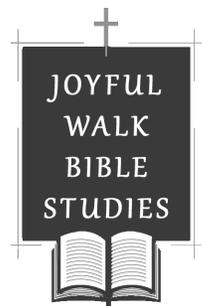


God's Powerful Presence
in 1 & 2 Chronicles

*Our God's powerful presence helps us to
reboot our lives, renew our commitment to
Him, and live a life of rejoicing as a result.*

MELANIE NEWTON



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Using This Study Guide

This study guide consists of 11 lessons that cover two Old Testament books—1st and 2nd Chronicles. You will be reading through both books though not covering every detail. If you cannot do the entire lesson one week, please read the Bible passage for the lesson.

THE BASIC STUDY

Each lesson includes core questions covering the passage narrative. These core questions will take you through the process of inductive Bible study—observation, interpretation, and application. The process is more easily understood in the context of answering these questions:

- What does the passage say? (Observation: what’s actually there) These will help you to notice all the information that is given in the text.
- What does it mean? (Interpretation: the author’s intended meaning)
- How does this apply to me today? (*Application: making it personal*) **Reboot, renew, rejoice** questions lead you to introspection and application of specific truths to your life.

STUDY ENHANCEMENTS

Deeper Discoveries (optional): Embedded within the sections are *optional* questions for research of subjects we don’t have time to cover adequately in the lessons or contain information that significantly enhance the basic study. If you are meeting with a small group, your leader may give you the opportunity to share your “discoveries.”

Study Aids: To aid in proper interpretation and application of the study, six additional study aids are located where appropriate in the lesson:

- Historical Insights
- Scriptural Insights
- From the Hebrew (definitions of Hebrew words)
- Focus on the Meaning
- Think About It (thoughtful reflection)

Other useful study tools: Use online tools or apps (blueletterbible.org or “Blue Letter Bible app” is especially helpful) to find *cross references* (verses with similar content to what you are studying) and meanings of the *original Hebrew words or phrases* used (usually called “interlinear”). You can also look at any verse in *various Bible translations* to help with understanding what it is saying.

PODCASTS

Find podcasts coordinating with these lessons at melanienewton.com/podcasts. Follow along with the “Podcast Listener Guides” for each lesson.

OLD TESTAMENT SUMMARY

About 1700 years after God created everything, He sent judgment on a rebellious race through a worldwide Flood. He later separated the nations with different languages and scattered them from Babel. Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob were founding fathers of the Hebrew people. Sold into slavery, Joseph became a powerful foreign leader paving the way for his relatives to move to Egypt. The Israelites grew in number for ~400 years in Egypt but became slaves of the Egyptian rulers. So, God delivered them from bondage through Moses who took the people across the Red Sea and taught them God's Law at Mt. Sinai. Joshua led the Israelites into the Promised Land after a 40-year trek in the wilderness because of their unbelief.

During the transition toward monarchy, there were deliverer-rulers called "Judges," the last of whom was Samuel. The first three Hebrew kings—Saul, David, and Solomon—each ruled 40 years. Under Rehoboam, the Hebrew nation divided into northern and southern kingdoms, respectively called Israel and Judah. Prophets warned against worshipping the foreign god Baal. After the reign of 19 wicked kings in the north, Assyria conquered and scattered the northern kingdom. In the south, 20 kings ruled for ~350 years, until Babylon took the people into captivity for 70 years. Zerubbabel, Ezra, and Nehemiah led the Jews back into Jerusalem over a 100-year period. More than 400 "silent years" spanned the gap between Malachi and Matthew.

The 39 books in the Old Testament are divided into 4 main categories:

- "The Law" (5 books)—the beginning of the nation of Israel as God's chosen people; God giving His Laws to the people that made them distinct from the rest of the nations.
- "History" (12 books)—narratives that reveal what happened from the time the people entered the Promised Land right after Moses died until 400 years before Christ was born.
- "Poetry & Wisdom" (5 books)—take place at the same time as the history books but are set apart because they are written as poems and have a lot of wise teaching in them.
- "Prophets" (17 books)—concurrent with the books of history and, except for Lamentations, reflect the name of the prophet through whom God spoke to the nation of Israel.

OLD TESTAMENT TIMELINE

The time period covered by this study is italicized in the chart below.

Historical Period	Years BC.	Leaders
The Patriarchs	2100 - 1800	Abraham, Isaac, Jacob
Israel in Egypt, Exodus, Conquest of Land	1800 - 1450	Moses, Joshua
Time of the Judges	1400 – 1050	Deborah, Gideon, Samuel
<i>United Kingdom</i>	<i>1050 – 930</i>	<i>Saul, David, Solomon</i>
<i>Divided Kingdom—Judah</i>	<i>930 – 586</i>	<i>Rehoboam, Asa, Jehoshaphat, Hezekiah, Josiah</i>
Restored Israel after Exile	538 – 400	Zerubbabel, Ezra, Nehemiah

DISCUSSION GROUP GUIDELINES

1. **Attend consistently** whether your lesson is done or not. You'll learn from the other women, and they want to get to know you.
2. **Set aside time** to work through the study questions. The goal of Bible study is to **get to know** Jesus. He will change your life.
3. **Share your insights** from your personal study time. As you spend time in the Bible, Jesus will teach you truth through His Spirit inside you.
4. **Respect each other's insights.** Listen thoughtfully. Encourage each other as you interact. Refrain from dominating the discussion if you have a tendency to be talkative. ☺
5. **Celebrate our unity** in Christ. Avoid bringing up controversial subjects such as politics, divisive issues, and denominational differences.
6. **Maintain confidentiality.** Remember that anything shared during the group time is not to leave the **group** (unless permission is granted by the one sharing).
7. **Pray for one another** as sisters in Christ.
8. **Get to know the women** in your group. Please do not use your small group members for solicitation purposes for home businesses, though.

Enjoy your Joyful Walk Bible Study!

Recommended: Listen to the podcast “A Fresh Start” at melanienewton.com/podcasts as an introduction to the whole study.

A Fresh Start

A FRESH START FOR ISRAEL—1948 AD

- In 70 AD, the Jews were forcibly exiled from their land in the Middle East by the Roman Empire. By the 1800s, fewer than 25,000 Jews lived in their ancient homeland.
- In the late 1800s, Jews began returning to re-establish themselves in their ancient homeland. They made deserts bloom and revived the almost dead Hebrew language. The horrors of World War II spurred a greater interest in supporting a national Israel.
- On May 14, 1948, the Jewish People's Council gathered in Tel Aviv and declared the establishment of the State of Israel. For the first time in 2000 years, the Jews once again had their own nation. It was the second reboot of Israel. The first reboot occurred 2500 years earlier in 537 BC.

REBOOT OF ISRAEL—537 BC

- The Jewish people descended from Abraham to whom God promised descendants, a specific area of land (Israel), and a blessing for the whole world through his descendant.
- After 700 years of living in their promised land, God determined that the Jewish people would be in a “70-year time out” from living in their land because of their evil behavior.
- At the end of the 70 years of exile, the Jews were allowed to return home and rebuild their Temple in Jerusalem. Many of them had little concept of living in the “promised land” and how to worship God there. They didn’t know their identity or purpose for existence.
- God in His goodness inspired someone to chronicle the history of His people from their first calling through Abraham to what happened that caused the death of the nation and exile to Babylon. That’s what we have in 1 and 2 Chronicles.
- Chronicles showed a despairing people that they had a powerful, faithful God who would strengthen them to rebuild the Temple and their nation. God gave them an opportunity to reboot their relationship with Him. The power of His presence was still there.

THE VALUE OF A REBOOT

A reboot is “an act or instance of making a change in order to establish a new beginning.”

- God offers every human being a rebooted spiritual life through His gospel message. Trusting in Jesus Christ is the first reboot all humans need to have in their lives.
- Other types of reboots for believers:
 - ✓ Repentance of sinful behavior. Repentance means to change your mind about that behavior and choose obedience to God instead. *Isaiah 1:16b-17a*
 - ✓ Making changes of location, relationships, or lifestyle because of unhealthy situations.
- We can reboot because we have the power of God's presence with us to enable it. Then, we can choose to renew our commitment to God when enticed by the world.

RENEW YOUR COMMITMENT TO GOD

To renew means "to restore to freshness and vigor." Renew can also be a commitment to keep going in the same direction.

- Every day we have the opportunity to enjoy our relationship with God with renewed freshness and vigor.
- With every attack from the world, we must still choose to renew our commitment to God and not fold. The power of God's presence with us helps us to make that choice, too. We are never without His guidance. *Isaiah 30:21*

REJOICE

- When you experience a reboot in your life or a sense of renewal in your daily relationship with God, our faithful God will fill your heart with His joy. Joy, rejoicing, gladness of heart, and singing are the outward expressions of what the Lord is doing in your heart.
- Today, we have a far greater reason to rejoice than the Jews did in 500 BC because the Messiah did come in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - ✓ Jesus was fully God and fully man. He showed us how to live as humans in relationship with God. He showed us how to live as humans in dependence on God.
 - ✓ Through His death on the cross, He paid the price for our sin, freeing us to be completely reconciled to God and adopted as His children.
 - ✓ Through His resurrection, Jesus released us from our death sentence as His Spirit comes to live inside us, completely regenerating our dead spirits.
 - ✓ All we need to do is to say yes to the invitation to commit our lives to the Lord Jesus Christ. That's the greatest reboot anyone can experience. That's His power at work in us. And, it is permanent.

Our God's powerful presence helps us to reboot our lives, renew our commitment to Him, and live a life of rejoicing as a result. How have you experienced the power of His presence?

Let Jesus satisfy your heart with the power of His presence. Then, live in that power!

1 An Unbroken Connection

1 Chronicles 1-12 (2500-1010 BC)

DAY ONE STUDY

The ABCs of Chronicles—Author, Background, and Context

Like any book you read, it always helps to know a bit about the author, the background setting for the story (i.e., past, present, future), and where the book fits into a series (that's the context). The same is true of Bible books.

AUTHOR

Unlike most of the New Testament books, we often do not know the authors of the Old Testament books, especially the ones of history. Nothing in the text of the books of Chronicles tells us definitively of the author(s). The Babylonian Talmud identifies Ezra, a priest and scribe who lived within 100 years of the exile, as the author. Most people refer to the unknown writer as “the Chronicler.” Originally written as one book, Chronicles was likely finished around 450 to 425 BC because the last descendant of David listed in the genealogies lived at that time. According to many references within the books, the Chronicler used existing historical records for his book.

BACKGROUND

Because of their sinful behavior, God determined that the Jewish people would be in a “time out” from living in their land. From 605 BC to 586 BC, the Jews were removed from their homeland and taken into captivity in Babylon and other areas of the Babylonian Empire. For seventy years, they learned how to live in a pagan environment away from their Temple and their land.

In 539 BC, Babylon fell to the Persian monarch Cyrus the Great. Cyrus soon decreed that the Jewish people could return to Judea and rebuild their Temple in Jerusalem. Three groups of people returned over the next 100 years—the first led by Zerubbabel in 537 BC, the second led by Ezra 80 years later, and the third group came with Nehemiah 15 years after that.

The remnant returned to a ruined Jerusalem, a destroyed temple, and other obstacles to their success. Many of them who had been born in Babylon had little concept of living in the “promised land” and how to worship God there. They didn't know their identity or purpose for existence. So, the writer of Chronicles traced the history of God's people from their first calling through Abraham to what happened that caused the death of the nation and subsequent exile to Babylon. He reminded the new generation that God had been their help in ages past. He emphasized the unconditional covenant God made with David to maintain a descendant as leader of the people.

The author of the Chronicles showed a despairing people that they had a powerful, faithful God who would strengthen them to rebuild the Temple and the city of Jerusalem. And, more importantly, he emphasized how important it was to stay faithful in their worship of the God who called them to be His people and a light to the world. The hope was that they would never again fall into the worship of other “gods” besides their own covenant God.

CONTEXT

Chronicles is considered one of the 12 books of “history” in the Old Testament (Joshua through Esther). Originally, the books of Samuel, Kings, and Chronicles were single books. During the time

of the Septuagint (Greek) translation of the Hebrew Old Testament (200 BC), the scribes divided those long books, making them easier for copyists and readers to handle. That's why we have 6 books of history of the kings of Israel rather than 3. The original title for Chronicles was "Things Omitted." How's that for a title of a book? When Jerome translated the Bible into Latin (400 AD), he suggested the title should be "*chronicle* of the whole sacred history." That name stuck.

Although 1 and 2 Chronicles come after the books of 1 and 2 Kings in our Bible, the historical record within Chronicles is concurrent with and supplementary to that of the books of Samuel and Kings. The books of Kings contain more detail about the northern kingdom of Israel, but the Chronicles focus on the southern kingdom of Judah. Because of this, over half of the content of Chronicles is unique as it focuses mainly on the religious nature of the people and their leaders during the years of David and his descendants after him. The end of 2 Chronicles connects historically to the book of Ezra and continues through Nehemiah. The book of Esther takes place between the first group of exiles returning to Judea led by Zerubbabel in 537 BC and the second group led by Ezra 80 years later.

Scriptural Insight: Why do we need the books of 1–2 Chronicles when we already have the history of 2 Samuel and 1–2 Kings? Just as the gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John each offer a different perspective on the life of Jesus, so the books of Chronicles present Israel's history with a purpose different than the other historical books. The books of 2 Samuel and 1–2 Kings reveal the monarchies of Israel and Judah—in particular the sins of the nations that resulted in the exile. But the books of Chronicles, written after the time of the exile, focus on those elements of history that God wanted the returning Jews to meditate upon: obedience that results in God's blessing, the priority of the Temple and priesthood, and the unconditional promises to the house of David. (Chuck Swindoll, *First Chronicles Overview*, insight.org)

1. What background information about the books of Chronicles really grabbed your attention?

Historical Insight: Are you unfamiliar with the Old Testament? On pages 1-2 of this book, we provided an Old Testament summary and a timeline that includes the 400 years covered by this study—from the middle of David's reign to the exile.

2. To help your perspective of time, name a few influential people in your country or in your family over the past 400 years and why they are memorable.

Respond to the Lord about what He's shown you today.

DAY TWO STUDY***Reboot, Renew, Rejoice*****REBOOT**

Focus on the Meaning: Chronicles is a reboot. It is not just the same old material; it has a new tone, a new message, new truth about God to communicate. (James Duguid, “Why Study the Books of 1-2 Chronicles?” www.crossway.org)

Throughout Chronicles, we will see the value of a reboot. If you own a computer or other digital device, then you probably know that restarting that computer or device is known as a reboot. It clears away the old stuff that was causing trouble and refreshes the operating system so that it works better.

The term “reboot” has expanded its usage into other areas of life. According to the dictionary, a reboot is “an act or instance of making a change in order to establish a new beginning.”

That’s what God offers to every human being on the planet through His gospel message. Trust in Christ for your salvation and begin anew in your relationship with God. A rebooted spiritual life removes all the sin that separated you from God and replaces it with forgiveness for all your sins, redemption from the control of sin in your life, and reconciliation with God so that you are completely loved and accepted by Him. That’s the first reboot every human needs to have in their life.

3. Look at the following verses that describe the “reboot” that takes place at salvation.

- 2 Corinthians 5:17—

- 1 Thessalonians 1:9—

- Ephesians 2:1-6—

There are other types of rebooting in the daily life of a believer. Whenever we are going the wrong way, away from God, God calls us to repentance—to change our mind about that behavior and choose obedience to Him instead. Sometimes we must reboot because of an unhealthy situation. That may require a move, a change of relationships, and/or lifestyle because of health issues. We’ll see examples of these in the books of Chronicles.

4. Here are some New Testament verses about lifestyle reboots. What do you learn about when and how to make those reboots?

- 1 Corinthians 15:33-34—

- Ephesians 5:1-7—

- Titus 2:11-14—

RENEW

Rebooting is an important tool that God uses to get us going in the right direction with Him. But, when you choose to stay faithful to Him when given the opportunity to go the world's way, that's actually a decision to renew your relationship with God.

The term “renew” can mean “to restore to freshness and vigor,” as in renewing our strength through sleep. That applies to our spiritual life as well. Every day we have the opportunity to enjoy our relationship with God with renewed freshness and vigor. But, to renew can also mean to continue as in maintaining an ongoing subscription or membership. It's a commitment to keep going in the same direction. We will see people renew their relationship with God as they stay firmly committed to Him rather than straying away.

5. Here are some New Testament verses about renewal. What do you learn that will keep you renewed and restored to freshness and vigor?

- Romans 12:1-2—

- Colossians 1:9-12—

- Colossians 3:15-17—

REJOICE

Both experiencing a reboot in your life and a sense of renewal in your daily relationship with God should lead you to rejoice. I think you know what rejoice means. Joy, rejoicing, gladness of heart, and singing are the outward expressions of what the Lord is doing in your heart. We will see this frequently in Chronicles—27 times—as a reboot or renewal of their hearts toward God results in rejoicing.

6. Here are some New Testament verses about rejoicing because of God working in someone's life to reboot or renew them. What do you learn?

- Luke 19:1-10 (the tax collector)—

- 2 Corinthians 7:9 (about someone who repents)—

- Acts 16:25-34 (the jailer)—

Think About It: Like water drops pop out of a bottle of water when it is shaken or squeezed, the joy of the Lord spills out of us. The Holy Spirit initiates the rejoicing!

Our God's powerful presence helps us to reboot our lives, renew our commitment to Him, and live a life of rejoicing as a result.

7. **Reboot, renew, rejoice:** What about you? God's not done writing your story.

- Do you need a reboot in your life?

- Maybe you don't need a reboot, but would you like to renew your relationship with God in a more committed way?

- What has God done in your life up to this point through a reboot or renewal that leads you to rejoice?

Respond to the Lord about what He's shown you today.

DAY THREE STUDY

Israel's identity, "Who are we?"

Have you ever done any research into your genealogy (ancestors)? I spent quite a bit of time on that several years ago. One of my favorite websites to use was Ancestry.com. It contained a wealth of information about my great-great grandparents and even included some tidbits beyond just names and birthdates of what their lives were like. I loved that! Knowing about them made them seem more real to me. I don't know about you, but I feel a connection to that great-great grandmother when I learn a little bit about her life. For those who were definitely Christians, I look forward to meeting them in heaven.

But, I also learned to be cautious about some of the connections. I'd get so excited to see that so and so was the daughter or son of the governor of Bermuda, a Scottish lord, or an early American founder only to find out that someone added that connection to our family line recklessly. When I traced the descendants of those famous people, my ancestor was not any part of that list. Trying to stay accurate as I put all my research into a book for my family members, I only included what I could meticulously prove was true.

The first nine chapters of 1 Chronicles is the Old Testament Ancestry.com. The Chronicler meticulously researched and included the lineages of the twelve tribes of Israel so that those who were returning to their homeland after the exile would know where to go and find their land (1 Chronicles 9:2). David's descendants are listed several times to make sure everyone knew who was eligible to be king again. The restored nation needed priests who could prove they were from the tribe of Levi so they could serve at the rebuilt temple. No hearsay allowed.

The Jewish people trying to resettle their land and reboot their lives needed to know their identity. Who were they? Why were they a people? What was their purpose? They found the answers in Chronicles as they discovered their rich heritage and their unbroken connection with their God-ordained beginnings as a people. They could read the biographies of their ancestors and feel connected to them. Even more importantly, they needed to know who their God was and why they should only serve Him. They needed to see that He was a faithful God, and they could trust Him. Our God is the same God so we can learn about Him as well.

Let's get started

Ask the Lord Jesus to speak to you through His Word. Tell Him that you are listening.

Relax. We aren't going to ask you to read 1 Chronicles chapters 1-10. Whew! Those chapters contain a lot of names that don't matter so much to us (unless you are an avid student of history and love matching names found here with stories about those same people elsewhere in the Bible—feel free to do so). And, the author jumped around a lot which can drive those of us who like order into utter frustration. But, for the purpose of today's lesson, we are going to just look at key areas that help us understand the rest of the two books.

Appropriately, the beginning of 1 Chronicles starts with Adam, the first human created by God. Through his son, Seth, came the line of Noah and his three sons (vv. 1-27). From the descendants of Noah's son Shem, God chose Abraham to be the father of everyone thereafter known as Jews. Abraham's son Isaac had two sons, but God chose the second son Jacob to be the one from whom the 12 tribes of Israel would descend. Are you with me so far?

8. Look at 1 Chronicles 2:1. Read through these names of the 12 tribes of Israel. You will see them pop up in the narratives of Chronicles. Each tribe settled in its own section of the land.

Consider that to be like states/provinces in a country. Where each tribe lived was pretty consistent for several hundred years then things got jumbled up.

See the maps on pages 4 & 5 of this study guide. Refer to these maps whenever you want to visualize the places being referenced in Chronicles.

9. Of those 12 tribes, Judah was the most important to the Chronicler because that was King David's tribe. So, it comes next in the list (rest of chapter 2), including David's siblings and nephews. Then, David's descendants are listed in chapter 3.
- Look at 1 Chronicles 3:1-9. Find **Solomon's** name in the list of David's sons.
 - Scan the names in vv. 10-16. Throughout this study, we'll be covering the lives and leadership of those kings (who are all David's heirs).

After listing more descendants of Judah who are not of David's line, chapters 4-8 cover the lineage of the other 11 tribes. Occasionally, place names are given to help them locate their homeland.

10. Because the tribe of Levi was chosen by God to be the source of religious leaders for Israel, chapter 6 is very detailed. The two divisions of this tribe were the priests and the Levites. These two groups are referenced frequently in Chronicles. Read 2 Chronicles 6:48-49. What were the duties of each group?

Chapter 9 continues the emphasis on the priests and Levites but focuses on those who returned from exile. Only those who descended from Aaron, Moses' brother, could be priests at the Temple. The group called "the Levites" were like local pastors for communities as well as servants for all aspects of the Tabernacle and Temple including security (gatekeepers) and leading worship. In order to reestablish worship of God in the land, those who returned from exile had to prove their lineage in order to serve in either capacity.

Focus on the Meaning: That proving of one's ancestry reminds me of joining the Daughters of the American Revolution. In order to be accepted into this prestigious organization, one must have written documentation to prove that an ancestor served in the American Revolutionary War (1776-1783) either as a soldier or civilian that provided resources for the soldiers.

Israel's first king, Saul (from the tribe of Benjamin), is highlighted briefly in 1 Chronicles 9:35-10:14. He disobeyed God over and over again. So, God ripped the kingdom away and gave it to David. The end of chapter 10 transitions the reader to David—Israel's second, and greatest, king—who is the central person of the rest of 1 Chronicles.

11. Thrown in the midst of the endless sea of names in 1 Chronicles 1-9 are tidbits about a few of the common people.

- To make my reading through these passages more interesting, I highlighted every woman mentioned. There are more than 50 women listed by name as distinctive mothers, sisters, wives, and daughters. One woman was particularly interesting to me. Read 1 Chronicles 7:24. What is said about Sheerah from the tribe of Ephraim?

Focus on the Meaning: The two Beth-horons were apparently Canaanite towns that the Israelites captured and destroyed in the conquest under Joshua. "Built" may mean rebuilt, or restored, or fortified. Two of the three cities, Lower Beth-Horon and Upper Beth-Horon were on a hillside, one high above the other. These works were done either by her design or by her instigation and influence upon those who did the building. Either way, Sheerah made an impact on her time and community that was remembered hundreds of years later!

- Years ago, a book about "the prayer of Jabez" swept the Christian community. Here's the source. Read 1 Chronicles 4:9-10. What do you learn about Jabez?

12. **Reboot, renew, rejoice:** Identity is essential to any reboot. Start with viewing yourself rightly.

- If you have trusted in Jesus Christ for your salvation, the Bible says that you are "in Christ." That is your identity. Being in Christ means that you are also adopted into God's family as His child. You are one of God's saints, totally loved and accepted by Him because of your faith in Jesus Christ. Your purpose is to love God with all that you are and to make disciples for Christ through your words and actions. This brings glory to God and reasons to rejoice.
- If you have not trusted in Jesus Christ for your salvation, you can do that right now. God will reboot your life as you join His family as one who is "in Christ." All those things written above will now be true for you. Will you say yes to trusting in Jesus?

Respond to the Lord about what He's shown you today.

DAY FOUR STUDY

Historical Perspective

If you have ever been to Sunday school as a child, you likely know the story of David the young shepherd boy who slew the giant Goliath with a simple slingshot and one stone. We know that this brave shepherd boy grew up to be a great king of Israel. We also know that Jesus Christ descended from the house of David. Who was this David, and what can we learn from him?

In our Bibles, more has been written about David (66 chapters) than any other character in the Old Testament. In the New Testament, there are fifty-nine references to this great man. We not only can read about David's life in 1 and 2 Samuel, 1 Kings and 1 Chronicles, we can glean insight into what he thought and felt by reading many of the Psalms he wrote (73 are attributed to David).

In Hebrew, the name David means "beloved." David is the only person in the Bible whose scriptural epitaph reads "a man after God's own heart." David was born in 1040 BC and is described as handsome and ruddy with beautiful eyes. As a teen, he was anointed by the prophet Samuel to be God's chosen king. From that day, the Holy Spirit remained with him for the rest of his life.

Since the purpose of the book of Chronicles is the reboot of Israel as a people who worship God, the chronicler focused on David's life example.

Read 1 Chronicles 11:1-9. Ask the Lord Jesus to speak to you through His Word. Tell Him that you are listening.

13. Judah made David king right after Saul's death. It took more than 7 years for the rest of the tribes to confirm it for themselves in 1010 BC. How did that happen (vv. 3-4)?

14. Every nation needs a capital city. What did David do in vv. 4-9?

Historical Insight: Jerusalem was a natural fortress because of its location on a rise surrounded on three sides by deep valleys. The site was a noteworthy place in Israel's history from the time of Abraham when he gave a tithe to Melchizedek, the king of Salem (Genesis 14:18). The Jebusites were Canaanites. It was located on the border between Judah and Benjamin but was controlled by neither tribe. Locating his royal city in a newly conquered town that wasn't attached to any particular tribe helped David to unite the kingdom under his rule without seeming to subordinate one tribe to the others. The city covered about 12 acres and became known as Zion, the City of David. (*NIV Study Bible 1985 Edition*, note on 2 Samuel 5:6-7, pp. 429-430)

15. The title given to 1 Chronicles 11:10-25 in my Bible is “David’s Mighty Men.” I love that title! They were strong warriors who took their stand in the middle of the fray and defended their territory to bring victory. God sent those men to David. What grabs your attention about these men?
16. In 1 Chronicles 12, we read more about those who came to align themselves with David from the other tribes. “*Day after day men came to help David, until he had a great army, like the army of God*” (1 Chronicles 12:22). Scan 1 Chronicles 12 to see how God provided the strong support of friends to David. What grabs your attention about these men?
17. What encouraging message did God give to David in 1 Chronicles 12:18?
18. How did David celebrate with his friends and allies when he became king (1 Chronicles 12:38-40)?

Scriptural Insight: The Chronicler presented David as a strong model king by selecting four pictures from his life: 1) his crowning (showing God’s choice of him); 2) his capture of Jerusalem (the victory that led to the building of the Temple later); 3) his mighty men (showing the attraction of his personal character); and 4) the gathering of multitudes behind his leadership, showing his influence on the masses. (*Dr. Constable’s Notes on 1 Chronicles 2019 Edition*, p. 9)

19. **Reboot, renew, rejoice:** We all need someone to have our backs. God does have our backs already as He goes before us, behind us and all around us (Psalm 139). And, He uses people to do that work for Him. If you are surrounded by godly people whom God sends to surround you, that is in a sense being supported by the army of God. I've seen this happen at a

women's retreat. Women who were hurting and needing fresh support, even coming to the retreat alone and feeling alone beforehand, were completely surrounded by a whole army of women who said, "We are with you!" The lonely began feeling supported by God's army of women. What a great feeling to have that kind of support!

- Are you a leader of a work team, a family, or a small group? Have you been surrounded with people who will give your leadership strong support like David's "Mighty Men" did for him? If not, ask the Lord to do so for you.

- How do you show appreciation to those whom God has given to support your leadership?

20. **Deeper Discoveries (optional):** What else grabbed your attention from Lesson 1? What other applications can you make to reboot your life direction, renew your commitment to the Lord, and rejoice?

Respond to the Lord about what He's shown you today.

Recommended: Listen to the podcast "[Knowing Who You Are](#)" after doing this lesson to reinforce what you have learned. Use the listener guide on the next page.

Knowing Who You Are

“Look to the rock from which you were cut and to the quarry from which you were hewn...” (Isaiah 51:1)

FEELING CONNECTED

Feeling like you belong to a story that began before you—and unfolds with you—helps to shape your perspective and purpose. In fact, this is the appeal of businesses that sell genealogical information. They market testimonies of excited clients claiming “Now I know who I am!” It’s the power of feeling connected. (Randy Guliuzza, *Acts & Facts*, December 2019, p. 17)

- When we believe in the Lord Jesus as Savior, we become members of a new family with a rich history beginning with true royalty—the Lord Jesus who descended from David.
- The first nine chapters of 1 Chronicles is the Old Testament Ancestry.com. The Jewish people trying to resettle their land and reboot their lives needed to know their identity. Who were they? Why were they a people? What was their purpose?
- They found the answers in Chronicles as they discovered their rich heritage and their unbroken connection with their God-ordained beginnings as a people.

BEING A MEMORABLE WOMAN

- In the first 9 chapters of 1 Chronicles, there are 53 references to women listed by name as distinctive mothers, sisters, wives, and daughters. To be mentioned specifically in the historical record meant you were someone or did something that was memorable. *Isaiah 32:8*
- As a descendant of Joseph’s son Ephraim, Sheerah is credited with rebuilding three towns on the edge of Ephraim’s allotted territory in Israel after it was conquered. She made an impact on her time and her community that was remembered hundreds of years later. The Holy Spirit made sure her name was in there.

“His daughter was Sheerah, who built Lower and Upper Beth Horon as well as Uzzen Sheerah.” (1 Chronicles 7:24)

- Memorable women who knew their identity as a worshiper of the God of Israel were part of the nation’s heritage.

KNOWING WHO YOU ARE

- In our world, identity drives everything about life.

- Knowing our spiritual identity is even more important.
- Have you trusted in Jesus Christ for your salvation? If so, you received a new spiritual identity from that very moment you said yes to believing in Jesus.
- Every Christian is a new creation with a new identity in Christ. This new identity declares how God, who is our authority, now views you. It is what He has done for us and to us that really counts, not what the culture thinks of us or what we think of ourselves. And, there are wonderful perks that go along with this new position in life.
- Your faith in Jesus Christ sets you free from your previous sin-stained existence to enjoy a new life. But, your ability to live out this freedom depends upon your understanding of who you now are.
- How we see ourselves directs how we live our faith walk. That was true for the Jews returning to Israel in 500 BC. That is true today. For us as Christians, we need to grasp the **FACT** that every believer gets a **new life** with a **radical** new identity—something we never had before, and something no one before Jesus' resurrection ever had!! And this new identity sets us free to live a radically new kind of life—a joyful life experiencing the power of God's presence.
- The moment we believe, the old self that was born **in Adam** died. A new self with the same body but a new interior started life as a new person with a new nature and a new inheritance. That's your reboot. The Holy Spirit places you in the Body of Christ. You are united with Christ. And, Christ comes to live in you as His Spirit permanently indwells you and establishes changes in your relationship with God that are mind-blowingly wonderful. The power of God's presence is in you and with you forever! This radical new identity means you can never go back to not being **in Christ**. Ever!
- One of the fundamental questions of the human race is that of identity. People ask, "Who am I?" The one secure, eternal answer is that through faith in Jesus Christ you can say this,

"I am in Christ, a child of God, one of God's saints, totally loved and accepted by God."

That's who you are because of the power of God's presence in you.

Let Jesus satisfy your heart with the power of His presence. Then, live in that power!