



OHBC MEMORY VERSE - WEEK #19

THIS WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE: PSALM 118:8

"It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man."

Why Psalm 118:8?

Yes, why this verse out of all 2416 verses to choose from in the 150 psalms that comprise this Book of the Bible? It was chosen as this week's memory verse, not just on the merit of the incredible truth that it teaches, though that alone would be reason enough for us to commit it to memory. This verse was chosen as much for

WHERE it is placed, as for WHAT it actually says. Psalm 118:8 is the middle verse of the Bible!\*

Wouldn't it be just like God to make the truth of Psalm 118:8 a key point of emphasis by placing it smack-dab in the very middle of the Book that reveals to us His mind? It stands in our Bible almost as a hinge, with equal amounts of truth to support it on either side.

To the HUMANISTS and ATHEISTS who trust in THEMSELVES, God says, "It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man" (Psalm 118:8).

To the NATIONALISTS who trust in HUMAN GOVERNMENT or the UNITED NATIONS, God says, "It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man" (Psalm 118:8).

To the RELIGIONISTS who trust in their CHURCH, God says, "It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man" (Psalm 118:8).

TO the ACHIEVISTS who trust in their own WILL POWER, HARD WORK and DETERMINATION, God says, "It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man" (Psalm 118:8).

To the CHRISTIAN who trusts the ARM OF THE FLESH for his RIGHTEOUSNESS, God says, "It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man" (Psalm 118:8).

May the truth of this simple verse that is so strategically placed in our Bibles become the theme of the entire rest of our lives as we hide it in our hearts this week.

## DAY 91

TODAY'S READING: I CHRONICLES 10-13

### OVERVIEW:

The death of Saul and his sons; David made king over Judah; Israel anoints David king; David takes Jebus (Jerusalem) as the capital city of the kingdom; David's first attempt to bring the Ark into Jerusalem.

### HIGHLIGHTS & INSIGHTS:

The seemingly endless genealogy ended in chapter 9, and now God wants to bring us to the Reign of David. To do so, however, He must make the transition from the Reign of Saul. Chapter 10 makes that transition, as it gives us the record of Saul's death. The parallel account of the death of Saul and his sons is found in I Samuel 31:1-13. The reason for Saul's death is found in verses 13 and 14 of I Chronicles 10:

1. He was not obedient to the Word of God (I Samuel 13 and 15 provide the details).
2. He consulted a medium (I Sam. 28 provides the details).

In chapter 11, David is anointed as Israel's king in Hebron. This is a classic case of, "the third time is the charm," as this is now the third time David has been anointed. The first anointing was done privately by Samuel (I Sam. 16:13), and the second was done publicly as king over Judah (II Sam. 2:4).

Note David's key responsibilities given to him by God as Israel's leader in chapter 11 and verse 2: "Thou shalt FEED my people Israel, and thou shalt be RULER over my people Israel." In simple terms, David's

responsibilities are much like those given to those who are called to provide oversight of God's people in the church: FEED and LEAD! (See Acts 20:28; I Peter 5:1-3)

The first item on David's agenda after being anointed king was to secure a capital for the kingdom. Chapter 11 verses 4-9 explain how Jerusalem was taken, and how that in accordance with David's promise for whoever was instrumental in removing the Jebusites out of Jerusalem would be promoted to the captain of David's army, Joab was installed as the commander. Verse 10 of chapter 11 begins a long list of the "mighty men" in David's army. It is interesting to note the accomplishments of the various men who comprise this list.

Whereas chapter 11 identifies the INDIVIDUALS who were key in David's army, chapter 12 identifies the number of mighty men from each of the TRIBES. Chapter 12 and verse 38 lets us know why all of these men were so "mighty" and so mightily used in David's army: "All these men of war, that could keep rank, came with a perfect heart to Hebron, to make David king over all Israel." The four qualities provide a great list for what every church should be looking for when filling the positions of leadership within the church:

1. Men who understand SPIRITUAL WARFARE ("all these men of war" – 12:38a).
2. Men who understand SPIRITUAL TEAMWORK ("that could keep rank" – 12:38b).
3. Men who manifest SPIRITUAL MATURITY ("came with a perfect heart" – 12:38c).
4. Men who manifest SPIRITUAL SUBMISSION TO LEADERSHIP ("to make David king over all Israel" – 12:38d).

Chapter 13 records David's first attempt to bring the Ark back into his newly acquired capital, Jerusalem. The Ark had been completely neglected during the reign of Saul. The Ark represented God's presence. What is sad is that for 20 years, nobody seemed to miss it! David is zealous to see God's presence, represented in the Ark, restored to its rightful place in Israel's camp. It is, however, a great lesson on how doing the right thing with the right motives, but done in the wrong way will always be disastrous, and in many cases, as in this one, deadly!

The Ark was placed on a "new cart." Apparently, David wanted it to be "special" because of what it represented. But the cart hit an uneven place in the road, the Ark began to tip, and when well-meaning Uzza reached out to steady the Ark, he was immediately zapped, just as Num. 4:15 said he would. God had specifically given Israel instruction concerning transporting the Ark so that this very thing would not happen! What began as a glorious celebration at the beginning of this chapter, ends like a funeral procession, with David very discouraged, disappointed, and even somewhat disillusioned. Again, a great reminder that God says what He means, and means what He says, and no amount of good intentions override obedience to what He has specifically spoken in His Word!

#### CHRIST IS REVEALED:

In DAVID, the ANOINTED KING – I Chron. 11:3 – (Christ is the "Anointed of God who will sit on the Throne of David as KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS – Rev. 19:16; Luke 1:32)

#### DAY 92

TODAY'S READING: I CHRONICLES 14-17

#### OVERVIEW:

King Hiram's blessing upon David; the Philistines defeated; the Ark is brought to Jerusalem, David's psalm of thanksgiving; David's desire to build the Temple; David is forbidden to build the Temple; God makes a covenant with David (the Davidic Covenant).

#### HIGHLIGHTS & INSIGHTS:

At the end of yesterday's reading in I Chronicles 13, David was a discouraged, dejected, defeated, and disillusioned man. The excitement that was in his heart to see God's presence, represented in the Ark, restored to its rightful place in Jerusalem had caused a great positive ground-swell of spiritual excitement amongst the people, yet it had all come to a screeching halt with the tragic death of Uzza. David had even changed his mind about wanting the Ark returned to Jerusalem, and had it stored in the house of Obededom. The Ark remained there for three months, and upon seeing the blessing of God that had

come upon the house of Obededom and “all that he had” (13:14), it was enough to convince David that regardless of the cost, the Ark in Israel’s capital was non-negotiable.

The narrative concerning bringing the Ark into Jerusalem will pick up again in chapter 15, but first, chapter 14 provides some parenthetical information to help us to understand more about David and his reign.

Without any commentary, 14:3 states, “And David took more wives at Jerusalem,” This practice was common among ancient kings, and, in fact, had come to be not only accepted by the people, but almost expected, as a sign of their ruler’s royalty and prestige. It was, however, against the law of God! At times it may seem that God is somewhat lenient in the Old Testament concerning this practice, but a closer look into the harvest of sorrows David reaped in his family proves different, teaching us once again, there are always consequences to sin! We must be certain that the world’s acceptability of sin in the 21st century does not influence us to violate God’s holy Word, or his holy calling upon our lives!

Upon hearing that David was now Israel’s king, the Philistines thought they might try their hand against David’s army. David defeated them; even to the point that the gods they were carrying and trusting to give them the victory were dropped on the ground so they could run away more quickly (14:12). Call me crazy, but I certainly don’t want any “god” that can be left hanging around on a field of battle and can be burned!

Note, however, that David “enquired of God” before leading the troops into battle (14:10). He wanted to make certain that it was completely the will of God. Note also, that when the Philistines returned to do battle (14:13), “David enquired again of God” (14:14). God’s previous “go ahead” was no guarantee of a “go ahead” today! We must learn to pray about everything, asking for God’s specific guidance for every decision. God did give David the “go ahead,” but revealed a very particular battle plan to achieve the victory. The plan would not have been revealed to David had he not “enquired of God.”

As chapter 15 begins, David is once again moving to get the Ark in its proper place. It’s the same exact thing he sought to do in chapter 13, but this time it was being done, what we like to call the “BIBLICAL” way. David realized that they had received God’s judgment upon them (at Uzza’s expense), because they “sought him not after the due order,” (i.e. “We didn’t ask God how He wanted us to do it!”) This time, David made sure that the right people were carrying the Ark (15:2), that they were properly prepared for the task (15:12), and that it was being carried the right way (15:15). Once the Ark was in its proper place (16:1), the priority of worship was once again restored to Israel (16:1-6). David then offered a psalm of thanks to the Lord. It is a composite of Psalms 105:1-15; 96:1-13; 106:1, 47, 48.

Chapter 17 is divided into three basic sections:

1. David’s desire to build God a house (17:1-2).
2. God’s determination to build David’s house (17:3-15).
3. David’s humble prayer of response (17:16-27).

**CHRIST IS REVEALED:**

Through the EXALTATION AND FAME OF ISRAEL’S KING (DAVID) – I Chron. 14:17 (Phil. 2:9-11; Rom. 14:11)

Through DAVID, THE SHEPHERD-KING – I Chron. 17:7 (Matt. 1:1-2; Rom. 1:3; John 10:11; Rev. 19:16)

## **DAY 93**

**TODAY’S READING: I CHRONICLES 18-21**

**OVERVIEW:**

The extension of David’s kingdom through his victories in battle; David’s sin in numbering the people; God’s judgment upon Israel for David’s sin.

**HIGHLIGHTS & INSIGHTS:**

It will be helpful to understand that the events that God summarizes for us in chapters 18, 19 and 20 took place historically AFTER David was made king (chapter 12), but BEFORE the Ark had been brought to Jerusalem (chapters 13-17). David’s life in these three chapters reads more like the campaigns of a World War II general than “the man after God’s own heart.” They provide ample understanding of why God refused to allow David to build the Temple, saying, “Thou hast shed blood abundantly, and hast made great wars: thou shalt not build an house unto my name, because thou hast shed much blood upon the earth in my sight” (I Chron. 22:8).

Whereas in yesterday's reading we saw that David had made a horrific blunder in multiplying WIVES for himself (14:3), chapter 18 and verse 4 records another failure of David to obey the laws God had laid down for Israel's kings in Deut. 17:15-17. This time he multiplied HORSES. God's prohibition for not multiplying wives is obvious; however, the prohibition for not multiplying horses is unclear. Apparently, God knows that it is somehow associated with the development of a spirit of pride within human leaders. David's pride will blossom in chapter 21.

Note in chapter 18, that while David's enemies were the recipients of the execution of David's wrath (18:1-15), God's people enjoyed the execution of David's righteousness and justice (18:14).

The first part of chapter 19 is a great example of the 21st century proverb: "No good deed goes unpunished." What David fully intended to be a blessing to the son of king Nahash at the death of his father, is turned into an incredible fiasco by the newly installed king's "cabinet of advisors" called "princes" (19:3). Through their "profound insight" and ability to "discern the motives of David's heart" they counsel the king concerning David's "ill-intentioned motives," and by the time it's all said and done, what could have been the beginning of a great relationship, ended with the death of 47,000 soldiers (19:18-19)! A great lesson for us about thinking we have the ability to discern people's motives and/or hearts, and a great warning about listening to people who think they can!

From a chronological standpoint, I Chronicles 20 coincides with II Samuel 12, and is that time when David became involved with Bathsheba. Whereas II Samuel 12 records David's sin and restoration, in keeping with the rest of I and II Chronicles, the sin is not recorded here. In chapter 21, the usually humble David is lifted up with pride of the Devil. He instructs Joab, the commander of his army to number the people. Joab recognizes that David is battling his pride and that taking this census would bring sin into the kingdom and appeals to David saying (in effect), "Listen, if the motive here is to find out how many subjects are in your kingdom, let it be enough to know that ALL of them love you and are your servants! You don't need to know how many there are. All finding out is going to do is lead to a bunch of problems!" David, however, had made up his mind. He was going to do what HE wanted to do! And he did.

Numbering the people displeased the Lord, and brought His immediate judgment upon Israel (21:7). Though David had "sinned greatly," the good news is, he was quick to humble himself and take ownership of his sin (21:8). The bad news is, his sin was not just the death of one man, as in Uzza's case, but the death of 70,000 men!!! Imagine the devastation felt by 70,000 families in Israel! Though God graciously forgave David of his sin, imagine how hard it would have been for 70,000 families to forgive their king because of his insistence upon exalting his foolish pride.

Through God, the "seer" (i.e. "prophet" – I Sam. 9:9), the Lord instructed David to acquire the threshingfloor of Ornan (21:18), upon which to build an altar and to offer sacrifices. Through the sacrifices, the judgment of God upon Israel was stayed. This threshingfloor would later become the site of the Temple (II Chron. 3:1).

#### **CHRIST IS REVEALED:**

Through the ALTAR David build to sacrifice unto the Lord, so that Israel might be restored to a right relationship with God – I Chron. 21:18, 26 (Only through Christ can we be restored to a right relationship with God – Rom. 3:24).

#### **DAY 94**

TODAY'S READING: I CHRONICLES 22-25

#### **OVERVIEW:**

David's preparation for the construction of the Temple; David's instructions and charge to Solomon; David's enlisting of the leaders of Israel to support Solomon in the project; the duties of the Levites; the duties assigned to the priests, and to the musicians and singers.

#### **HIGHLIGHTS & INSIGHTS:**

As yesterday's reading came to a conclusion in II Chronicles 21, David had just acquired the threshingfloor of Ornan and had built an altar to offer sacrifices. As chapter 22 begins, David recognizes that this threshingfloor would be the site for Temple that he had longed to be able to build for the Lord.

Though he was not permitted by the Lord to oversee its actual construction, he was given the incredibly wonderful and joyful privilege of planning and preparing for the building of it.

David realized that at Solomon's young age (he was approximately 20 at the time), he would need some help in preparing for something of this magnitude and magnificence (22:5). David said, "The house that is to be builded for the Lord must (not "should," but "must"!) be exceeding (and you gotta love this word...) MAGNIFICAL"! Notice again, not just MAGNIFICAL, but "EXCEEDING MAGNIFICAL, of fame and of glory throughout all countries" (22:5). In other words, "there must not be any structure anywhere in any country on the entire planet that has the magnificence of the Lord's house!" And David continues in verse 5, "I will therefore now make preparation for it." David says, "I may not be able to build it, but I can certainly plan for its magnificence!" And verse 5 concludes with the statement, "So David prepared abundantly before his death." Verse 5 teaches us a great principle of life: There may be dreams we have in our hearts that God never actually allows us to accomplish, and yet we may be mightily used of the Lord to make preparations for someone else (maybe as in David's case, one of our children, or perhaps, one of our spiritual children!) to accomplish through their life!

In chapter 22, verses 6-13, David explained to Solomon his vision for building the Temple, and how that God had reshaped and redirected the vision to be fulfilled through his son. He walks Solomon through what we now refer to as "The Davidic Covenant," and charges Solomon with the vision and responsibility for the project, and pronounces his blessing upon him. In 22:14-16, David informs Solomon of all of the materials he had already accumulated for the project, and then in, 22:17-19, David commands all of the leaders of Israel to get behind Solomon in this glorious and monumental task. The chapter ends with David's challenge and charge to his son, Solomon, and all of the leaders of Israel, "Now set your heart and your soul to seek the LORD your God; arise therefore, and build ye the sanctuary of the LORD God, to bring the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and the holy vessels of God, into the house that is to be built to the name of the LORD."

It's hard to imagine, but in great "Laodicean" fashion, rather than making the admonition of his father to build the Temple his first priority, he put his personal interests first, and didn't even begin the project until the fourth year of his reign! During those four years, however, he began to accumulate quite a barrage of chariots, horses, not to mention wives! (See II Chron. 1:14; 3:1-2; I Kings 10:26-11:4) God had clearly prohibited these very things for Israel's kings in Deut. 17:16-18.

In the list of David's lifetime accomplishments, something that is often overlooked is his efforts to organize the tribe of Levi for effective ministry in the Temple (Chapters 23-25). This was of tremendous spiritual significance!

**CHRIST IS REVEALED:**

Through SOLOMON, THE SON OF DAVID, ISRAEL'S KING – I Chron. 23:1 (Luke 1:32; Matt. 21:9)

## **DAY 95**

**TODAY'S READING: I CHRONICLES 26-29**

**OVERVIEW:** The divisions of the porters (gate keepers); the treasurers and other officers; the divisions of Israel's military; David's challenge to the leaders of Israel to the work of the Temple; David's charge to Solomon to build the Temple; David's gifts for the Temple; David's offering of praise to the Lord; the people's offering of praise of the Lord; Solomon's official installation as Israel's king; the death of David.

**HIGHLIGHTS & INSIGHTS:**

As we move into chapters 26 and 27 today, the major portion of these two chapters is consumed with the listing of names. In the midst of a genealogy, or lists of names such as this, when not studying the names to determine biblical time-lines and/or family connections, it's quite interesting to just observe the brief comments God inspired the writers of Scripture to interject. For example, 26:4 begins, "Moreover the sons of Obededom were...." And the remainder of verse 4 and 5 lists their names. However, at the end of verse 5, God just drops in, "for God blessed him." And that's that. But do you remember why God blessed Obededom? Remember, he was the one who sheltered the Ark after the death of Uzza back in I Chronicles 13. He was blessed because the presence of God was manifest in his life and in his home (13:14). We, too, will be blessed like Obededom when God's presence is manifest in and through our lives and in our homes.

Notice also God's commentary on Obadiah's sons and grandsons. In verse 6, "...they were mighty men of valour;" in verse 7, "...[they] were strong men"; in verse 8, "they...[were] able men for strength and for service." Most pastors all over the world would tell you that what is lacking in the church in the Laodicean Period, but so desperately needed is "strong men." That doesn't mean men who are extroverts, intimidating men, cocky men, dominating men or men who are "successful" by the world's standards. Remember, we have been called to be strong! BUT!!! Not in our own strength! Ephesians 6:10 says, "Be strong IN THE LORD"! And remember, HIS "STRENGTH is made perfect in WEAKNESS" (II Cor. 12:9)! Some words to a few of my favorite songs come to mind, "Help me fight to be weak" – (think about it!) and "Before we follow Christ, we need to be advised it's only for the weak." Real biblical "strength" and biblically "strong" men is paradoxical. Be very discerning!

Compare 26:31, "...they were sought for, and there were found," with Ezekiel 22:30, where God says, "And I SOUGHT FOR A MAN among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land that I should not destroy it: BUT I FOUND NONE"! As God is seeking servants as in 26:31, may He find you and me!

Chapter 27 lays out the military and governmental leaders and structure of the nation. Note that the army was comprised of over a quarter of a million soldiers, 288,000 to be exact, with 24,000 on duty each month. As we make our way through chapter 27 and on in to chapter 28 and verse 1, it is more than apparent that this was not a rag-tag band of soldiers, but a highly organized and regimented military operation. In chapter 28, verse 1-8, David addresses all of the leaders about how the whole thing had actually unfolded concerning the building of the Temple, and enlists their support of Solomon and the incredible project at hand. In verses 9 and 10, David addresses Solomon himself. In doing so, David presents four things: a command, a promise, a warning, and an exhortation:

1. The COMMAND: "Know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart" (28:9a). Note that Solomon could know ABOUT God from his father David, but to KNOW HIM would require that Solomon be acquainted with God on a personal basis himself! Understanding who Solomon's mother was, you understand why David would tell his son, "serve [the Lord] with a PERFECT heart" (Matt. 1:6). I'm quite certain David wished he had!
2. The PROMISE: "If thou seek him, he will be found of thee," (28:9b). It's a reminder of the theme verse of our 365 Days of Pursuit, "But if from thence thou shalt seek the Lord thy God, thou shalt find him, if thou seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul" (Deut. 4:29).
3. The WARNING: "But if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever" (28:9c).
4. The EXHORTATION: "Take heed now; for the Lord hath chosen thee to build an house for the sanctuary: be strong and do it" (28:10). It almost sounds like a Nike commercial: "Just do it!" That was David's admonition to his son to fulfill his commission. It fits perfectly with the commission we have received from the Lord: "Be strong and do it"!

As we come into chapter 29, it is the record of the end of David's life. David's life ends just as it had begun — he is a humble man, with an incredible heart for God! In verses 1-5 he tells the people that he not only had been setting aside money from the national budget for the great work of the Temple, but from his own personal finances, and he challenged all the people to do the same. Notice their response in verse 6-10. They "offered willingly" (29:6)! "Then the people rejoiced, for that they offered willingly to the Lord: and David the king also rejoiced with great joy" (29:9).

In verses 10-19, David blessed the Lord his God, and then in verse 20, challenged the people to do the same. Note their response in verses 21-22. Solomon is then formally installed as the new king, and I Chronicles ends with a brief summary of David's reign: "And he died in a good old age, full of days, riches, and honour" (29:28).

#### CHRIST IS REVEALED:

Through the TEMPLE TREASURES – I Chron. 26:20-28 (Col. 2:2-3 says of "Christ; in whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.")