

Through the Bible

# 1 CHRONICLES

Zac Poonen



Illustrations by Vinay Kuruville

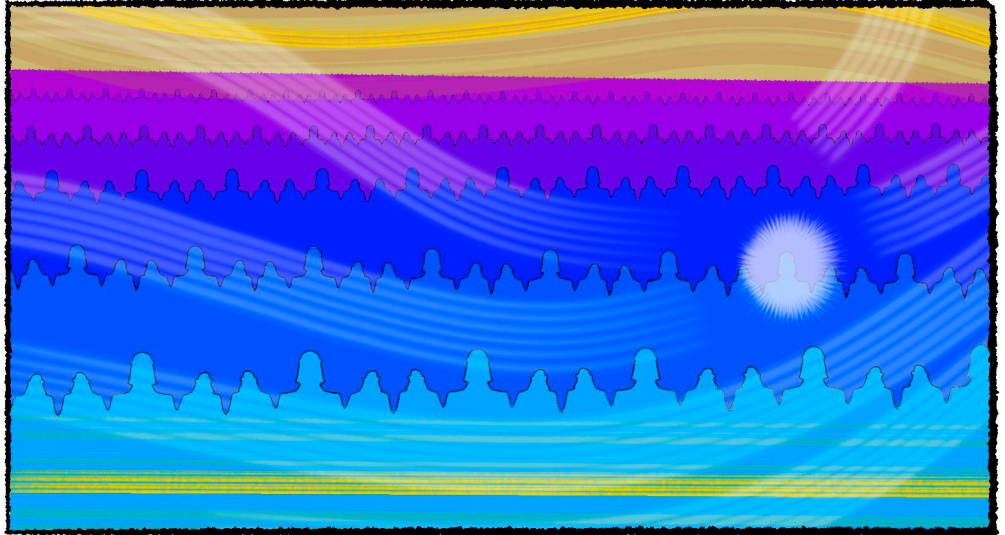
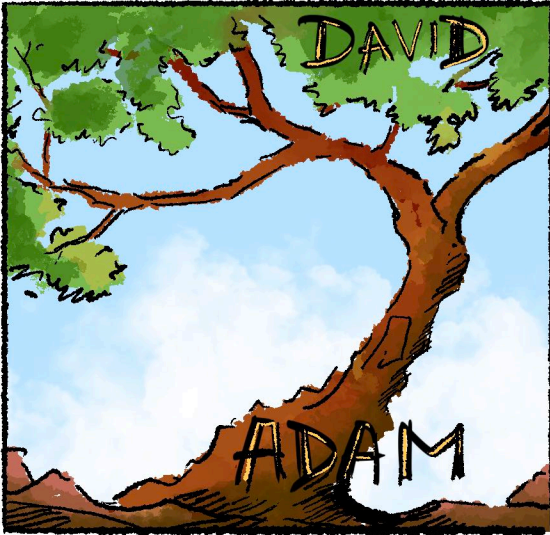
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CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

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# 1 CHRONICLES



THE BOOKS OF **CHRONICLES** HOWEVER DEAL WITH THE KINGS OF JUDAH. THE FIRST NINE CHAPTERS OF 1 CHRONICLES GIVE US THE FAMILY TREE OF **DAVID** STARTING FROM **ADAM**. EACH PERSON'S **NAME** IS WRITTEN DOWN **INDIVIDUALLY** TEACHING US THAT GOD IS **PERSONALLY INTERESTED** IN EACH ONE OF US. HE KNOWS ALL ABOUT **YOUR** FAMILY TREE TOO -- **ALL** THE WAY BACK TO **ADAM**. HE KNOWS YOUR ENTIRE **LIFE-HISTORY**, AND HE HAS A **PLAN** FOR YOUR LIFE. THAT SHOULD **ENCOURAGE** ALL OF US -- TO KNOW THAT WE ARE **NOT LOST** IN THE BILLIONS ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH, BUT INDIVIDUALS WHOM GOD **KNOWS BY NAME!** HE KNOWS **ALL** ABOUT US AND OUR ANCESTORS. EVERY **LITTLE DETAIL** ABOUT OUR LIVES. HE EVEN KNOWS THE **NUMBER OF HAIRS** ON OUR **HEAD!!**



WE READ ABOUT A MAN CALLED **JABEZ** WHO PRAYED SAYING, "LORD, BLESS ME, ENLARGE MY BORDER, SO THAT YOUR HAND WILL BE WITH ME. AND KEEP ME FROM HARM, THAT IT MAY NOT PAIN ME." WE CAN APPLY THAT PRAYER TO OURSELVES **SPIRITUALLY**. FIRST OF ALL. WE SHOULD **LONG** FOR THE BLESSING OF GOD ON OUR LIVES AND **CONSTANTLY** ASK HIM TO **ENLARGE** OUR **SPIRITUAL** BORDERS. WE MUST **NEVER** BE **SATISFIED** WITH WHAT WE HAVE ATTAINED AT ANY TIME. WE SHOULD ASK GOD TO LET HIS HAND -- HIS **POWER** -- BE WITH US **ALWAYS**. WE MUST ASK HIM TO **PROTECT** US FROM **EVIL** AND FROM EVIL MEN, SO THAT WE DON'T GET HURT -- EITHER **SPIRITUALLY** OR **PHYSICALLY**. GOD **GRANTED** **JABEZ** WHAT HE **ASKED** FOR, AND HE WILL GRANT US OUR **PETITIONS** TOO.



IN CHAPTER 12, WE READ OF THOSE WHO **STOOD** BY **DAVID** WHEN **SAUL** WAS **PERSECUTING** HIM. IT WAS **EASY** TO JOIN **DAVID** AFTER HE HAD BECOME **KING**. BUT HERE WE READ OF PEOPLE WHO JOINED HIM AT A TIME WHEN HE WAS REJECTED AND BEING HUNTED FOR HIS LIFE. IT'S EASY TO LIVE TOTALLY FOR THE LORD IN **HEAVEN**, BUT IT IS QUITE ANOTHER MATTER TO FOLLOW **HIM** TOTALLY HERE ON **EARTH** WHERE HE IS **REJECTED** AND **DESPISED**. IN THE SAME WAY, IT IS EASY TO JOIN A CHURCH AFTER IT HAS BECOME FAMOUS AND POPULAR, BUT QUITE ANOTHER THING TO JOIN IT WHEN IT IS **DESPISED**, BECAUSE YOU SEE THAT THE **ANOINTING** IS THERE.





SOME OF THE SONS OF BENJAMIN CAME TO DAVID WHEN HE WAS IN A CAVE (12:16). DAVID MET THEM AND TOLD THEM "IF YOU HAVE COME PEACEFULLY, MY HEART WILL BE WITH YOU. BUT IF YOU HAVE COME TO BETRAY ME TO MY ENEMIES -- MY CONSCIENCE IS CLEAR -- MAY GOD PUNISH YOU." WE HAVE TO BE CAREFUL, BECAUSE EVEN TODAY THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO CAN COME TO US, PRETENDING TO BE OUR FRIENDS. GOD WILL DEAL WITH THEM..



A TRUE SERVANT OF GOD WILL NEVER BE POPULAR, EVEN AS HIS MASTER WAS UNPOPULAR. JESUS WAS TRUE TO HIS FATHER AND MOST PEOPLE LEFT HIM TOO. BUT LOOK AT THE WONDERFUL EXAMPLE OF AMASAI (12:18): "THE SPIRIT OF GOD CAME UPON AMASAI, WHO WAS THE CHIEF OF THE THIRTY VALIANT MEN, AND HE SAID, 'WE ARE YOURS, O DAVID. WE ARE WITH YOU, SON OF JESSE. PEACE TO YOU AND PEACE TO HIM WHO HELPS YOU. YOUR GOD HELPS YOU.' AMASAI RECOGNISED GOD'S ANOINTING UPON DAVID, DESPITE DAVID'S OUTWARD CIRCUMSTANCES, BECAUSE THE HOLY SPIRIT WAS UPON THEM.

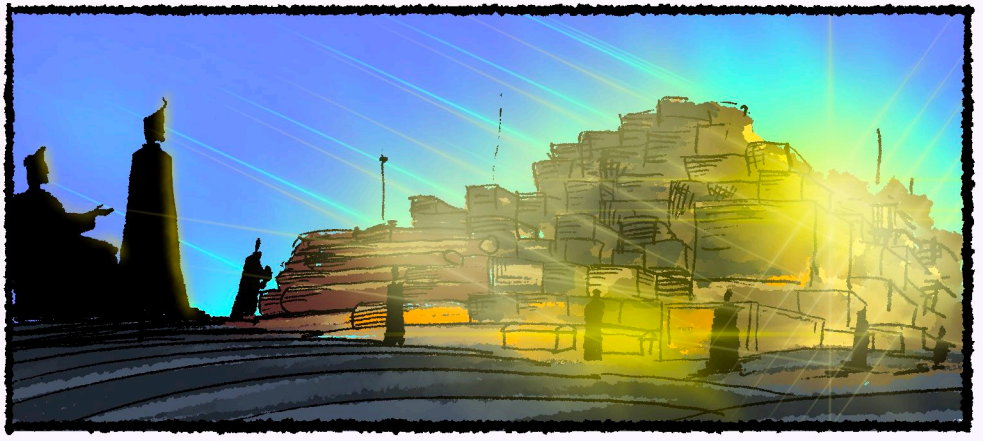


SO THROUGHOUT CHURCH HISTORY WE FIND THAT THE TRULY GODLY MEN WHO STOOD AGAINST THE ESTABLISHED RELIGIOUS SYSTEM IN CHRISTENDOM WERE ALWAYS PERSECUTED. FOR EXAMPLE, THE ANABAPTISTS WERE GODLY PEOPLE WHO SOUGHT TO LIVE GODLY LIVES, TOTALLY SEPARATED FROM THE SPIRIT OF THIS WORLD -- AND THEY WERE PERSECUTED SEVERELY FOR THEIR STAND.

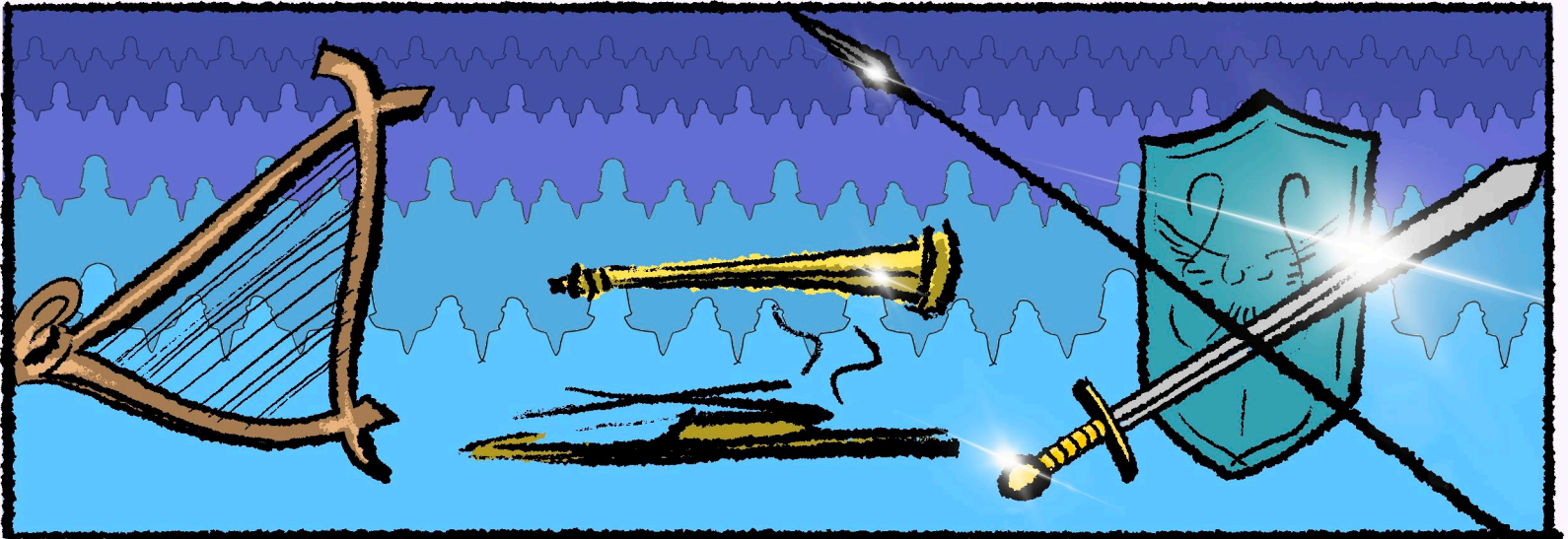


NOTICE ANOTHER CHARACTERISTIC OF DAVID (IN 13:1): "DAVID CONSULTED WITH THE CAPTAINS OF THE THOUSANDS AND THE HUNDREDS, EVEN WITH EVERY LEADER." A TRUE MAN OF GOD WORKS IN FELLOWSHIP WITH OTHERS. ONE REASON WHY DAVID GOT SUCH TREMENDOUS SUPPORT FROM THE PEOPLE WAS BECAUSE HE DISCUSSED THINGS WITH THEM. HE SAT DOWN AND DISCUSSED THINGS WITH PEOPLE WHO WERE JUNIOR TO HIM AND TOGETHER CAME TO A DECISION ALONG WITH THE OTHER MEN.





IN CHAPTER 22, WE READ OF DAVID PREPARING **MATERIAL** FOR THE BUILDING OF THE TEMPLE. GOD HAD TOLD DAVID THAT HE WOULD **NOT** BUILD THE TEMPLE, BUT THAT HIS SON **SOLOMON** WOULD BUILD IT. HE SET STONECUTTERS TO HEW OUT THE STONES FOR IT AND MADE **ALL** THE NECESSARY PREPARATIONS FOR IT, SO THAT THINGS WOULD BE **EASY** FOR SOLOMON WHO WAS YOUNG AND **INEXPERIENCED**. HE ALSO GAVE A LOT OF **GOLD**, SILVER AND BRONZE AND ARRANGED FOR **TIMBER** AND LARGE QUANTITIES OF IRON TO MAKE NAILS FOR THE TEMPLE. A MAN AFTER GODS OWN HEART, DAVID FELT HE SHOULD GIVE **MORE!** ARE WE CALCULATING IN OUR GIVING? GOD LOVES A CHEERFUL GIVER



IN CHAPTERS 23 TO 27, WE HAVE A LIST OF **NAMES** OF THE VARIOUS LEVITES, THE DIVISIONS OF **MUSICIANS**, THE **GATE** KEEPERS, THE **COMMANDERS** OF THE ARMY, ETC. DAVID WAS **INTERESTED** IN **EACH ONE** OF THEM, AND THEIR **NAMES** ARE **ALL** LISTED. THEN DAVID TOLD SOLOMON, "BE **STRONG** AND **COURAGEOUS**. DON'T BE **DISMAYED** FOR THE **LORD GOD** IS WITH YOU." (28:20). **IF** SOLOMON HAD **ENDURED** UNTIL THE **END** IN THE STRENGTH OF THAT **EXHORTATION** FROM DAVID, HIS LIFE WOULD HAVE BEEN **VERY DIFFERENT**. THEN DAVID PRAYED A **PRAYER** OF **PRAISE** TO THE LORD (29:10--19). **ALL** THE ASSEMBLY **BLESSED** THE LORD GOD AND **WORSHIPPED** HIM (VERSE 20). THEN **SOLOMON** WAS MADE **KING** AND DAVID DIED.



CHAPTER 29:29 REFERS TO SAMUEL AND GAD AS "**SEERS**". WHY WERE THESE PROPHETS CALLED SEERS? BECAUSE THEY COULD LOOK **AHEAD** AND SEE WHAT OTHER PEOPLE COULD NOT SEE IN THE FUTURE. THE GREAT **NEED** IN THE **CHURCH** TODAY IS FOR SEERS -- MEN AND WOMEN WHO HAVE **SPIRITUAL** VISION TO SEE THE **DEVIATION** FROM THE **STRAIGHT** LINE OF TRUTH, WHICH MAY BE PERHAPS, JUST **ONE DEGREE**. THE DISTANCE FROM TRUTH THOUGH SMALL AT FIRST, IN A FEW YEARS, COULD BECOME MANY **KILOMETRES!**