



Chronicles of Israel

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

Magnolia Bible Church Alexander Sunday Bible Study | Lesson #4 – August 23, 2026

David's Undefeated Season (1 Chronicles 17:1 – 20:8)

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 in relation to the overall framework of this study.

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 second 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. In today's lesson we'll talk about a period of time where David achieved great conquest and expanded the territory of Israel. The map on page 3 shows David's expansion. **The expansion was significant.** For us there are times of expansion, times of contraction, and times when we're just hanging on for dear life! We've all been through each phase, with each one having pros and cons.

There are three basic divisions in today's lesson:

- **David's desire to build a temple (1 Chronicles 17:1-27):** Even though David was not allowed to build the Temple, he rejoiced in God's promise to him and his family.
- **David's victories over neighboring kingdoms (1 Chronicles 18:1-17):** God blessed David and the entire nation of Israel by granting them victory over their enemies.
- **War with Ammon (1 Chronicles 19:1 – 20:8):** The war with Ammon further displays how God granted David success and also highlights the faith Joab had in God.



Questions

1. A defining characteristic of David is that he was “zealous for the Lord.” His desire to build the Temple is an example of that and it appears he had much of it planned in his mind. Why do you think God did not allow him to oversee the building of the Temple? For additional details (and an exact answer) please see 1 Chronicles 22:8.
2. What does David’s response to the message from Nathan that he would not be the one to build God’s Temple in Jerusalem tell us about David, his heart, and his humility? How are you impacted by studying this example provided by David?
3. Nahash had been king of the Ammonites for a long time and was the father of Hanun, who succeeded him as king. Even though Nahash was a cruel king who had a reputation for destroying his enemies, he had become a friend of David’s during the time when David was running from Saul.
 - a. In reading 1 Chronicles 18:1-17, what do we learn about Hanun in terms of how he dealt with the delegation that David sent? How smart was his subsequent response when he realized he had messed up?
 - b. Have you ever found yourself in a situation where you knew you really messed up? What did you do and how was God involved in the resolution?
4. In reading 1 Chronicles 19:10-15 what do we learn about Joab and his faith in God? What happens to a nation when their leaders have a healthy view of God and His power?
5. 1 Chronicles 20:4-8 has an interesting text about Israel’s interactions with giants. What do victories over giants tell us about these men? How do you think God used the “wins” in building their faith and ability to move on and do even greater things for Him?
6. In our lives, what counts as “wins” and what events can be considered “defeats”? How does God use these events to develop and grow us to be more like Jesus?
7. What are some things we can do to help friends and family recognize victories in apparent defeats?

Next Meeting (Lesson #5): In our next lesson we’ll read 1 Chronicles 21:1 – 22:19 and discuss David’s census of the people and disastrous consequences for the nation.

