



my grandma time

...doing simple things together!

Week 17, Day 1 --- 1 Chronicles 1-2

Week 17, Day 2 --- Psalm 43-45 - Psalm 49 - Psalm 84-85 - Psalm 87

Week 17, Day 3 --- 1 Chronicles 3-5

Week 17, Day 4 --- Psalm 73 - Psalm 77-78

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Week 17, Day 6 --- Psalm 81 - Psalm 88 - Psalm 92-93

Week 17, Day 7 --- 1 Chronicles 7-10

Day 1 --- 1 Chronicles 1-2

The Bible often tells the same story from several different points of view. This is when reading through the Bible in the order that things happened becomes very interesting. Much of 1 Chronicles is going to parallel 2 Samuel, but the two books will emphasize different things. Both are books of history and will give us a lot of facts. Psalms will give us the inside emotional response of David, who is the central human character in the story. The purpose of today's two chapters is to establish David's ancestry. Most of the names are meaningless to us. However, look for Abshai, Joab, and Asahel in today's reading.

- What is their relationship to David?
- Who are the close relatives who have had a big influence in your life?

Day 2 --- Psalm 43-45 - Psalm 49 - Psalm 84-85 - Psalm 87

Today you will read a variety of psalms written by the Sons of Korah. I think they are placed here because we'll soon discover their function in David's kingdom. Check out this verse and then see if Psalm 84 makes more sense.

1 Chronicles 9:19 (New International Version)

Shallum son of Kore, the son of Ebiasaph, the son of Korah, and his fellow gatekeepers from his family (the Korahites) were responsible for guarding the thresholds of the Tent just as their fathers had been responsible for guarding the entrance to the dwelling of the LORD.

While they guarded the entrance to the tabernacle, they apparently also wrote songs. Psalm 44 is a cry to God to come rescue the innocent. There were many times when Israel suffered as a result of its sin. However, remember Job. There are times when suffering and persecution come even to the righteous. Psalm 45 is a psalm in praise of King David. Psalm 49 speaks of the powerlessness of riches. 84 – This psalm includes a verse that is the basis for one of my favorite worship songs. “For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.” 85 – One of the amazing things about God is that in Him we find both grace and truth. That’s what this phrase is talking about. “Love and faithfulness meet together; righteousness and peace kiss each other.” 87 – The glory of Jerusalem.

As you're learning to pray one of the best things to do is to find a psalm that speaks to where you are right now. When you've found one, read it aloud to God as if you were the one who wrote it. God will hear and understand.

- Where would you like to spend the rest of your life?
- Which of these psalms best connects with your current situation?

Day 3 --- 1 Chronicles 3-5

I admit it. Today's section is a hard one to read because it seems to be just full of names and nothing else. Like most sections of the Bible there are some important things included with the names. There is both a positive and a negative. The positive is in 1 Chronicles 4:9,10. It is the prayer of Jabez. A book was written several years ago about these two verses that stayed on the bestseller list for over a year. The message of the book was that if we just pray for more we'll get more. Unfortunately, our desires for more are too often not desires for what God desires. In this case I think we will find our prayers frustrated. However, the positive is that Jabez saw God as his only source of hope and cried out to Him. The result was that God came to His aid.

Contrast that with the end of chapter 5. Verses 18-26 carry a clear warning. Three tribes were very blessed, but they used their blessing to pursue other gods and their own pleasure. As a result God's blessing was removed and they were taken into captivity.

This section of the book is like a movie trailer. It is a quick preview of what is to come in the next two books. It was probably written while Judah was in captivity or shortly after that to remind the people of their history. The lists of people were important because the people were attempting to establish their identity – which tribe they belonged to.

- Who are the important men and women in your family's history?
- What do you desire that only God can provide?

Day 4 --- Psalm 73 - Psalm 77-78

We return to the Psalms today and the first one must be read through from beginning to end. It is an illustration of why the Bible must not be read a verse at a time with each verse pulled away from those around it. Psalm 73 is one I identify with. I have a meeting to go to this morning and the words of this psalm match much of what I'm feeling. Asaph was jealous of those who were prosperous and evil. When we look only at this life it is easy to wonder why anyone would follow God. When we change our point of view and look toward God and eternity everything begins to make sense.

- Who have you been jealous of?
- What do you desire more than anything else?

In Psalm 77 Asaph expresses a common feeling and that is the feeling of doubt toward God. The way he suggests to resolve the doubt is to look back.

- What events does Asaph suggest the Israelites look back toward when they begin to doubt?
- What events do Christians look back toward when they begin to doubt?

Psalm 78 is a quick review of the history of Israel. It is not a pleasant history. God is consistently trying to win back the people He loves and the people are consistently unfaithful. The climax of the psalm is the selection of David as king.

- When do you think this psalm might have first been sung?
- How would you feel if you sang this song often as a part of your worship of God?

Day 5 --- 1 Chronicles 6

1 Chronicles will soon return to the story, but first the author is establishing the cast of characters. The lists of characters stretch all the way back to the Exodus and look forward to the time when Israel will be exiled to Babylon. Note in verse 39 the name of Asaph. All of the psalms in yesterday's reading were written by Asaph. This must have been an incredible time for worship in Israel. It appears that most of the psalms were written during this period of Israel's history. This particular list is concerned with the priesthood. Later in the book of Ezra you'll find that this list was very important. A man's land and his job as a priest were dependent on his being able to establish that he was descended from Levi.

- How many generations of your ancestors could you identify?
- How would your life change if you could be part of a different family?

Day 6 --- Psalm 81 - Psalm 88 - Psalm 92-93

Psalm 81 – Today includes more psalms written by Asaph.

- What do you hear in God's voice as it is spoken by Asaph in this psalm?
- Have you ever heard your father say anything similar?

Psalm 88 – This psalm is by the sons of Korah. They also had responsibilities at the tabernacle. People sometimes get the impression that they can only pray to God with happy prayers. In their minds it is never okay to complain at God or be angry with Him. One of the things that the psalms teach us is that God is comfortable with and desires to hear our full range of emotions. Sometimes a psalm like this will end with a single phrase that seems to make it positive, a happy ending. This psalm does not end that way.

- Have you ever felt this way?
- More importantly, have you ever expressed feelings like this to God?

Psalm 92-93 – We aren't told who wrote these psalms. They are both psalms of praise. As I'm writing this it is very quiet early in the morning, and the only thing I can hear is the roar of the waves. They are probably a mile away, but I can still hear them. The waves always remind me of God. The surf may change in intensity, but it never stops. God never stops. He never stops loving us. He never stops being in charge.

- What do these psalms remind you about God that you need to remember today?

Day 7 --- 1 Chronicles 7-10

This list of people was very important. It established the legitimate heirs of the land of Judah when the exiles returned from Babylon. It specifically listed the priests and Levites because their duties were associated with their family line. As I read through today I noticed some interesting details about some of the families. Women stick out in the list because they are so rarely mentioned. All that you've been reading this week leads up to chapter 10. Saul and his sons have died. David is now king and the rest of the story can be told.

Notice at the end of chapter 8 that there is a listing of Saul's descendants.

- What is significant about this list?
- What promise was kept for there to even be a list?