

The Mighty Family Grows

First Chronicles 2

Don Ruhl • Savage Street, Grants Pass, Oregon • June 13, In the year of our Lord Christ, 2021

Scripture Reader and Reading: Jackson Meyer – Romans 15.4

Song Leader and Song Suggestions: Phil Joseph – No Suggestions

Prelude:

I. Ezra's attention to detail

- A. assures the reader of the accuracy
- B. of the story in the rest of First and Second Chronicles.

II. Ezra's inclusion of the good and the bad shows

- A. that he was not biased and
- B. that the Holy Spirit does not excuse its heroes.

Persuasion:

I. First Chronicles 2.1–2 • The Sons of Israel

1 These were the sons of Israel: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun, 2 Dan, Joseph, Benjamin, Naphtali, Gad, and Asher.

- A. These men were not perfect men, but
 - 1. the Lord used them to build his nation,
 - 2. which in turn has blessed us mightily.
- B. Leah bore those first six.
 - 1. Jacob loved her less than Rachel, but
 - 2. Leah bore half of the sons of Jacob.
 - a) When you follow the Lord
 - b) he compensates for your losses:

29 So Jesus answered and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My sake and the gospel's, 30 who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time—houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions—and in

the age to come, eternal life.”

– Mark 10.29–30

II. First Chronicles 2.3–6 • The Sons of Judah

3 The sons of Judah were Er, Onan, and Shelah. These three were born to him by the daughter of Shua, the Canaanitess. Er, the firstborn of Judah, was wicked in the sight of the LORD; so He killed him. 4 And Tamar, his daughter-in-law, bore him Perez and Zerah. All the sons of Judah were five. 5 The sons of Perez were Hezron and Hamul. 6 The sons of Zerah were Zimri, Ethan, Heman, Calcol, and Dara—five of them in all.

A. Judah being such a prominent tribe,

1. the southern kingdom was named after him, yet,
2. the Bible shows his faults and those of his sons.
 - a) The Jews wrote the Bible, but
 - b) it was the Holy Spirit who used them to write it.
 - (1) The Holy Spirit does not show partiality.
 - (2) The Holy Spirit speaks the truth,
 - (a) even if it shows the errors of its friends.

B. How wicked was Er?

1. Other people did wicked things, but
 - a) the Lord did not take their lives.
 - b) Others should have been taken,
 - (1) such as David for adultery and conspiracy to commit murder.
 - (2) Ananias and Sapphira lied to the church and preachers, and
 - (a) they were hardly the last, yet,
 - (b) the Lord has not taken the lives of others.
2. He may have used these as examples.

- a) Sometimes staying behind can be worse than death.
 - b) I have often wondered about the griefs
 - (1) that David experienced after his encounter with Bathsheba.
 - (2) He may have wished that he died.
 - 3. The Bible does not record the wickedness of Er, but
 - a) leaves us to think about it,
 - b) that whatever it was, the Lord took his life for it.
- C. Judah became a great man, but
- 1. he also sinned.
 - 2. He thought that he went to a harlot, but
 - a) it was his daughter-in-law disguised as a harlot.
 - b) She was also guilty.
 - 3. Yet, later, Genesis 44 shows Judah pleading for his youngest brother
 - a) before Joseph, whom Judah did not know was Joseph, and
 - b) it has to be one of the most touching speeches ever given.

III. First Chronicles 2.7 • The Troubler of Israel

7 The son of Carmi was Achar, the troubler of Israel, who transgressed in the accursed thing.

- A. What a sad thing that of all a person has done in a lifetime,
- B. he has committed something so bad that is how he is remembered,
 - 1. as the troubler of Israel.
 - 2. Yet, that is how we know Achar or Achan.
 - a) When Israel attacked and destroyed Jericho,
 - b) the Lord had said that all of its treasure was his,
 - (1) that is it would be put into the treasury.

(2) At the next battles the Lord let Israel have the spoil.

C. Look at what sin brought to Achan:

1. It brought an untimely death.
2. It has forever connected him with shame.
3. It brought him trouble because he brought trouble to Israel.

D. Achan himself in Joshua 7 explained what happened:

20 And Achan answered Joshua and said, "Indeed I have sinned against the LORD God of Israel, and this is what I have done: 21 When I saw among the spoils a beautiful Babylonian garment, two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold weighing fifty shekels, I *coveted* them and took them. And there they are, hidden in the earth in the midst of my tent, with the silver under it."

– **Joshua 7.20–21**

1. We do not talk very much about covetousness, but
2. it is extremely dangerous, as you can see with Achan.

E. It was covetousness that moved Judas to steal from their money constantly.

1. it is what led him to betray the Son of God to his enemies.
2. Colossians 3 warns of the power of covetousness with these words:

5 Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and *covetousness, which is idolatry.*

– **Colossians 3.5**

- a) What is idolatry?
- b) Idolatry is the worship and devotion to a false god.
 - (1) A god is something that we obey.
 - (2) We sacrifice for it.
 - (a) When we covet that is what we do.

(b) We obey our lust and do what it takes to satisfy it.

IV. First Chronicles 2.8–17 • David's Family

8 The son of Ethan was Azariah. **9** Also the sons of Hezron who were born to him were Jerahmeel, Ram, and Chelubai. **10** Ram begot Amminadab, and Amminadab begot Nahshon, leader of the children of Judah; **11** Nahshon begot Salma, and Salma begot Boaz; **12** Boaz begot Obed, and Obed begot Jesse; **13** Jesse begot Eliab his firstborn, Abinadab the second, Shimea the third, **14** Nethanel the fourth, Raddai the fifth, **15** Ozem the sixth, and David the seventh. **16** Now their sisters were Zeruah and Abigail. And the sons of Zeruah were Abishai, Joab, and Asahel—three. **17** Abigail bore Amasa; and the father of Amasa was Jether the Ishmaelite.

A. Be careful of the birth order doctrine.

1. David was the seventh son.
 - a) First Samuel 16.10–11 lists him as the eighth.
 - b) Perhaps one died in childbirth.
2. Moses was the third child.
3. Solomon was way down the list.
4. Jesus was the firstborn.

B. We follow the genealogy of Jesus here.

C. Note the sisters of David and who their sons were:

1. These were David's nephews.
2. Abishai, Joab, and Asahel were cousins to Amasa.
 - a) As you read the story of David,
 - b) you will especially notice Joab.
 - (1) Joab was a mighty warrior, but
 - (2) he was also ruthless and sometimes disobedient to the king.
3. David had made a promise to Joab,
 - a) which is why David did not remove him as the top military man.

b) However, David ordered Solomon to execute Joab,

(1) which means that cousin executed cousin.

(2) Truly, everyone in Israel was related.

D. However, you have to do what is right even above devotion to family.

V. First Chronicles 2.18–20 • Caleb's Family

18 Caleb the son of Hezron had children by Azubah, his wife, and by Jerioth. Now these were her sons: Jeshur, Shobab, and Ardon. 19 When Azubah died, Caleb took Ephrath as his wife, who bore him Hur. 20 And Hur begot Uri, and Uri begot Bezalel.

A. Hur served Moses (Exodus 17.12)

B. Bezalel made the tabernacle (Exodus 31.1–2)

C. See how Judah contributed so much to the Lord and Israel?

D. What have you done for the Lord and the church and mankind?

42 "And whoever gives one of these little ones only a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple, assuredly, I say to you, he shall by no means lose his reward."

– Matthew 10.42

10 For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister.

– Hebrews 6.10

VI. First Chronicles 2.21–26 • Hezron

21 Now afterward Hezron went in to the daughter of Machir the father of Gilead, whom he married when he was sixty years old; and she bore him Segub. 22 Segub begot Jair, who had twenty-three cities in the land of Gilead. 23 (Geshur and Syria took from them the towns of Jair, with Kenath and its towns—sixty towns.) All these belonged to the sons of Machir the father of Gilead. 24 After Hezron died in Caleb Ephrathah, Hezron's wife Abijah bore him Ashhur the father of Tekoa. 25 The sons of Jerahmeel, the firstborn of

Hezron, were Ram, the firstborn, and Bunah, Oren, Ozem, and Ahijah. 26 Jerahmeel had another wife, whose name was Atarah; she was the mother of Onam.

A. Hezron married a woman when he was 60.

1. Why did Ezra mention that?
2. Why did he mention this woman?

B. Jair had 23 cities in the land of Gilead.

C. Jerahmeel's wives and concubines

VII. First Chronicles 2.27–41 • The Sons of Ram

27 The sons of Ram, the firstborn of Jerahmeel, were Maaz, Jamin, and Eker.

28 The sons of Onam were Shammai and Jada. The sons of Shammai were Nadab and Abishur. 29 And the name of the wife of Abishur was Abihail, and she bore him Ahban and Molid. 30 The sons of Nadab were Seled and Appaim; Seled died without children. 31 The son of Appaim was Ishi, the son of Ishi was Sheshan, and Sheshan's son was Ahlai. 32 The sons of Jada, the brother of Shammai, were Jether and Jonathan; Jether died without children. 33 The sons of Jonathan were Peleth and Zaza. These were the sons of Jerahmeel. 34 Now Sheshan had no sons, only daughters. And Sheshan had an Egyptian servant whose name was Jarha. 35 Sheshan gave his daughter to Jarha his servant as wife, and she bore him Attai. 36 Attai begot Nathan, and Nathan begot Zabad; 37 Zabad begot Ephlal, and Ephlal begot Obed; 38 Obed begot Jehu, and Jehu begot Azariah; 39 Azariah begot Helez, and Helez begot Eleasah; 40 Eleasah begot Sismai, and Sismai begot Shallum; 41 Shallum begot Jekamiah, and Jekamiah begot Elishama.

A. Abihail is another woman.

B. Seled never had children.

C. Jether also never had children.

D. Sheshan only had daughters.

1. Yet, that did not exclude him from the genealogy.
2. He did have an Egyptian servant named Jarha.
3. He gave his Egyptian servant to his daughter.

E. Zelophehad mentioned in numbers only had daughters.

VIII. First Chronicles 2.42–55 • Descendants of Caleb

42 The descendants of Caleb the brother of Jerahmeel were Mesha, his first-born, who was the father of Ziph, and the sons of Mareshah the father of Hebron. 43 The sons of Hebron were Korah, Tappuah, Rekem, and Shema. 44 Shema begot Raham the father of Jorkoam, and Rekem begot Shammai. 45 And the son of Shammai was Maon, and Maon was the father of Beth Zur. 46 Ephah, Caleb's concubine, bore Haran, Moza, and Gazez; and Haran begot Gazez. 47 And the sons of Jahdai were Regem, Jotham, Geshan, Pelet, Ephah, and Shaaph. 48 Maachah, Caleb's concubine, bore Sheber and Tirhanah. 49 She also bore Shaaph the father of Madmannah, Sheva the father of Machbena and the father of Gibeon. And the daughter of Caleb was Achsah. 50 These were the descendants of Caleb: The sons of Hur, the firstborn of Ephrathah, were Shobal the father of Kirjath Jearim, 51 Salma the father of Bethlehem, and Hareph the father of Beth Gader. 52 And Shobal the father of Kirjath Jearim had descendants: Haroeh, and half of the families of Manuhoth. 53 The families of Kirjath Jearim were the Ithrites, the Puthites, the Shumathites, and the Mishraitites. From these came the Zorathites and the Eshtaoelites. 54 The sons of Salma were Bethlehem, the Netophathites, Atroth Beth Joab, half of the Manahethites, and the Zorites. 55 And the families of the scribes who dwelt at Jabez were the Tirathites, the Shimeathites, and the Suchathites. These were the Kenites who came from Hammath, the father of the house of Rechab.

A. The importance of scribes (v. 55)

B. We might think that scribes were no good, because

1. in the Gospel Accounts,
2. they, along with the Pharisees, confronted Jesus.

C. However, a scribe was a legitimate job.

1. Without scribes Ezra could not now all this information.
2. Ezra 7 mentions that he was a scribe.

Exhortation:

I. Let's think about Achan.

A. The Scriptures summarized his life by one event

1. perhaps because it typified the kind of man that he was.

2. Why did the Lord let him do what he did and

a) why does the Lord let any of us do what we do?

b) It removes all self-righteousness and

(1) shows our deep need for him.

B. How would the Scriptures summarize my life?

II. Do you recognize your deep need for the Lord?