

I CHRONICLES

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to I Chronicles chapter 20 as we continue our study through the Word of God. If you remember from our last study, Joab and his men were fighting against the Syrians and the Ammonites and there was not a decisive victory by the children of Israel. And Joab returned to Jerusalem without the victory that they had wanted, they did not wipe out the enemy. Where was David in this battle? He was not there!

And, interestingly enough, it was not until David gathered the troops together and went into battle with them that the enemy was defeated. We read of this at the close of chapter 19 of I Chronicles where we are told beginning in verse 16, **“Now when the Syrians saw that they had been defeated by Israel, they sent messengers and brought the Syrians who were beyond the River, and Shophach the commander of Hadadezer’s army went before them. When it was told David, he gathered all Israel, crossed over the Jordan and came upon them, and set up in battle array against them. So when David had set up in battle array against the Syrians, they fought with him. Then the Syrians fled before Israel; and David killed seven thousand charioteers and forty thousand foot soldiers of the Syrians, and killed Shophach the commander of the army. And when the servants of Hadadezer saw that they were defeated by Israel, they made peace with David and became his servants. So the Syrians were not willing to help the people of Ammon anymore.”** I Chronicles 19:16-19.

You see, David needed to be in battle, he was their leader, he was their king. And so, did David learn his lesson? Let's begin reading in I Chronicles chapter 20, starting in verse 1 and see what the Lord has for us, the lessons He is showing David that we can apply to our own lives, our own spiritual walk with the Lord.

I CHRONICLES 20

VERSE 1

1. We have just started Baseball season and we are finishing up with Hockey and Basketball. There are seasons that we play sports and for the people back in those days, they had seasons for war, as strange as that may sound. You see, the later rains were over and the drier months of summer were coming upon them and this was the time for war. The reason for this is because in the rainy season the chariots would get stuck in the mud, it was difficult to get around. Also, the barley harvests were in and the wheat harvests were sufficiently well along freeing up the men of military age to go to battle. And, during the rainy season they would often plan their strategies and make their plans to fight against their enemies during the season for war, and now it was time to move forward!

2. Now here is the problem. David is older now, maybe some 55 years old or so, and probably tired of fighting. He had a beautiful home and maybe just wanted to sit back and enjoy the fruits of his labor. The problem was that it was time for kings to go to war and not stay at home and relax, and yet, David stayed in Jerusalem! Now I Chronicles does not go into the details of what took place here when David stood home, when he did not go to battle, but we are told of what took place back in II Samuel chapters 11 and 12. You see, it is during this time that David is at home that he sees this beautiful woman named Bathsheba bathing and tells his men to bring her to him. And they have sexual relations and she becomes pregnant.

And please understand that this was not just fornication, which was wrong, but it was adultery because both parties were married and Bathsheba's husband was one of David's mighty men, Uriah! And David tries to cover his sin by having Uriah come home from battle and David tries to get him to go home and sleep with his wife so he would think the child is his. He refuses because he sees his men in battle and did not feel right to sleep at home with his wife. Thus, David gets him drunk and he still does not sleep with his wife. The only solution that David now sees is to have Uriah killed in battle and he sends Uriah back to the battle lines with a letter to Joab telling him to put Uriah in the front of the line and have him killed! Why did this happen? Because David rested, he was not where he was suppose to be and the idle time was the time the Devil used to tempt him to sin and he went down that road!

3. Now what does that mean for us today since we really don't have seasons of war?

Yes, you heard me right; we don't have seasons of war because we are in a constant battle with the Devil, with this world, with the flesh! The most dangerous place for a Christian to be is inactive in his life when the battle of God is going on. F. B. Meyer put it like this, "Beware of moments and hours of ease. It is in these that we most easily fall into the power of Satan. The sultriest summer days are most laden with blight. . . . If we cannot fill our days with our own matters, there is always plenty to be done for others. . . . Watch and pray in days of vacation and ease, even more than at other times." Folk's, it doesn't matter how old you are or even how young you are, the flesh must be dealt with on a daily basis. It is that idle time that the enemy will use to defeat us because when we are busy we don't have time to let our minds wander and lead to sin. David found that truth out after the fact, may we learn the lesson and not go down that path.

For David, he found out that truth, because, as he remains at home while his men are out fighting, he fell. And think about this for a minute. Up to this point, as king, David has only seen victory, but after his sin with Bathsheba he will see wars and turmoil within his own family, that the enemies he once was victorious over are now defeating him. He will see his own sons try to usurp the throne from him. He will see all kinds of family problems. The devil could not defeat him from without, but he did defeat him from within. Again, may we be wise to the Devil's schemes and keep our eyes focused on God, serving Him and crucifying the flesh!

4. As we have seen, Joab was a mighty warrior and the commander of David's army. And Joab was victorious in this battle, but as we will see, he does not want to take the credit for the victory, and so he is going to let David get the credit for the victory. He did not want the people to be drawn to him and hold him in high esteem, but he wanted his king to get the credit and to have the people look to their king as the hero. Folk's, as we serve the Lord, as we are doing battle for Him, we are not to get the credit for the victory, but He is. Don't lift yourself up or you will be brought down. Humble yourself in the sight of the Lord and He will lift you up higher than you have ever been, not taking away His glory, but He will use you in powerful ways. Don't get in the way of what the Lord wants to do, give Him the glory and remember that we are just His servants!

VERSES 2-3

1. David now comes onto the scene, after the battle is over, and he gets the credit for the victory as I have said.

2. Now here in verse 3 there is some controversy over what took place. You see, where it speaks of the enemy and how that David "**put them to work with saws, with iron picks, and axes**" in the Hebrew it speaks of David cutting them with saws and picks and axes. Much more harsh a statement than is expressed in the New King James version.

Now the reason for the controversy is this. The Hebrew word, "**cut them**" is different only in the final letter from "**put them.**" And thus, many feel this is meaning nothing more that David condemning the inhabitants of Rabbah to hard and penal servitude. That is possible and I am not going to be dogmatic on this.

But, if David did do this act to them, cutting them in two, this wickedness by David could be the result of the conviction that he felt upon his life for his sin with Bathsheba. We know it was bothering him for almost a full year. In fact, in Psalm 32:3-4 we see David cry out, **“When I kept silent, my bones grew old Through my groaning all the day long. For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; My vitality was turned into the drought of summer.”**

Physically, emotionally, spiritually his life was affected and when fellowship with God is broken, who is affected by it? Those around that person are affected. You see, when you are not in fellowship with God because sin has broken that fellowship, you will lash out at people. It is when that fellowship is restored that what flows from our lives is grace, mercy, love and-so-on. So I do think David could have cut them in two, but I will leave that up to you to decide for yourself.

VERSES 4-8

1. Here we see the descendants of Goliath killed by David’s men. I truly believe that these giants were part of the offspring we read of back in Genesis chapter 6, the Nephilim or the fallen ones. These, I believe were the satanic offspring of fallen angels who co-habitated with women, or the daughters of men. And what Satan was trying to do was contaminate the human race so that the Messiah could not be born from the seed of the woman. And he did such a great job that only Noah and his family were not contaminated.

We read of Noah that he was perfect, or without contamination. Thus, it is through his offspring that the Messiah would come, and the rest of mankind was killed in the flood. But don't think that stopped Satan from his work for it says in Genesis 6:4 **“There were giants on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men and they bore children to them. Those were the mighty men who were of old, men of renown.”** So I do believe that these giants could be part of the fallen ones and yes, some do believe that these were just really tall guys! But I tend to see the spiritual aspect to this.

2. Also, we can glean from this section in I Chronicles that David killed the giant, and now his men have become giant killers. How does that relate to us today? Think of it like this. The Son of David, Jesus Christ, has defeated the giant, Satan, at the cross of Calvary, and as His men and women we too can be giant killers and take back what the enemy has hold of. That truly is the focus of this chapter as J. Vernon McGee tells us,

My friend, the believer has an unrelenting enemy also. We are fighting against spiritual wickedness in high places. If you are a child of God, you are also a soldier of God. That is the reason we are enjoined to “Put on the whole armour of God . . .” (Eph. 6:11).

We are not to march against anyone; we are to *stand*. If you stand for the things of God, you are in a battle. You are in a war whether you like it or not. The wars may cease in Asia and in Africa and in Europe and in the western hemisphere, but there will still be war as long as there is evil in the world. As Paul said to the Ephesian believers, “Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand” (Eph. 6:13). This is the message in chapter 20 for you and for me.

- J. Vernon McGee, Thru The Bible, Vol. II, pp. 388-389

3. Now as you read through this chapter and compare with what was going on in Samuel, you see that there were many things left out. First of all, like I have said, this whole incident with Bathsheba and David’s sin with her is not mentioned in the book of I Chronicles. We don’t see the incest of Amnon with his sister Tamar. We don’t see the rebellion of Absalom, and you may be wondering why God would leave it out. I believe that in the books of I & II Samuel and I & II Kings we are looking at things from the vantage point of man, a human perspective. But I & II Chronicles it is written from a heavenly perspective. You see, God does not mention the sin of David because God does not hold our sins against us. In Psalm 103:12 we are told **“As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us.”**

On a horizontal plane the east and the west don't ever meet, thus God has completely removed our sin, cast it away. In Isaiah 38:17 we are told that God has cast all our sins behind His back. And in Isaiah 43:25 we read, "**I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions for My own sake; And I will not remember your sins.**" That should be a great comfort to us, for we all will blow it, make a mistake, but God has forgiven us and will not hold it against us, for all our sins are covered by the blood of Christ. But also understand that many times we do suffer the consequences of our sin, even though God has forgiven us. David saw the result of his sin and how it affected his own family with incest and murder and-so-on. We may sin against God but the affects are felt by those around us, may we not forget that!

4. Now as we begin I Chronicles chapter 21 keep in mind that there is about a 20 year gap from I Chronicles 20:8 and I Chronicles 21:1. And the events that were mentioned above, plus some others, occurred during this time, which Chronicles does not cover.

I CHRONICLES 21**VERSES 1-2**

1. Now understand this, the sin of David was not in numbering the people, for Moses did this in the book of Numbers, once at the beginning of their wanderings, and once at the end. What David is doing here is taking a census of his military, how many soldiers he had and the Lord had not instructed him to do so. Then what is the difference? Here we see that there is the sin of pride. You see, David is putting his trust in his military strength instead of the Lord.

Remember what we are told in Psalm 118:5-9? Here is the correct attitude to have, who you are going to trust. We read in Psalm 118, **“I called on the LORD in distress; The LORD answered me and set me in a broad place. The LORD is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me? The LORD is for me among those who help me; Therefore I shall see my desire on those who hate me. It is better to trust in the LORD Than to put confidence in man. It is better to trust in the LORD Than to put confidence in princes.”**

In other words, who are you going to trust, the Lord or your might? Obviously the answer is simple when we are walking with the Lord, but many times we take our eyes off the Lord and we do it in our strength and it is a mess, and disobedience to the Lord is a sin!

Remember what are told in Psalm 33:16-17, the correct perspective to have, “**No king is saved by the multitude of an army; A mighty man is not delivered by great strength. A horse is a vain hope for safety; Neither shall it deliver any by its great strength.**” David is going to learn this lesson the hard way; he is going to see what pride can do because in this sin we will see 70,000 men lose their lives!

Now how do we know what we should do in situations like this, when we, in a sense are trying to number the people, see how strong we are, the resources we have? It is simple and I think Morgan nails it as he wrote, “When we are moved to number the people, we may rest assured that the impulse is Divine or Satanic, and we may determine which by the motive. If the motive is service, it is God. If the motive is pride, it is Satanic.” May we be sensitive to the Lord!

2. One more point here and I want you to understand this. Here in I Chronicles it says that Satan caused David to number Israel, but in II Samuel chapter 24 it says that the Lord was angry with Israel and He caused David to number Israel, is this then a contradiction? No, this is not and I will show you why. First of all the Bible tells us that God does not tempt us. We read in James 1:13, “**Let no one say when he is tempted, ‘I am tempted by God’; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone.**” And so what is going on here is that God steps aside and allows Satan to tempt David, and David went for it. Satan tempted and the Lord was using this as a trial in David’s life, to see if he would repent and get right with God

Thus, out of this God not only dealt with David's sin, his pride, but He is also going to chasten the nation of Israel. No contradiction at all! And keep in mind that David could have repented, but he didn't, he numbered his soldiers, his army and God judged him for that. He listened to the voice of the Devil instead of the voice of God!

VERSES 3-4

1. Joab may have been a loose cannon and did what he wanted, but he was right in what he told David, his king. Joab wanted David to reconsider what he was requesting, the taking of this census. In fact, II Samuel 24:2 tells us that Joab was not alone in speaking to David to get him to stop this census, the captains of his army also warned David not to do this. But David did not listen, he did it any way!

VERSES 5-6

1. According to II Samuel 24:5-9, it took almost 10 months for them to complete this census. So this census comes out to be 1,570,000 soldiers, which is different from the account we find in II Samuel 24:9, which gives us a total of 1,300,000 soldiers. And thus, some have estimated the total population of the Jewish people to be around 6 million!

But why is there a difference? Some say it was a copyist error, which is possible. We are not really sure why the difference and it is foolish to try to figure it out. Here is the key for me. Does this change any doctrine? Absolutely not and thus, whatever the number is, as close as they are, it doesn't cause my faith to stumble or to doubt God's Word!

2. Why did Joab not count Benjamin and Levi? We are told by Clarke that, “The rabbis give the following reason for this: Joab, seeing that this would bring down destruction upon the people, purposed to save two tribes. Should David ask, ‘Why have you not numbered the Levites?’ Joab purposed to say, ‘Because the Levites are not reckoned among the children of Israel.’ Should he ask, ‘Why have you not numbered Benjamin?’ He would answer, ‘Benjamin has been already sufficiently punished, on account of the treatment of the woman at Gibeah: if, therefore, this tribe were to be again punished, who would remain?’”

VERSES 7-8

1. This is one of those things that made David great, he saw his sin and he confessed it before the Lord and did not try to hide it or make excuses for his actions. Saul, on the other hand, tried to make all kinds of excuses why he had sinned; he loved to blame others for his actions. Saul was never responsible for his own walk as David was. And as sorry as David was about his sin, and even though God had forgave him completely, there was still consequences related to his sin. Morgan picks up on this as he wrote, “The chief interest of this chapter for us lies in the revelation of the true character of David. His sins were the lapses and accidents of his life. This is not to condone them. It is, however, to emphasize that the habitual set of his life was far otherwise than these sins suggest, and the deepest truth concerning him is revealed, not by the failures, but by his action afterwards.” David should have recognized his sin before it got this far! It took almost 10 months to take this census and it was not until it was completed that David saw his sin. May we learn the lesson sooner!

VERSES 9-12

1. As David repents God speaks to the prophet Gad and tells him to go and speak to David. He was to tell David that he had three choices to make in regards to the judgment that was coming upon the land for this sin. Either 3 years of famine, which would cause some to die, but the wealthy would be able to survive but Israel would have to depend on others for food. Or 3 months of defeat by their enemies, which again would cause some to die and their enemies would show no mercy. Or 3 days of the Angel of the Lord, and many would die here. A tough choice for David to make and let's read on and see which one he chooses!

VERSE 13

1. David chooses the 3 days of the Angel of the Lord coming upon them, which is an interesting choice. He recognized the mercy of God and he placed his life and the lives of his people in the hands of God, for God's mercy is much greater than the mercy of man! Now, to put this in perspective, what David did, listen to what Clarke wrote because David did recognize he was at fault and deserved this punishment as much as anyone else. Clarke wrote, "Had he chosen war, his own personal safety was in no danger, because there was already an ordinance preventing him from going to battle. Had he chosen famine, his own wealth would have secured his and his own family's support. But he showed the greatness of his mind in choosing the pestilence, to the ravages of which himself and his household were exposed equally with the meanest of his subjects." That was David and again, I think that is why he was so great. He did not see himself as more important than anyone else before the Lord!

VERSES 14-15

1. So we see God pour out His judgment against Israel and in this judgment we see that 70,000 men are killed. As devastating as that was, we are then told that the Lord **“relented”** of what He had done. Now that is interesting to me because we are told in Numbers 23:19 that **“God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?”**

How can God change His mind if the Bible says that is not something that He does? Folk's, it is difficult to describe God's actions in earthly terms, and sometimes it is misleading. God did what had to be done, and the judgment was complete and now God's mercy was coming forth. It was not that He changed His mind; it is that the work of judgment was done. Don't miss that point!

2. Now notice that we are told that this Angel of the Lord stood at the threshing floor of Ornan, which was one of the highest points in Jerusalem, on a ridge of mountains called Moriah. Remember, when they would thresh their grain they needed to be high up to catch the wind to blow the chaff and allow the grain to fall to the ground. Keep that in mind as we read on because just as it was important to be on high ground to thresh your wheat, God is going to use this mountain for something even more important than that!

VERSES 16-19

1. I thought the judgment was over, why do we see David and these elders fall on their faces in sackcloth? Because this Angel of the Lord was standing over Jerusalem and they did not know that God had stopped the judgment, they were not sure what this Angel of the Lord was going to do! And we see here that David takes the responsibility for what has happened, and he makes no excuses for his actions. David had the heart of a shepherd who loved his sheep and did not want anything to happen to them. You see, a true shepherd will stand up for his sheep, even when things get tough, and will not run away from the situation. A true shepherd will take responsibility and not blame others for what is happening and that was David!

2. David is instructed to build an altar unto the Lord on this threshing floor. And again, as we will see, this is a very important mountain. Payne picks up on this as he wrote, “The decision of God to establish his altar and temple at Moriah in Jerusalem has affected all history (cf. Revelation 11:1); for this mountain became the focus of the Holy City, where His Son was crucified. And it will continue to affect history; for from this ‘city he loves’, he will some day rule the nations of the earth (Isaiah 2:2-4).” We do long for that day when He will rule and reign, which I believe is fast approaching!

VERSES 20-25

1. Verse 20 is interesting to me. It says that Ornan and his four sons saw this Angel of the Lord and his four sons hid themselves in fear while Ornan kept threshing his wheat. I don't know about this guy, maybe he was a workaholic or maybe he was not going to let anything get in the way of the work he was doing, not even this Angel of the Lord! I wish more Christians would live out their faith like that, not letting anything get in the way of the work they are called to do. The only thing that should stop us is when it is time to go home and be with the Lord!

2. And now we see David approach Ornan and as he does we see Ornan bow before David, his king. And Ornan listens to David's request to build an altar to the Lord on this threshing floor. Ornan, without hesitating, offers to give it to David, not only the land, but the oxen and threshing implements and even the grain.

But David can't take it for nothing. But why can't he accept this gift? Because David did not want to give to the Lord that which cost him nothing. That is what true worship is all about, true sacrifice, it costs you something. David is saying to Ornan, "How can I worship the Lord with that which has cost me nothing?" Paul in Romans 12:1 says, "**I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.**"

It is as Adam Clarke wrote regarding what David did. He wrote, “He who has a religion that costs him nothing, has a religion that is worth nothing: nor will any man esteem the ordinances of God, if those ordinances cost him nothing.” And F. B. Meyer makes this application to our own lives as he wrote, “Where there is true, strong love to Jesus, it will cost us something. Love is the costliest of all undertakings . . . But what shall we mind if we gain Christ? You cannot give up for Him without regaining everything you have renounced, but purified and transfigured.” Worship will cost you something, are you willing to sacrifice and give it to Him? David was!

3. We are told here in I Chronicles that David paid 600 shekels of gold, but in II Samuel 24:24 we are told that he paid only 50 shekels of silver, why the discrepancy? The reason is simple. In II Samuel David paid 50 shekels for the threshing floor and the oxen. The word “**threshing floor**” means just that, a place where the grain was threshed from the stalk and chaff. Now in I Chronicles David paid 600 shekels of gold for the place or the whole area. This area is what we call today the temple mount with the mosque of Omar and the Dome of the Rock residing on this piece of property. This is the place where Solomon will build his temple and, because of the elevation, as you travel up to Jerusalem, you would see this temple, the dwelling place for God!

VERSES 26-27

1. As David offers to God the burnt offerings on this altar to atone for sin and the peace offerings which speaks of fellowship with God, David understood that God had accepted them as they were consumed in His fire! But the key here is this. You can't have fellowship; you can't enjoy fellowship with God apart from the burnt offering or the atonement for sin, which is only found in Christ!

VERSES 28-30

1. Remember that only the Ark was in Jerusalem, and the Tabernacle was still in Gibeon. But that will soon change, for the sacrifice will be made in Jerusalem and no longer in Gibeon. This will now be the spot to worship God. You see, David was afraid to go to Gibeon because of the judgment of God, so God told him to offer the sacrifice right here. God, as we will see, was telling David that this is the spot in which the temple was to be built.

2. Now this is interesting to me, for in Deuteronomy 12:10-11, before they even enter the Land of Cannon, the Promise Land, the Lord told Moses who told the people, **“But when you cross over the Jordan and dwell in the land which the Lord your God is giving you to inherit, and He gives you rest from all your enemies round about, so that you dwell in safety, then there will be the place where the Lord your God chooses to make His name abide. There you shall bring all that I command you: your burnt offerings, your sacrifices, your tithes, the heave offerings of your hand, and all your choice offerings which you vow to the Lord.”** This is that place that Moses was speaking of, the place where the Temple would soon be built by Solomon!

I CHRONICLES 22

VERSE 1

1. David recognizes that this is the spot for the Temple, that God has chosen this spot where He will dwell. It is the fulfillment of what Moses spoke of in Deuteronomy. And, keep in mind that some 1,000 years before this event, Abraham made a 3 day journey to Mount Moriah, and there he was willing to offer his only son as a sacrifice to the Lord. And then some 1,000 years after this event here in I Chronicles, another Father was going to offer His only Son as a sacrifice for the sins of the world. This was now the spot where the Temple was to be built. Around 3 blocks from this sight, on the top of Mount Moriah, was a place we call Golgotha, or the place of the skull, where Christ was crucified.

VERES 2-5

1. Notice what David is doing here, he is preparing all that will be needed to construct this Temple even though the Lord said that he could not build it, but his Son Solomon will. He is just helping his son out. And think about this. David could have pouted because he could not build God a house. But instead, he gathers all the supplies that his son Solomon will need to build the temple. Too many times we complain and are upset over the things we can't do, the doors that God has closed, instead of walking through the ones that He has opened, as David did. A great lesson for us to learn!

VERSES 6-10

1. Here we see David charge his son Solomon to build this Temple and it was not a suggestion, it was a call of God upon his life to do this.

2. Also, we see the Lord tell David why he could not build this Temple, it was because he was a man of war. It wasn't that what David did was wrong, but I think there is a lesson here for us. Are we going to build this church by making wars, by attacking people or by bringing to people the Gospel of peace that is found in Jesus Christ? You see, God has called us to bring this good news, not by force, but in love, in peace to people. A far different perspective than that of Islam which is done by wars!

VERSES 11-13

1. Notice what David is saying to his son Solomon here. He is saying that if you want to be strong, if you want to be courageous you have to be in obedient fellowship with the Lord. If you refuse to do that then you will be overtaken. You see, it didn't matter how strong the Egyptians were, or the Babylonians, or the Assyrians, as long as they were in obedient fellowship with the Lord, no enemy would overtake them and God would establish their kingdom, He would take care of it!

2. We too need to be in obedient fellowship with the Lord or our efforts will be in our strength instead of the strength of the Lord. It is as Psalm 127:1 says, "**Unless the LORD builds the house, They labor in vain who build it; Unless the LORD guards the city, The watchman stays awake in vain.**" And that is what David is saying to his son Solomon. You see, if you are doing the work of God in the flesh, then your fruit will be small and not lasting. Your work or labor will be for nothing. Be lead by God's Spirit and you will bear much fruit, lasting fruit in your life!

VERSES 14-16

1. Look at all the materials that David obtained for the building of the temple. He had some 3,750 tons of gold and 37,500 tons of silver, and bronze and iron so abundant that they did not even count it. Now some say this is an exaggeration of the amount, but no matter what, David collected a lot of material for this Temple.

2. Now think about this for a minute. What is this temple called? We call it Solomon's Temple! Why not David's? Who cares, it did not bother David and yet, many times it bothers us because we want the glory, we want the recognition. I don't know if you have been as fortunate as me, but I have gotten an E-mail to be part of the Who's Who book that is coming out. And I thought I was pretty special until I realized they send this to every Tom, Dick and Joe out there! But we like that stuff and because of that we want to do things on our own so we can get the credit, that no one else will or even worse, that they would take it away from us! That is wrong and that is not how a servant of God should act. It is not about us, it is about the Lord and if someone gets credit for the work of God, praise the Lord the work was done!

Spurgeon put it like this, "But this is a terrible blow at self. Self says, 'I like to begin something of my own, and I like to carry it out; I do not want any interference from other people.' A friend proposed, the other day, to give you a little help in your service. You looked at him as if he had been a thief. You do not want any help; you are quite up to the mark; you are like a wagon and four horses, and a dog under the wagon as well! There is everything about you that is wanted; you need no help from anybody; you can do all things almost without the help of God! I am very sorry for you if that is your opinion." May we just learn to rejoice in the work that is being done for the Lord!

VERSES 17-19

1. David calls for them to get started on the work of God, make a conscious decision.

And I think the Lord is calling for us to arise and make a conscious decision to seek the Him with all our heart. That we get up early and spend time with Him. That we would start and end our day with Him, and in between, being guided by Him, doing the work He has called us to do. You see, there is no limit to what God can and will do through us! Are we willing to do the work? That is the question. Are we willing to arise and begin this work that God has called us to or are we going to just sit around and do nothing, waiting for others to do it? May we arise and begin the work! Let me close with these words from Paul in I Corinthians 15:58, “**Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.**” May we not forget that!