do not walk in My judgments,* ³¹ *If they break My statutes And do not keep My commandments,* ³² *Then I will punish their transgression with the rod, And their iniquity with stripes.* ³³ *Nevertheless My lovingkindness I will not utterly take from him, Nor allow My faithfulness to fail.* ³⁴ *My covenant I will not break, Nor alter the word that has gone out of My lips.* ³⁵ *Once I have sworn by My holiness; I will not lie to David.* ³⁶ *His seed shall endure forever, And his throne as the sun before Me;* ³⁷ *It shall be established forever like the moon, Even like the faithful witness in the sky." Selah.* The same principle holds true to believers. While we all bear the consequences of our willful sinfulness, for God will not be mocked—Galatians 6:7, *Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap*—He remains committed to us. Many believers bear the marks of divine discipline from ailing health from substance abuse, wild parties, and misuse of time, to being enslaved to an evil, torturous, double-minded, unstable will that is set on evil as a good—all from actualizing impure thoughts and sin in the life and failing to actualize the Word of God in their lives through the grace of God. However, God remains faithful and will complete what He has begun in regard to our final Home, all because of His faithful and amazing grace. God is committed to us *always!*

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

Pastor Don