

Re-establishing Jerusalem

First Chronicles 8–9

Don Ruhl • Savage Street, Grants Pass, Oregon • July 25, In the year of our Lord Christ, 2021

Scripture Reader and Reading: Dominic Meyer – Romans 15.4

Song Leader and Song Suggestions: Billy Robinson

Prelude:

I. First Chronicles 8 does not have as much material in it for a sermon

A. as the previous chapters have.

B. Therefore, I am including a second chapter tonight, chapter 9.

II. Since that includes so much more material,

A. I may not read all of the text,

1. it will just depend on how the time is going, but

B. I may only read what pertains to the point that I want to make.

Persuasion:

I. First Chronicles 8.1–5 • Benjamin

8.1 Now Benjamin begot Bela his firstborn, Ashbel the second, Aharah the third, 2 Nohah the fourth, and Rapha the fifth. 3 The sons of Bela were Addar, Gera, Abihud, 4 Abishua, Naaman, Ahoah, 5 Gera, Shephuphan, and Hiram.

A. First Chronicles 8 shows the growth of the tribe of Benjamin.

“...increase of tribe so rapid, that in time of David it numbered 59,434 able men (1 Chr. vii. 6–12); in that of Asa, 280,000 (2 Chr. xiv. 8); and in that of Jehoshaphat, 200,000 (2Chr. xvii. 17).”

– *The Preacher’s Homiletic Commentary*, Volume 9, page 30.

B. I think it significant

1. that the tribe which almost ceased to exist,

2. eventually got built back up again.

C. Moreover, the tribe remained loyal to the tribe of Judah

1. when the rest of the tribes rebelled against King Rehoboam,
2. the son of Solomon, when he was still an inexperienced king.

D. Also, Benjamin returned with Judah from Babylonian captivity.

E. There are other events that show the tribe learned from its disaster

1. when they defended the evil town of Gibeah
2. when they gang-raped a Levite's concubine.

II. First Chronicles 8.6–7 • Ehud

6 These are the sons of Ehud, who were the heads of the fathers' houses of the inhabitants of Geba, and who forced them to move to Manahath: 7 Naaman, Ahijah, and Gera who forced them to move. He begot Uzza and Ahihud.

A. We do not know anything about this event,

1. which shows that many things happened in Israel
2. that Scripture does not record.

B. The Lord only had recorded what was necessary to fulfill his purpose.

III. First Chronicles 8.8–10 • Children in Moab

8 Also Shaharaim had children in the country of Moab, after he had sent away Hushim and Baara his wives. 9 By Hodesh his wife he begot Jobab, Zibia, Meshah, Malcam, 10 Jeuz, Sachiah, and Mirmah. These were his sons, heads of their fathers' houses.

A. Sometimes the children of Israel had to move out of the Land of Canaan,

B. such as in the Book of Ruth

1. when there was a famine, and
2. Naomi and her family also moved to Moab, and
 - a) there Ruth became part of the family.

IV. First Chronicles 8.11–28a • More Sons

11 And by Hushim he begot Abitub and Elpaal. 12 The sons of Elpaal were

Eber, Misham, and Shemed, who built Ono and Lod with its towns; 13 and Beriah and Shema, who were heads of their fathers' houses of the inhabitants of Aijalon, who drove out the inhabitants of Gath. 14 Ahio, Shashak, Jeremoth, 15 Zebadiah, Arad, Eder, 16 Michael, Ispah, and Joha were the sons of Beriah. 17 Zebadiah, Meshullam, Hizki, Heber, 18 Ishmerai, Jizliah, and Jobab were the sons of Elpaal. 19 Jakim, Zichri, Zabdi, 20 Elienai, Zillethai, Eliel, 21 Adah, Beraiah, and Shimrath were the sons of Shimei. 22 Ishpan, Eber, Eliel, 23 Abdon, Zichri, Hanan, 24 Hananiah, Elam, Antothijah, 25 Iphdeiah, and Penuel were the sons of Shashak. 26 Shamsherai, Shehariah, Athaliah, 27 Jaareshiah, Elijah, and Zichri were the sons of Jeroham. 28 These were heads of the fathers' houses by their generations, chief men.

A. Verse 12 references Ono, which has a part in the Book of Nehemiah.

B. Again, Gath (v. 13) has a reference in the Bible.

1. Gath, a prominent city of the Philistines and home of Goliath,
2. was the persistent enemy of Israel.

C. Gath was also the place where David fled

1. when he escaped from King Saul.
2. David even sought to join the Philistines.

D. This reference in verse 13,

1. mentions that some of the Israelites drove out the inhabitants of Gath.
2. Remember back in 7.21, we read:

21 The men of Gath who were born in that land killed them because they came down to take away their cattle.

3. Now, consider this comment:

“In ch. vii. 21, the men of Gath slew the Ephraimites; in this verse Beriah and Shema ‘drove away the inhabitants of Gath.’ ‘They that take the sword shall perish with the sword.’”

– *The Preacher’s Homiletic Commentary*, Volume 9, page 30.

V. First Chronicles 8.28b–32 • Living in Jerusalem

28b These dwelt in Jerusalem. 29 Now the father of Gibeon, whose wife's name was Maacah, dwelt at Gibeon. 30 And his firstborn son was Abdon, then Zur, Kish, Baal, Nadab, 31 Gedor, Ahio, Zecher, 32 and Mikloth, who begot Shimeah. They also dwelt alongside their relatives in Jerusalem, with their brethren.

- A. Ezra does not tell us about the children of Israel inhabiting the other cities.
- B. Jerusalem was the main city.
 - 1. It was the one where the temple was located.
 - 2. The second and third kings, and then the kings of Judah
 - a) made Jerusalem their capital.
 - b) Biblical history, prophecies, and so on center in Jerusalem.
- C. Jerusalem has been one of the most important cities in the world.

VI. First Chronicles 8.33–40 • Archers

33 Ner begot Kish, Kish begot Saul, and Saul begot Jonathan, Malchishua, Abinadab, and Esh-Baal. 34 The son of Jonathan was Merib-Baal, and Merib-Baal begot Micah. 35 The sons of Micah were Pithon, Melech, Tarea, and Ahaz. 36 And Ahaz begot Jehoaddah; Jehoaddah begot Alemeth, Azmaveth, and Zimri; and Zimri begot Moza. 37 Moza begot Binea, Raphah his son, Eleasah his son, and Azel his son. 38 Azel had six sons whose names were these: Azrikam, Bocheru, Ishmael, Sheariah, Obadiah, and Hanan. All these were the sons of Azel. 39 And the sons of Eshkek his brother were Ulam his firstborn, Jeush the second, and Eliphelet the third. 40 The sons of Ulam were mighty men of valor—archers. They had many sons and grandsons, one hundred and fifty in all. These were all sons of Benjamin.

- A. The city of Moza may have been named after Moza in verse 36.
 - 1. That is where I plan on going, Lord willing, next Spring.
 - 2. Here are some views of that area now:
- B. Ezra zeroed in on Ulam and his sons,
 - 1. who were archers.

2. Why did he note the archers,
 - a) as opposed to spearmen, horsemen, swordsmen, and others?
 - b) The tribe seemed to focus on flinging weapons, for example:

16 Among all this people were seven hundred select men who were left-handed; every one could sling a stone at a hair's breadth and not miss.

– Judges 20.16

C. As I have tried to point out, the genealogies have difficult parts to understand.

1. Why did the Lord make his word like that?
2. Consider what this commentator said:

“The very difficulties and limitations of revelation are adapted to the conditions of moral growth. It requires and repays toil. It tasks, tries, and puzzles and strengthens faith. It is like man to make everything regular, easy, and plain; but that is not like the God of nature, of history, and of the Bible.”

– Smyth in *The Preacher's Homiletic Commentary*, Volume 9, page 29.

VII. First Chronicles 9.1a • Everyone Was Included

9.1 So all Israel was recorded by genealogies, and indeed, they were inscribed in the book of the kings of Israel.

- A. Everyone could find his or her name in a genealogical list.
- B. Ezra included the names that were crucial for the returning exiles.

VIII. First Chronicles 9.1b–2 • From Judah to Babylon to Judah

But Judah was carried away captive to Babylon because of their unfaithfulness. 2 And the first inhabitants who dwelt in their possessions in their cities were Israelites, priests, Levites, and the Nethinim.

- A. Some from every tribe returned.

B. In particular, he noted:

1. Priests,
2. Levites,
3. Nethinim (Those who served in ways that were needed)
 - a) This had to be established
 - b) that they might get the temple services operational again.

IX. First Chronicles 9.3–9 • Dwellers of Jerusalem

3 Now in Jerusalem the children of Judah dwelt, and some of the children of Benjamin, and of the children of Ephraim and Manasseh: 4 Uthai the son of Ammihud, the son of Omri, the son of Imri, the son of Bani, of the descendants of Perez, the son of Judah. 5 Of the Shilonites: Asaiah the firstborn and his sons. 6 Of the sons of Zerah: Jeuel, and their brethren—six hundred and ninety. 7 Of the sons of Benjamin: Sallu the son of Meshullam, the son of Hodaviah, the son of Hassenuah; 8 Ibneiah the son of Jeroham; Elah the son of Uzzi, the son of Michri; Meshullam the son of Shephatiah, the son of Reuel, the son of Ibrijah; 9 and their brethren, according to their generations—nine hundred and fifty-six. All these men were heads of a father's house in their fathers' houses.

A. Concerning those who volunteered to live in Jerusalem after captivity,

B. Nehemiah wrote:

2 And the people blessed all the men who willingly offered themselves to dwell at Jerusalem.

– Nehemiah 11.2

X. First Chronicles 9.10–13 • Able Men for the Services

10 Of the priests: Jedaiah, Jehoiarib, and Jachin; 11 Azariah the son of Hilkiyah, the son of Meshullam, the son of Zadok, the son of Meraioth, the son of Ahitub, the officer over the house of God; 12 Adaiyah the son of Jeroham, the son of Pashur, the son of Malchijah; Maasai the son of Adiel, the son of Jahzerah, the son of Meshullam, the son of Meshillemith, the son of Immer; 13 and their brethren, heads of their fathers' houses—one thousand seven hundred and six-

ty. They were very able men for the work of the service of the house of God.

A. I have spent time with all three congregations for which I have worked,

1. persuading people
2. that those who serve must have the ability to serve.

B. Not that they are born with the ability, but

1. we all need training.
2. Paul told Timothy that was one of his main jobs:

2 And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

– 2 Timothy 2.2

C. This is why I have pushed

1. for song leader training and
2. for teacher training,
 - a) among other things.

XI. First Chronicles 9.14–16 • Levites Who Served

14 Of the Levites: Shemaiah the son of Hasshub, the son of Azrikam, the son of Hashabiah, of the sons of Merari; 15 Bakbakkar, Heresh, Galal, and Mattaniah the son of Micah, the son of Zichri, the son of Asaph; 16 Obadiah the son of Shemaiah, the son of Galal, the son of Jeduthun; and Berechiah the son of Asa, the son of Elkanah, who lived in the villages of the Netophathites.

A. As you can see Ezra used more ink to write of the Levites.

B. What they did set Israel apart from the nations.

1. Of course, other jobs are important, but
2. what they or we today, do in service to God
 - a) ranks above everything else:

33 “But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”

– Matthew 6.33

b) Job understood because after he lost everything, the Bible says:

20 Then Job arose, tore his robe, and shaved his head; and he fell to the ground and worshiped. 21 And he said:

**“Naked I came from my mother’s womb,
And naked shall I return there.
The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away;
Blessed be the name of the LORD.”**

– Job 1.20–21

XII.First Chronicles 9.17–32 • Gatekeepers

17 And the gatekeepers were Shallum, Akkub, Talmon, Ahiman, and their brethren. Shallum was the chief. 18 Until then they had been gatekeepers for the camps of the children of Levi at the King’s Gate on the east. 19 Shallum the son of Kore, the son of Ebiasaph, the son of Korah, and his brethren, from his father’s house, the Korahites, were in charge of the work of the service, gatekeepers of the tabernacle. Their fathers had been keepers of the entrance to the camp of the LORD. 20 And Phinehas the son of Eleazar had been the officer over them in time past; the LORD was with him. 21 Zechariah the son of Meshelemiah was keeper of the door of the tabernacle of meeting. 22 All those chosen as gatekeepers were two hundred and twelve. They were recorded by their genealogy, in their villages. David and Samuel the seer had appointed them to their trusted office. 23 So they and their children were in charge of the gates of the house of the LORD, the house of the tabernacle, by assignment. 24 The gatekeepers were assigned to the four directions: the east, west, north, and south. 25 And their brethren in their villages had to come with them from time to time for seven days. 26 For in this trusted office were four chief gatekeepers; they were Levites. And they had charge over the chambers and treasuries of the house of God. 27 And they lodged all around the house of God because they had the responsibility, and they were in charge of opening it every morning. 28 Now some of them were in charge of the serving vessels, for they brought them in and took them out by count. 29 Some of them were appointed over the furnishings and over all the implements of the

sanctuary, and over the fine flour and the wine and the oil and the incense and the spices. 30 And some of the sons of the priests made the ointment of the spices. 31 Mattithiah of the Levites, the firstborn of Shallum the Korahite, had the trusted office over the things that were baked in the pans. 32 And some of their brethren of the sons of the Kohathites were in charge of preparing the showbread for every Sabbath.

A. Ezra gave a whole section to writing about the gatekeepers!

B. If you do not have gatekeepers,

1. then the whole temple complex is open to disaster.
2. Gatekeepers serve a great purpose.
 - a) They had to be there before the crowds arrived.
 - b) They had to be patient to remain until the last person was gone.
 - c) They had to keep out those whom the Law forbid.

C. In John 18.15–16,

1. it was a servant girl
2. who let Peter into the court
 - a) where Jesus would be tried by the Jews.

D. You will notice in First Chronicles 9.17–32

1. that the gatekeepers had other jobs, but
2. gatekeeping was their number one job.
 - a) We should never look down upon what someone else does.
 - b) Everything that everyone does in the church we need.
 - (1) First Corinthians 12
 - (2) Jesus washed feet

E. As the psalmist once said:

**10 I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God
Than dwell in the tents of wickedness.**

– Psalm 84.10

XIII. First Chronicles 9.33–38 • Singers

33 These are the singers, heads of the fathers' houses of the Levites, who lodged in the chambers, and were free from other duties; for they were employed in that work day and night. 34 These heads of the fathers' houses of the Levites were heads throughout their generations. They dwelt at Jerusalem. 35 Jeiel the father of Gibeon, whose wife's name was Maacah, dwelt at Gibeon. 36 His firstborn son was Abdon, then Zur, Kish, Baal, Ner, Nadab, 37 Gedor, Ahio, Zechariah, and Mikloth. 38 And Mikloth begot Shimeam. They also dwelt alongside their relatives in Jerusalem, with their brethren.

A. Singing at the temple was so important

1. that the singers were free from other duties.
2. Singing is not a time-filler.
3. It is not preparation for the sermon.
 - a) It requires long training.
 - b) Songs have to be written, etc.

B. Let us see how important singing is.

1. Some people do not want to come to singing night because
 - a) "it is only singing."
2. One man told me
 - a) that he wanted less singing and
 - b) more meat, meaning more preaching.

C. Singing at the temple occupied such a great place

1. that it took place day and night.
2. The temple grounds always had singing filling the air.

XIV. First Chronicles 9.39–44 • End of the Genealogies

39 Ner begot Kish, Kish begot Saul, and Saul begot Jonathan, Malchishua, Abi-

nadab, and Esh-Baal. 40 The son of Jonathan was Merib-Baal, and Merib-Baal begot Micah. 41 The sons of Micah were Pithon, Melech, Tahrea, and Ahaz. 42 And Ahaz begot Jarah; Jarah begot Alemeth, Azmaveth, and Zimri; and Zimri begot Moza; 43 Moza begot Binea, Rephaiah his son, Eleasah his son, and Azel his son. 44 And Azel had six sons whose names were these: Azrikam, Bocheru, Ishmael, Sheariah, Obadiah, and Hanan; these were the sons of Azel.

- A. We look at these genealogies as difficult because
- B. it is hard for us to pronounce the names.
 - 1. However, think of the work that Ezra did to get all this together!
 - 2. If you think it is easy, try putting together a genealogy for all the families in the congregation!

Exhortation:

I. God inhabits the heaven of heavens.

- A. Yet, this record shows us his attention
- B. to the details of our lives.

II. Think about it:

“How has God, the Holy Ghost, stooped to become a historian of the smallest, most contemptible affairs on earth, in order to reveal to man, in his own language, in his own business, in his own ways, the purposes, the secrets, and the ways of the Deity.”

– Hamann in *The Preacher’s Homiletic Commentary*, Volume 9, page 33.