

The Making of Leaders

First Chronicles 10–11

Don Ruhl • Savage Street, Grants Pass, Oregon • August 1, In the year of our Lord Christ, 2021

Scripture Reader and Reading: Jacob Noveske – First Samuel 13.13–14

Song Leader and Song Suggestions: No one is listed as the song leader

Prelude:

I. After listing the necessary genealogies

A. for re-inhabiting Jerusalem and

B. for re-establishing the temple services,

1. Ezra jumped into the last days of King Saul,

2. giving just enough details so that we know what happened to him.

II. Then Ezra skipped the earlier life of David and

A. showed the beginning of his kingdom,

B. shows David getting set up in Jerusalem and

1. lists his mighty men and

2. some of their amazing deeds.

Persuasion:

I. First Chronicles 10.1–7 • The Philistines Defeat Israel

1 Now the Philistines fought against Israel; and the men of Israel fled from before the Philistines, and fell slain on Mount Gilboa. 2 Then the Philistines followed hard after Saul and his sons. And the Philistines killed Jonathan, Abinadab, and Malchishua, Saul's sons. 3 The battle became fierce against Saul. The archers hit him, and he was wounded by the archers. 4 Then Saul said to his armorbearer, "Draw your sword, and thrust me through with it, lest these uncircumcised men come and abuse me." But his armorbearer would not, for he was greatly afraid. Therefore Saul took a sword and fell on it. 5 And when his armorbearer saw that Saul was dead, he also fell on his sword and died. 6 So Saul and his three sons died, and all his house died together. 7 And when all the men of Israel who were in the valley saw that they had fled and that Saul and his sons were dead, they forsook their cities and fled; then the Philistines came and dwelt in them.

A. Jonathan should have been the next king, but

1. he died with his father.
2. Jonathan was a great man in his own right, but
 - a) David overshadows him, but
 - b) David did not do that,
 - (1) it is the story line,
 - (2) for the Christ,
 - (a) the fulfillment of the promise to Abraham,
 - (b) will descend through him.
 - (3) I have no doubt that Jonathan would have been fine with that.
 - (4) He was also a man after God's own heart and not like his father:

17 And he said to him, "Do not fear, for the hand of Saul my father shall not find you. You shall be king over Israel, and I shall be next to you. Even my father Saul knows that."

– 1 Samuel 23.17

- (a) Jonathan would have been a great king, and
 - (b) he would have been a great man helping David.
- B. Since Saul had not been loyal to the Lord God,
 1. the Lord abandoned him at the end and
 2. he lost a battle to the Philistines.
 - a) Although the Philistines had wounded him,
 - b) he did not die, but
 - (1) did not want to suffer humiliation at the hands of the Philistines.
 - (2) Therefore, he took his own life in shame.
 - (a) He still suffered shame at the hand of the Philistines, but
 - (b) he obviously did not see it or feel it.
- C. It is unfortunate

1. that Saul did not care for his soul
2. as much as he cared for the desecration of his body.

II. First Chronicles 10.8–10 • The Philistines Humiliate Saul and His Sons

8 So it happened the next day, when the Philistines came to strip the slain, that they found Saul and his sons fallen on Mount Gilboa. 9 And they stripped him and took his head and his armor, and sent word throughout the land of the Philistines to proclaim the news in the temple of their idols and among the people. 10 Then they put his armor in the temple of their gods, and fastened his head in the temple of Dagon.

- A. Saul did not want to suffer humiliation at the hands of the Philistines, but
1. his body still did.
 2. He suffered humiliation by
 - a) having his body stripped,
 - b) having his head and armor taken,
 - c) having it announced in the temples of the gods of the Philistines,
 - d) then having his armor hung in the temple of the Philistine gods, and
 - e) having his head fastened in the temple of their main god, Dagon.
- B. This was a way for the Philistines to say
1. that Dagon had won the victory and
 2. to proclaim that Dagon was greater than Jehovah God.
- C. Then something wonderful happened...

III. First Chronicles 10.11–12 • The Valor of Jabesh Gilead

11 And when all Jabesh Gilead heard all that the Philistines had done to Saul, 12 all the valiant men arose and took the body of Saul and the bodies of his sons; and they brought them to Jabesh, and buried their bones under the tamarisk tree at Jabesh, and fasted seven days.

- A. What these men did was truly courageous for it was very dangerous.
- B. Saul had been a poor king and brought defeat to the nation.

1. However, he was Israel's king and
2. what the Philistines did to him,
 - a) they would have done gladly to all Israelites.
 - b) He represented Israel.
 - (1) Second Samuel 1 shows David grieve when he heard of
 - (2) the deaths of Saul and Jonathan.
 - (a) Although Saul tried numerous times to kill David,
 - (b) it still traumatized David when they were killed.
 - i) David loved his enemies.

C. Let me tell you about Jabesh Gilead.

1. It is directly east of Gilboa on the eastern side of the Jordan.
2. Jabesh Gilead first appears in Judges 21.
 - a) That was when all the tribes gathered together to fight Benjamin for defending the Benjamite city that had gang-raped a Levite's concubine.
 - b) The tribes discovered that no one from Jabesh Gilead had come.
 - (1) The rest of the tribes authorized 12,000 men
 - (2) to destroy every male and woman who had known a man.
 - (a) With 400 virgins that were left,
 - (b) Israel gave them to 400 of the 600 Benjamites who were left.
3. Later, Jabesh Gilead recovers and this time,
 - a) they do not fear danger, but
 - b) risked their lives to save the bodies of Saul and his sons
 - (1) from further humiliation.
 - (2) Afterward, David honored them for what they did.

D. Saul had been good to the inhabitants of Jabesh Gilead.

1. When they needed help against an enemy,

2. he came to their rescue, such as
 - a) when Nahash the Ammonite threatened to take their city.
 - b) Jabesh Gilead summoned for help throughout Israel.
 - (1) Saul heard what was happening and
 - (2) put together an army of over 300,000 for his first battle.
3. Forty years later,
 - a) they remembered Saul and
 - b) spared his body from public humiliation among their enemies.

IV. First Chronicles 10.13–14 • The Consequences of Unfaithfulness

13 So Saul died for his unfaithfulness which he had committed against the LORD, because he did not keep the word of the LORD, and also because he consulted a medium for guidance. 14 But he did not inquire of the LORD; therefore He killed him, and turned the kingdom over to David the son of Jesse.

- A. Saul had been unfaithful
 1. by not keeping the word of the Lord and
 2. for consulting a medium rather than the Lord.
- B. Saul had been king for 40 years,
 1. enjoying the life of a king.
 2. Life had been good for him.
 - a) He did not suffer for his unfaithfulness until the very end.
 - b) Therefore, we cannot judge our faithfulness or unfaithfulness
 - (1) by our prosperity or lack of it.
 - (2) We should judge our faithfulness
 - (a) by whether we do what the Lord says and
 - (b) by inquiring of him for the issues of life that confront us.

V. First Chronicles 11.1–3 • David Became King

1 Then all Israel came together to David at Hebron, saying, “Indeed we are your bone and your flesh. 2 Also, in time past, even when Saul was king, you were the one who led Israel out and brought them in; and the Lord your God said to you, ‘You shall shepherd My people Israel, and be ruler over My people Israel.’” 3 Therefore all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron, and David made a covenant with them at Hebron before the Lord. And they anointed David king over Israel, according to the word of the Lord by Samuel.

A. Although David did not have an appointed position of leadership with Saul,

1. David loved God and he loved Israel.
2. Therefore, he lived his life passionately for God and Israel.

B. That led him to do what he saw needed to be done at the moment.

1. He would ask the Lord about it and
2. the Lord would tell him what to do.
 - a) The children of Israel could see that in him, and
 - b) they sided with him and followed him.
 - (1) He became the leader that Israel needed.
 - (2) I believe with all my heart
 - (a) that if you have zeal for God and for the church,
 - (b) that he will enable you to do what he wants you to do.

VI. First Chronicles 11.4–9 • David’s Promise to Joab

4 And David and all Israel went to Jerusalem, which is Jebus, where the Jebusites were, the inhabitants of the land. 5 But the inhabitants of Jebus said to David, “You shall not come in here!” Nevertheless David took the stronghold of Zion (that is, the City of David). 6 Now David said, “Whoever attacks the Jebusites first shall be chief and captain.” And Joab the son of Zeruiah went up first, and became chief. 7 Then David dwelt in the stronghold; therefore they called it the City of David. 8 And he built the city around it, from the Millo to the surrounding area. Joab repaired the rest of the city. 9 So David went on and became great, and the Lord of hosts was with him.

A. Jerusalem is the third name of the city.

1. It was Salem during the time of Abraham.
2. It was Jebus before David conquered it.
3. Then it became known as the City of David.
4. It also had the name of Zion.

B. Verse 6 solved a riddle for me.

1. If you read the story of David,
2. you will come across the leader of his army,
 - a) Joab, the son of his sister Zeruah, making Joab David's nephew.
 - b) Yet, Joab killed several people he should not have killed.
 - (1) Whenever I read the story of David,
 - (2) I always question why he kept Joab as the commander of the army.
 - (a) It did not make sense to me.
 - (b) The story never indicates that he kept Joab because he was family.
3. David made a promise and kept it.
 - a) He promised that whoever attacked the Jebusites first,
 - b) would be chief and captain.
 - (1) With the exception of the people he killed without authorization,
 - (2) he was a great warrior.
 - (a) So, David kept his promise, but
 - (b) when David was about to die, he told Solomon:

5 “Moreover you know also what Joab the son of Zeruah did to me, and what he did to the two commanders of the armies of Israel, to Abner the son of Ner and Amasa the son of Jether, whom he killed. And he shed the blood of war in peacetime, and put the blood of war on his belt that was around his waist, and on his sandals that were on his feet. 6 Therefore do

according to your wisdom, and do not let his gray hair go down to the grave in peace.”

– 1 Kings 2.5–6

- i) He also killed Absalom,
- ii) David’s son and Joab’s cousin.

VII. First Chronicles 11.10 • Mighty Men

10 Now these were the heads of the mighty men whom David had, who strengthened themselves with him in his kingdom, with all Israel, to make him king, according to the word of the Lord concerning Israel.

- A. Leaders strengthen themselves.
- B. Then they strengthen others.
- C. You can read about these men in Second Samuel 23 also.

VIII. First Chronicles 11.11 • Jashobeam

11 And this is the number of the mighty men whom David had: Jashobeam the son of a Hachmonite, chief of the captains; he had lifted up his spear against three hundred, killed by him at one time.

- A. The bravery, the strength, the endurance for such a feat boggles the mind.
- B. He also had leadership qualities.
- C. So, David made him chief of the captains.

IX. First Chronicles 11.12–14 • A Great Defender

12 After him was Eleazar the son of Dodo, the Ahohite, who was one of the three mighty men. 13 He was with David at Pasdammim. Now there the Philistines were gathered for battle, and there was a piece of ground full of barley. So the people fled from the Philistines. 14 But they stationed themselves in the middle of that field, defended it, and killed the Philistines. So the Lord brought about a great victory.

- A. David and Eleazar defended a pice of ground by themselves.

B. Ezra did not say how many Philistines these two killed.

C. However, note whom Ezra credited with the victory!

X. First Chronicles 11.15–19 • Loyalty to David

15 Now three of the thirty chief men went down to the rock to David, into the cave of Adullam; and the army of the Philistines encamped in the Valley of Rephaim. 16 David was then in the stronghold, and the garrison of the Philistines was then in Bethlehem. 17 And David said with longing, "Oh, that someone would give me a drink of water from the well of Bethlehem, which is by the gate!" 18 So the three broke through the camp of the Philistines, drew water from the well of Bethlehem that was by the gate, and took it and brought it to David. Nevertheless David would not drink it, but poured it out to the Lord. 19 And he said, "Far be it from me, O my God, that I should do this! Shall I drink the blood of these men who have put their lives in jeopardy? For at the risk of their lives they brought it." Therefore he would not drink it. These things were done by the three mighty men.

A. David was not a selfish man.

1. Therefore, he would not drink the water.
2. He did not want these three to risk their lives
 - a) just so he could have a drink of water from the well in Bethlehem.

B. However, it shows the loyalty of the three toward David.

1. A leader has to watch out what he says, because
2. people want to please a leader they admire.
 - a) Therefore, I am not surprised to see that these three did such a thing.
 - b) I love my well water at home. I understand David.

XI. First Chronicles 11.20–21 • Abishai

20 Abishai the brother of Joab was chief of another three. He had lifted up his spear against three hundred men, killed them, and won a name among these three. 21 Of the three he was more honored than the other two men. Therefore he became their captain. However he did not attain to the first three.

A. Why has no one made a movie about David's mighty men?

XII. First Chronicles 11.22–25 • The Great Benaiah

22 Benaiah was the son of Jehoiada, the son of a valiant man from Kabzeel, who had done many deeds. He had killed two lion-like heroes of Moab. He also had gone down and killed a lion in the midst of a pit on a snowy day. 23 And he killed an Egyptian, a man of great height, five cubits tall [At least 7.5 feet tall! DR]. In the Egyptian's hand there was a spear like a weaver's beam; and he went down to him with a staff, wrested the spear out of the Egyptian's hand, and killed him with his own spear. 24 These things Benaiah the son of Jehoiada did, and won a name among three mighty men. 25 Indeed he was more honored than the thirty, but he did not attain to the first three. And David appointed him over his guard.

- A. Solomon replaced Joab with Benaiah.
- B. He was a magnificent warrior and had great leadership abilities.

XIII. First Chronicles 11.26–47 • The Mighty Warriors

26 Also the mighty warriors were Asahel the brother of Joab, Elhanan the son of Dodo of Bethlehem, 27 Shammoth the Harorite, Helez the Pelonite, 28 Ira the son of Ikkesh the Tekoite, Abiezer the Anathothite, 29 Sibbechai the Hushathite, Ilai the Ahohite, 30 Maharai the Netophathite, Heled the son of Baanah the Netophathite, 31 Ithai the son of Ribai of Gibeah, of the sons of Benjamin, Benaiah the Pirathonite, 32 Hurai of the brooks of Gaash, Abiel the Arbathite, 33 Azmaveth the Baharumite, Eliahba the Shaalbonite, 34 the sons of Hashem the Gizonite, Jonathan the son of Shageh the Hararite, 35 Ahiam the son of Sacar the Hararite, Eliphal the son of Ur, 36 Hopher the Mecherathite, Ahijah the Pelonite, 37 Hezro the Carmelite, Naarai the son of Ezbai, 38 Joel the brother of Nathan, Mibhar the son of Hagri, 39 Zelek the Ammonite, Naharai the Berothite (the armorbearer of Joab the son of Zeruah), 40 Ira the Ithrite, Gareb the Ithrite, 41 Uriah the Hittite, Zabad the son of Ahlai, 42 Adina the son of Shiza the Reubenite (a chief of the Reubenites) and thirty with him, 43 Hanan the son of Maachah, Joshaphat the Mithnite, 44 Uzzia the Ashterathite, Shama and Jeiel the sons of Hotham the Aroerite, 45 Jedaiel the son of Shimri, and Joha his brother, the Tizite, 46 Eliel the Mahavite, Jeribai and Joshaviah the sons of Elnaam, Ithmah the Moabite, 47 Eliel, Obed, and Jaasiel the Mezobaite.

- A. Note that Uriah the Hittite was one of David's mighty men.
- B. What was their meeting like in heaven?