

1 Chronicles

IGNATIUS CATHOLIC STUDY BIBLE QUESTIONS

Welcome

“You are approaching the ‘word of God’. But for thousands of years, . . . the Word of God has been approaching you.”

The following guide is provided to enhance your reading of the First Book of the Chronicles using the *Ignatius Catholic Study Bible*. If you are new to this resource or to reading the Bible, we recommend you read the general Introduction before you begin. It explains what it means that Scripture is the Word of God as well as how we understand and interpret it as Catholics. It also introduces the special features of the Study Bible and tells how they can enrich your reading and study. Additionally, the *Introduction to the Historical Books* will provide valuable context for your reading.

A simple rhythm of prayer followed by reading and reflection is offered below to guide you through the book one chapter at a time. Questions draw attention to key footnotes and word studies to lead you into a deeper understanding of what you read and then prompt you to consider how to apply what you have learned. For a deeper dive, take advantage of additional features as you go: not just the other footnotes but also cross-references to Scripture and the *Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC)* that are provided above the footnotes as well as any maps, charts, or essays that are not touched on in the questions.

Don't miss these helpful icons as you read! They highlight footnotes that pertain to the Church's criteria for interpreting Scripture (see CCC 112–14):



Be attentive to the content and unity of Scripture

Notes marked with a Bible icon connect Old Testament passages and New Testament mysteries, fostering appreciation for God's unified plan.



Read Scripture in light of the Church's living tradition

This icon marks notes drawn from the Holy Spirit's guidance of Church teaching and the spiritual senses of scripture. Here you'll find official teaching as well as interpretations from Fathers, Doctors, and saints of the Church.



Be attentive to the “analogy of faith”

Explore notes marked with an icon of keys to learn how the mysteries of faith, revealed in Scripture and defined by the Church, clarify and connect with one another in a unified, coherent way.

May God bless you as you read his word!

of God,* did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,⁷ but emptied himself,[†] taking the form of a servant,[‡] being born in the likeness of men.[§] And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross.[¶] Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name,^{||} that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,^{|||} and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

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12 Therefore, obeyed, so now much more in salvation with f work in you, bo pleasure.
14 Do all thi tioning,¹⁵ that y children of God crooked and per

2:9–11: Rom 10:9; 14:9; Eph 1:20–21. 2:13: 1 Cor 15:10. 2



2:7 emptied himself: The Greek verb *kenōō* means “empty out” or “render void”. The idea is, not that Christ divested himself of divinity when he united himself with humanity, but that he restricted his rightful exercise of certain divine abilities during his earthly life and accepted certain limitations of the human condition. In effect, the Son of God made himself poor in order to make us rich with his grace (2 Cor 8:9) (CCC 472). • Christ emptied himself by compressing the glory of his Godhead within our smallness. What he always was remained perfect and incomprehensible, but what he assumed was in proportion to the measure of our nature (St. Gregory of Nyssa, *Against Apollinarius*).

2:8 death on a cross: The ultimate indignity. Death by crucifixion was the most awful and degrading form of criminal execution in the ancient world. The Romans reserved it for slaves and insurrectionists. See note on Mk 15:24.

2:9 exalted him: By raising him from the dead, enthroning him in heaven, and clothing his humanity with divine glory. A similar destiny awaits all who humble themselves as Jesus did (3:21; Lk 14:11).

2:10 every knee should bow: An allusion to the divine oath in Is 45:23. • Yahweh swore that all peoples, to the very end of the earth, would acknowledge his Lordship and bow before him in homage. Paul moves Christ into the center of this prophecy as the divine Lord destined to be revered by all. **heaven . . . earth . . . under the earth:** The three principal realms in the world view of ancient Israel (Ex 20:4). Homage will come from all creatures great and small—the angels and saints above, the family of man and beasts spread over the earth, and the dead and the demons of the underworld.

2:11 confess: I.e., acknowledge. Included in this open dec

serious that we pur sense of awe at ser the prospect of sinn Encouragement con readers that God's g desire (intention) at 21; CCC 308) (CC “work”, he address and trembling”, he good deeds were th not boast of your g within you (St. Augu **2:15 pervers** • Deuterono poetic lawsuit that and ingratitude du

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Prepare

Read the Introduction to 1 Chronicles, paying particular attention to the *Genre* and *Purpose* of the book, its *Content and Themes*, and the *Christian Perspective* on it. What one thing stands out to you, that you would like to remember?

Read the Outline of 1 Chronicles to get an overview of the book. What are its major divisions?

Pray

Use the following questions to guide your reading of 1 Chronicles, going at a pace that is comfortable to you. Before you begin each new section, pray simply for the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit:

Come, Holy Spirit, open my heart to hear and receive these words as what they truly are, the Word of God. Enlighten my understanding and give me grace to put what I read into practice in my life. Amen.

Read and Reflect

Read and reflect on 1 Chronicles as follows:

- Pray before you read
- Read a section of biblical text by itself
- Read the text again, referring to the notes that accompany the text
- For deeper understanding and to aid in applying what you read, answer the questions that follow. The references at the top of each numbered question correspond to particular notes.

At the end of each chapter, review what you have written and linger where you feel drawn, asking the Lord to speak to your heart and into your life. What do you hear? Respond in prayer and ask his help to live what you hear in your attitudes and actions this week.

STUDY QUESTIONS

Chapter 1

For understanding

1. **1:1—9:44.** What function do the nine chapters of genealogies serve in Chronicles? What are two purposes of these lists? In what order do the chapters progress, and what periods do they cover?
2. **1:1—53.** Where are these genealogies taken from? What are the differences in presentation between the chosen line and the non-elect lines?
3. **1:34.** Who is Israel? What name does the Chronicler always prefer to use for him?
4. **1:43.** From what book of the Bible does the comment about the kings of Edom come? From the perspective of the Chronicler, what purpose does history before the rise of King David serve?

For application

1. **1:1—9:44.** What interest do you have in your family's genealogy? What would be the purpose of finding out who your ancestors were?
2. **1:1—53.** How far back can you trace your family tree? Of all your ancestors, whom would you most like to know? Why?
3. **1:19.** Read the note for this verse. What is your ethnic background? What does it mean to you to have that ethnic identity?

Chapter 2

For understanding

1. **2:1—8:40.** With what do these genealogies deal? Why is the most attention given to the tribes of Judah, Levi, and Benjamin? How are the genealogies of the other tribes handled? What possibility explains the absence from these lists of the tribes of Dan and Zebulun?
2. **2:1—55.** How is the family line of Judah listed? Although Judah is the fourth son of Jacob, why is he the first tribe listed? With what are several persons in these lists associated?
3. **2:15.** Since David is named as the *eighth* son of Jesse in 1 Sam 17:12–14, who is missing from this list in Chronicles? What does it seem that the Chronicler wants to do by making David the *seventh* son of Jesse?

For application

1. **2:1—55.** The note for these verses explains why the tribe of Judah is given most of the attention in this genealogy. Of all your ancestors for whom you have information, which group is the most prominent? What family stories do you have about them? What do these stories explain about you?
2. **2:7.** Note the comment in this verse about Achar/Achan. Does your family tree have a “black sheep”? How does that person's reputation influence how the family speaks of this family member? Is there a lesson or moral in what the family says about this person?
3. **2:20.** The note for this verse comments on the name Bezalel. In your family tree, what seems to have been the main occupation of your ancestors? How does that occupation reflect the choice of careers in your family?

Chapter 3

For understanding

1. **3:1—24.** With what do these verses deal? Whom does the list include? How do several names listed in the Chronicler's genealogy differ from the names given in Samuel and Kings?
2. **3:17—24.** If David's genealogy, which is traced into the postexilic period, has some bearing on the date when Chronicles was written or last edited, with what are the differing opinions about his genealogy concerned? How far beyond Zerubbabel does the Hebrew text carry the list, and how does it interpret the names that appear in 3:21? How far beyond Zerubbabel do the Greek LXX and Vulgate versions carry the list, and how do they interpret the names in the same verse?

3. **3:19.** Although the Hebrew text refers here to the “sons of Pedaiah”, to whom does the Greek LXX refer? How do the scholars differ on what the original wording is, so as to explain who the father of Zerubbabel is?

For application

1. **3:17.** The verse refers to “Jeconiah, the captive”, referring to his capture and deportation to Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar in 597 B.C. As you read vv. 17–18, what might you infer about Jeconiah’s fate in Babylon? How might exile or immigration to another country be of advantage to a family?
2. **3:19.** Zerubbabel was the grandson of Jeconiah and thus of royal lineage; this placed him in an important position when Jews returned to Israel. Among your ancestors, who (if anyone) attained prominence in society? What was the effect of that prominence on your immediate family?

Chapter 4

For understanding

1. **4:1–43.** With which tribes do these verses deal? Why is Simeon allotted several towns and villages in the midst of Judah’s territory? With what kinds of information are the genealogies that follow interspersed?
2. **4:9.** What Hebrew word does the name *ya`bets* resemble, and what does it mean? Why is Jabez’ answered prayer for additional territory mentioned in the next verse?
3. **4:43.** Who are the Amalekites, and what did they have a history of in relation to Israel?

For application

1. **4:10.** Read the note for v. 9. The devotional “prayer of Jabez” is based on v. 10. How do you interpret his prayer? Do you understand the prayer as self-serving or as a prayer of trust in God’s Providence? How would you apply it to yourself?
2. **4:43.** The Amalekites, mentioned in this verse, were perennial enemies of Israel; this verse records their final destruction. Of all the enemies of the Christian faith, which would you say are the worst and most persistent? How should Christians deal with them?

Chapter 5

For understanding

1. **5:1–26.** With which tribes do these verses deal? How is a reference to these tribes evidence of the Chronicler’s interest in “all Israel”?
2. **5:1.** Why did Reuben, the oldest son of Jacob, forfeit his first-born inheritance? To whom did his birthright pass? According to Jewish tradition, what specifically did Reuben lose, and to whom?
3. **5:2.** By calling Judah a prince from Israel (Jacob), to whom is the Chronicler actually referring? According to Theodoret of Cyrrhus, what was the implied meaning of “a prince was from him”, and so what does the passage appear to say?
4. **5:20.** What does the Israelite warriors’ cry to God in battle illustrate? Conversely, what does rebellion against the Lord bring? Why does the Chronicler mention these brief stories?

For application

1. **5:1–26.** Of the nearly two dozen churches or rites within the Catholic communion, how many can you name? If you have ever attended the Divine Liturgy of one of them, what did you think of it? How would you describe your interest in learning about Eastern Catholic churches?
2. **5:1.** In our culture, how significant is birth order among siblings? In your immediate family, where are you in the birth order? What, if anything, is the significance of your place in that order?
3. **5:20.** Read the note for this verse. In your immediate or extended family, how important is religious faith? If religious faith is operative, how well has it been practiced? What influence has it had on your own faith?

Chapter 6

For understanding

1. **6:1–81.** How is the tribe of Levi listed in these verses? Why does Chronicles give detailed attention to Levi?

2. **6:8.** Who is Zadok? How did he become the first high priest in Solomon's Temple? To what did the line of Zadok eventually hold exclusive rights?
3. **6:14.** What was the fate of Seriah? of Jehozadak? When and where did the latter's son Jeshua/Joshua become high priest? What does the Chronicler thus demonstrate here?
4. **6:31–53.** About whom are these verses? What three groups do they include? For what is this roster of sanctuary personnel a blueprint? To what persons are Israel's music ministry and its sacrificial ministry traced back?

For application

1. **6:1–81.** In your family's background, how many clergy of any denomination have there been? What has been their influence on family history, such as positive or negative attitudes toward religious faith?
2. **6:10.** Read the note for this verse. What does it mean to the inerrancy of the Bible that a scribe may have made a copying error? What does "biblical inerrancy" mean to you (cf. CCC 105–8)?
3. **6:33–47.** In your experience, how important is music in liturgical worship? What does it mean to say that "he who sings prays twice"?

Chapters 7 and 8

For understanding

1. **7:1–40.** Which tribes are covered in these verses? From where does much of the information in these lists come? From what do the several textual difficulties that are present in this chapter probably result?
2. **7:15.** According to Num 26:33, what did the fact that Zelophehad fathered no sons prompt Moses to do?
3. **8:1–40.** Which tribe is the subject of these verses? Among the genealogies in chaps. 1–9, where do the most extensive stand, and which tribes do they list? What is one reason the Chronicler shows a special interest in these three tribes?
4. **8:40.** For what did the Benjaminites have a reputation?

For application

1. **7:3–4.** Is there a military tradition in your family (e.g., parents, grandparents, or great-grandparents)? If so, how many generations does it cover? What, if any, is your own military experience?
2. **7:6–12.** These verses name other clans and their military enrollments. Why do some countries believe that all citizens should serve in some military capacity? What is your attitude toward military service?
3. **7:1–8:40.** These chapters stress military might within clans. Why would military might be so important in the Promised Land? Why is it important in our world?

Chapter 9

For understanding

1. **9:1–34.** To whom do these verses refer? On what activity is the emphasis placed?
2. **Word Study: All Israel (9:1).** To what does this common expression in the OT, and this thematic expression in the Books of the Chronicles, often refer? What is the narrower use that appears in the period of the divided monarchy? In Chronicles, what do all twelve tribes acknowledge, and how do they act in the conquest of Jerusalem? More significantly, on what occasions is all Israel unified? For the Chronicler, what hope remains regarding "all Israel", and how is that hope envisioned in Paul's NT announcement?
3. **9:3.** Regarding the small remnant of Israel's northern tribes represented in the postexilic community around Jerusalem, what two possibilities explain their presence there after the Assyrian exile? From what location would members of the northern tribes living in the Southern Kingdom have returned?
4. **9:17.** What were the gatekeepers? What were the roots of the office in the time of Moses and of David? How were their duties managed in the postexilic period?

For application

1. **9:2–3.** Of all the people who flee or are exiled in periods of war, roughly what percentage do you think remain in exile, and what percentage do you think return to their homeland? Why would some exiles stay in a foreign country? What kinds of difficulties do you think returnees face?

2. **9:17–27.** Notice the kinds of responsibilities the gatekeepers of the Temple have. In a large modern church such as a basilica, what are some of the analogous responsibilities that caretakers have?
3. **9:28–32.** The sacristan in a modern church has duties similar to what the Levites have in these verses. What, then, does a sacristan do to keep liturgical celebrations running smoothly?

Chapter 10

For understanding

1. **10:1.** What territory did the Philistine enemies of Israel control? Where is Mount Gilboa?
2. **10:10.** What is Dagon? What other gods did the Philistine pantheon include?
3. **10:11.** Where is Jabesh-gilead? Why did the warriors from Jabesh risk their lives to retrieve the body of Saul? What attitude toward the bodies of the dead did the people of Israel have, and how did they show it?
4. **10:13.** What does the Chronicler assume about his readers regarding Saul's death? How did Saul rebel against the word of God, and what happened to his dynasty as a result?

For application

1. **10:4.** According to CCC 2281–82, what are some reasons suicide is considered a grave sin? What are some considerations that can diminish the responsibility of the one committing suicide? How do you think King Saul's act compares with these considerations?
2. **10:11–12.** Why do Christians treat the bodies of the dead with respect (CCC 2300)? Since the Church now allows cremation, what should be done with the ashes? What does the Church say about organ donation (CCC 2301)? Why is a Christian funeral more advisable than a simple burial without a funeral (CCC 1684–90)?
3. **10:13–14.** These verses explain why consulting mediums for guidance is sinful. Paragraphs 2115–17 in the *Catechism* provide further details as to why practices of divination are to be rejected. Based on those paragraphs, how sinful is resorting to a medium for guidance? How consistent is such a practice with the first commandment of the Decalogue?

Chapter 11

For understanding

1. **11:1—29:30.** As the focus of 1 Chronicles from this point forward, how is David showcased? Despite his faults, what priority explains David's astonishingly successful reign and the prosperity and blessing Israel enjoyed?
2. **11:1–9.** What do these verses describe? What does the Chronicler emphasize here and throughout chaps. 11–12? According to St. Augustine, who was it that actually made David king? How did the Lord gather these men to crown him king?
3. **11:4.** What is the ancient name for Jerusalem, and who controlled the city? After conquering the city, what does David make of it? Although the reason for David's choice of Jerusalem is left unexplained in this context, what does Solomon later reveal about it? From a canonical perspective, to what events in the Abrahamic stories in Genesis is the selection of this site linked?
4. **11:10–47.** Of what do these verses consist? How did these men distinguish themselves from the general army? Which three units are mentioned? Who else alongside Israelite soldiers were included among David's mighty men?
5. **11:18.** How is the water, retrieved at the risk of human life, treated? Why does David refuse to drink it?

For application

1. **11:2.** In this verse, representatives of "all Israel" use two terms to describe what God promised David would become: "shepherd" and "prince". How are these terms similar in meaning, and how are they different?
2. **11:5.** What religious associations does the place-name Zion have? The name Zion is sometimes used as a part of Jerusalem (as in this verse) and as representing the entire city. What other place-names can you think of that people often associate with a much larger area or environment?
3. **11:10–47.** Read the note for these verses, paying particular attention to the last sentence. Given the dedication of Israel to a monotheistic religion, why would an Israelite army commander accept Gentile (presumably polytheistic and

uncircumcised) fighters into his army? Why does an army like that of the United States incorporate non-citizens among its ranks?

4. **11:17–19.** Read the note for v. 18. What do you think of David’s request and his subsequent action? What kinds of risks would you be willing to run for someone you loved and admired as much as the three mighty men loved and admired David?

Chapter 12

For understanding

1. **12:1–40.** What demonstrates that David, as a unifying charismatic figure, has won the support of “all Israel”? What explains how he gains the backing of all the tribes?
2. **12:2.** What does the mention of the Benjaminites indicate here?
3. **12:18.** What do the words of Amasai, chief of the thirty, inspire? What does the last line of his poem confirm?

For application

1. **12:2.** In an ancient army, dexterity with weapons was highly prized. What could slingers do that ordinary infantrymen could not? What soldier in a modern army might be the closest in function to a slinger in an ancient army?
2. **12:8.** What benefit would the swiftness of “gazelles upon the mountains” give to an army? How would that swiftness be different from speed upon a plain?
3. **12:18.** A Spirit-inspired proclamation of loyalty is essentially a prophetic utterance. According to 1 Cor 12:8–10, what are some other kinds of Spirit-inspired utterances? Why would a prophetic utterance like Amasai’s be significant?

Chapter 13

For understanding

1. **13:1–14.** What does David attempt to do? What prompts him to wait three months before attempting to complete the move? What sources does the Chronicler mainly rely on for his narrative?
2. **13:7–10.** In what ways is the transfer of the ark “irregular to the point of irreverent”? What sparks this lethal blast of divine wrath? What is David’s reaction, and what does he learn?
3. **13:13.** Who is Obed-edom? What does “the Gittite” mean? Where is the likely location in question?
4. **13:14.** Of what is the blessing of Obed-edom’s house a sign? At what does it hint? What later statement confirms this hinted blessing?

For application

1. **13:2–3.** From time to time, certain objects, practices, or even offices become “neglected” in the life of the Church, until a time when restoring them becomes opportune. Which of these can you think of that the Church has restored, perhaps after a lapse of centuries? What were some of the reasons for their restoration?
2. **13:6.** Where in Catholic churches is the Lord usually “enthroned”? What does Ps 22:3 mean by saying that God is “enthroned on the praises of Israel”? How is he enthroned on your praises?
3. **13:7–10.** What kinds of reverence should we show to the Blessed Sacrament? What are some of the ways that we fail to show proper reverence to it? What sort of judgment might one who fails to discern the Body of the Lord bring upon himself (1 Cor 11:29)?

Chapter 14

For understanding

1. **14:1.** What does Hiram, king of Tyre, do? What will he do for Solomon? For what is Tyre known?
2. **14:3.** What does the verse mean by saying that David “took more wives”? How many sons were born to David and his royal wives, and which children are left out of this count?
3. **14:8.** Who are the Philistines? What is the contrast between David and Saul in their battles with the Philistines?
4. **14:12.** What are the gods referred to in this verse? Why does David burn them?

For application

1. **14:1–2.** How does your house, including its grounds and furniture, reflect your social status? How do you want it to reflect that status? How might your house reflect your relationship with the Lord?
2. **14:10.** How do you try to discern the will of God before you act in an important case? Of what does your prayer consist? How do you listen for the Lord's direction?
3. **14:12.** The *Catechism* calls superstition "in some sense ... a perverse excess of religion" (CCC 2110). How so? What objects do you carry or rituals do you perform that you think might bring you good luck? What is the spiritual difference between using these and wearing a religious medal or scapular?

Chapter 15

For understanding

1. **15:1.** What is "the city of David"? What kind of shelter for the Ark of the Covenant did David erect? What is the Chronicler careful to distinguish between in connection with this new Davidic Tabernacle? Stationed at different places, what do the two sanctuaries also support?
2. **15:4–11.** Why is David summoning more than 850 men from the tribe of Levi? How are they headed up? Why are most of the men Kohathites?
3. **15:16–24.** With what does David enhance the worship of Israel? Besides having other cultic responsibilities, what are the Levites newly appointed to do? How had worship since the time of Moses been conducted? What does supplementing Mosaic worship with Davidic worship imply about David, and on whose authority? According to St. Bede, what was David's arrangement of vocalists to sing the psalms to the sound of musical instruments intended to accomplish?
4. **15:27.** What does David's wearing of a linen ephod show about him? Not only does he clad himself in a priestly garment, but what other priestly functions does he assume?

For application

1. **15:12.** How do you sanctify yourself (prepare spiritually) to take part in an important religious event, such as a major procession or the dedication of a church? How do you sanctify yourself in preparation for more common occasions, such as attendance at Mass?
2. **15:13.** Why are only certain persons (priests, deacons, or instituted acolytes) allowed to handle sacred vessels such as chalices, patens, and ciboria? What do restrictions on their handling have to do with the doctrine of the Real Presence?
3. **15:19–22, 28.** Note the use of singing, shouting, and various percussion, wind, and stringed instruments used in this procession. How does music enhance or elevate worship? How can music enhance or elevate your own private prayer (cf. Eph 5:18)? Why do you think shouting would be included as an act of worship?

Chapter 16

For understanding

1. **16:1.** In what tent is the ark placed? What does successful transfer of the ark make of Jerusalem, in addition to the political capital of David? How is celebration of the event continued? Who is included among the attendants of the ark?
2. **Topical Essay: David's New Liturgy.** What portrait of David emerges from 1 Chronicles? What is David's first cultic initiative that stands out? What are others of David's liturgical initiatives, and how did he entrust this ministry to the Levites? How does the Chronicler insist that David, like Moses, acted on divine revelation? What are some of the parallels between David and Moses? What is the net result that shows how David stands alongside Moses as co-founder of Israelite worship?
3. **16:31.** What does the line "The LORD reigns" hail about Yahweh? According to St. Justin Martyr, what does the Spirit bear witness about Christ through David?
4. **16:37–42.** Which two sanctuaries are recognized in David's day? What is the similarity between them? Nevertheless, what differentiates them? When will the ark and the Tabernacle, separated since the days of Samuel, come together again?
5. **Word Study: Continually (16:37).** How is the Hebrew noun *tamid* used here? What does it mean on occasion, and what does it mean in a general sense? How is the term theologically significant in 1 Chron 16? What twin actions show how Israel sought the presence of the Lord "continually"?

For application

1. **16:1.** Read the note for this verse. What is the spiritual capital of your diocese or eparchy? What takes the place of the Ark of the Covenant as the visible throne of God's presence? What, then, is the centerpiece of our religion?
2. **16:8–10.** These verses celebrate the wonderful works of the Lord as they were experienced in David's day. What are some of the wonderful works of the Lord that we celebrate in our own day?
3. **16:15–18.** Has God kept his covenant with Abraham "as an everlasting covenant to Israel", or has it ceased? Assuming the former, what shape does the covenant with Abraham have now? For example, is it merely a promise of land, or of something that land might represent?

Chapter 17

For understanding

1. **17:1.** What office did Nathan hold? To which "house" and which "tent" does David refer? By what injustice is David struck? Why is David unsuited for the task of building a glorious Temple for God? To whom will that privilege go?
2. **17:3–15.** Of what is Nathan's oracle the theological high point and foundation? By what does the Chronicler's retelling of this episode appear to be animated?
3. **17:13.** What does the formula of divine adoption forge between Yahweh and the kings of David's line? Who will be the first royal successor to receive this blessing? In what or whom is Israel's national vocation embedded? What comparison as first-born exists between Israel and the heirs of the Davidic covenant?
4. **17:14.** In the theology of Chronicles, of what is the kingdom of David an earthly manifestation? Through whom is Yahweh's rule administered? In fact, why is David's throne described as the Lord's throne? Beyond this, how is David's throne established, and what does David himself acknowledge about it? According to Eusebius of Caesarea, how do these sayings apply to our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ?

For application

1. **17:1–2.** Many saints have yearned to do "something beautiful for God". What have you desired to do? Given the responsibilities of your state of life, of what might that "something beautiful" consist? How well have you fared?
2. **17:4.** People tend to look for affirmative answers to prayer, but God sometimes answers in the negative. Can you think of a time when God seemed to say no to your prayer? How did you respond? If God said no, what alternative did he present to your request?
3. **17:7.** Look up Jn 15:16. Even if you were baptized as an infant, how do you know that God's choice applies to you personally? What kind of greatness has God promised for you? What does your choice of him have to do with it?
4. **17:16–27.** How does David's prayer resemble Mary's response to the angel and her subsequent Magnificat in Lk 1:38–55? For example, how do they speak about their acceptance of God's promises and about themselves in relation to him? What can you learn from them about your responses to God?

Chapter 18

For understanding

1. **18:1–13.** Expanding his kingdom by military conquest, David subdues which states? What happens to survivors of these campaigns, and with what result?
2. **18:11.** What does "dedicated to the LORD" mean here? How does David show himself pious? Where will these dedicated valuables eventually be stored?
3. **18:14–17.** How does David utilize peacetime? What duties are given to his administrative staff?

For application

1. **18:6.** Read the note for this verse. What promises of spiritual victory has the Lord given his people? What are some examples of victory that he has given you in your spiritual battles?
2. **18:11.** What is a "votive offering"? Why would people who have experienced, say, a healing leave something at a shrine, such as a pair of crutches?

3. **18:14–17.** Have you ever been in the position of delegating responsibility to others? If so, how did you divide up responsibilities? What were some of the qualities you looked for in those you assigned to various posts? If you were the one being delegated, what qualities did you most want to bring to the job?

Chapter 19

For understanding

1. **19:4.** For bearded Semites, for what was shaving usually reserved? How are the emissaries mocked and humiliated?
2. **19:5.** What was Jericho like in David's time, and why?
3. **19:10–15.** What does the Ammonite coalition do? Had they chosen to engage, what would the Israelites have had to do?

For application

1. **19:2.** When have you questioned the motives of someone who came to you with a request or an offering? When have you experienced someone questioning your motives?
2. **19:4–5.** Have you ever been publicly humiliated or known anyone who was? How did you (or they) deal with the shame? What is the Christian approach to dealing with a person who shames you (Mt 5:44–48)?
3. **19:6–7.** If you knew that a deliberate action of yours would seriously offend someone with more social or organizational clout than you, how would you prepare for the likely retaliation? When would you begin making these preparations—before or after causing the offense?

Chapter 20

For understanding

1. **20:1.** What was the spring like in Israel? What made spring a window of opportunity for military operations? Why is David a curious exception? What is Rabbah, and where is it?
2. **20:2.** Who may be meant by “their king”? How heavy is a talent of gold, and where might a crown of this size have rested?
3. **20:4.** Who were “the giants”?

For application

1. **20:1.** The note for this verse explains why kings went to war in the spring. At what times of the year do modern armies go to war? What enables them to expand their window of opportunity?
2. **20:3.** How does David's treatment of the survivors of this battle differ from earlier Israelite victories, where the defeated population was placed under the ban? What is the benefit to both sides in David's policy? What policies have American military forces typically followed for the treatment of defeated populations?

Chapter 21

For understanding

1. **21:1.** According to the parallel passage in 2 Sam 24:1, who incited David to take the census? To what theological mystery does the apparent contradiction between these verses point? What does God allow Satan to test? What does the NT make clear about temptation?
2. **21:8.** How does David respond to the calamity ravaging Israel? What does the narrator never explain? What are two implications that might explain the sinfulness of taking the census? According to St. Bede, why did David bring a plague upon the people in numbering them?
3. **21:14–27.** How does David halt the plague? What is embedded in the account? Even more important, in what four ways does the incident display parallels with Abraham's sacrifice of Isaac?
4. **21:25.** What was the sum mentioned in 2 Sam 24:24 that parallels this verse? What does careful attention to the wording of these two verses suggest about the payment? Why is that important for Solomon?

For application

1. **21:1.** How has Satan tested the faithfulness of you and your family? How well do you think all have withstood the test? In your understanding, what is the difference between temptation and sin?
2. **21:3–4.** Which is harder: to reject advice urging you to undertake a task being considered, or to reject advice urging you *not* to undertake a task you want to perform? Why? How does the cardinal virtue of prudence come into play? What about humility?
3. **21:10–12.** Of the three choices offered David in these verses, which would you take? Have you ever faced a set of choices analogous to these? How did you go about making a decision? What part did prayer play in it?
4. **21:24.** In *The Cost of Discipleship*, Dietrich Bonhoeffer frequently alluded to “cheap grace”. Even if you’ve never read the book, what do you think he meant by that? What should God’s grace cost you?

Chapter 22

For understanding

1. **22:1—29:22.** What do chaps. 22–29 describe? In addition to stockpiling building materials, what does David do?
2. **22:7.** What does the theology of Deuteronomy indicate about the sanctuary of Yahweh? How does this understanding apply to David?
3. **22:8.** What is the twofold reason why David is unfit for the sacred task of building the Lord’s Temple? In what kind of age will Solomon reign?
4. **22:9.** Why did Moses make peace a precondition for building a national sanctuary in Israel? How did David achieve this peace? What word is the name Solomon a play on in Hebrew? What do we learn here?

For application

1. **22:5.** Why do people build expensive, magnificent churches and furnish them with marble, stained glass, and gold? How would you answer the criticism that such rich, magnificent properties should be sold and the money given to the poor?
2. **22:8.** The Church has canonized many soldiers for their heroic conversion or adherence to the faith, but seldom one who has killed others in battle. Is it possible for a soldier who has killed others in combat to be a saint? What would sanctity for that person require?
3. **22:9.** The note for this verse explains the meaning behind the name Solomon. If you have children, what considerations went into the selection of each of their names? For example, did you select the name because of its popularity, its sound, its original meaning, or for some other reason? What considerations does the *Catechism* say should govern the selection of a person’s name (CCC 2156–59)?

Chapter 23

For understanding

1. **23:2–32.** What kind of census is described in these verses? Of the four divisions eligible for service, what do the various groups do? Again, for what is David assuming responsibility?
2. **23:3.** What are the age requirements for Levitical service? What might the lower number include?
3. **23:26.** What was one of the primary duties of the Levites since the time of Moses? Now that preparations are being made to upgrade from a portable to a permanent Temple, what are the Levites freed up to assume? To whom do they remain subordinate?
4. **23:30.** What is the distinguishing feature of Levitical ministry introduced by David? How does it coordinate with sacrifice? How long are both of these offerings made?

For application

1. **23:3.** A Catholic man who aspires to the priesthood must have completed at least his 25th year (CIC 1031 §1), whereas a married candidate for the permanent diaconate must have completed at least his 35th year (§2). What considerations do you think explain the difference in age requirements?
2. **23:13.** Read the note for this verse. How are the cultic responsibilities of modern priests analogous to those of OT Levitical priests?
3. **23:24–29.** These verses summarize changes in the duties of Levites imposed by David. How are the roles of modern deacons analogous to those of OT Levites?

Chapter 24

For understanding

1. **24:1–19.** With what do these verses deal? How are priestly families placed within a regular rotation? What did David devise the system to ensure? How long did these cycles last in the preexilic period? In NT times, how long did each division minister?
2. **24:2.** Why did the priests of David's day trace their ancestry to Aaron's two younger sons rather than to his older two sons, Nadab and Abihu?
3. **24:5.** Why were priestly assignments chosen by lot? How were lots cast? For whom else is the same procedure followed? How did the apostles use the casting of lots?

For application

1. **24:1–19.** According to Lk 1:5, to which section of the priesthood did Zechariah, husband of Mary's relative Elizabeth, belong? How was he chosen to perform his priestly duty in the Temple (Lk 1:8–9)?
2. **24:5.** Look up Prov 16:33. When have you cast lots to decide who among several people performs a course of action? Did you think that the selection method indicated God's will or something else?

Chapter 25

For understanding

1. **25:1–31.** With what are these verses concerned? From which families are members selected? How was the ministry of sacred song, here organized for the future Temple, already in place?
2. **25:1.** How old is the link between prophecy and music? Though it is difficult to specify what this looked like in practice, what were the Levites possibly charged with singing? If so, of what did their prophetic role consist? To whom are most of the 150 psalms in the Book of Psalms attributed?

For application

1. **25:1–31.** What is the role of a church choir during the liturgy? Why is professionalism important in choral singing? How should the performance of choral music in liturgy complement or balance the singing of the congregation?
2. **25:1.** Have you ever considered the singing of music in liturgy as a prophetic ministry? Why or why not? What is prophetic about the music (both Mass parts and hymns) sung during the Mass?
3. **25:7.** Why should singers in a choir be trained? What is the goal of such training? What kinds of training should a member of a parish choir receive?

Chapter 26

For understanding

1. **26:1–19.** What do these verses describe? Where will Levites assigned to sentry duty be posted? With what are the gatekeepers charged?
2. **26:14.** Why is the lot for the east entrance important? What does heavier traffic through the front entrance probably explain?
3. **26:29.** What are the officers and judges also tasked with overseeing? What remains unclear about their duties?

For application

1. **26:1.** Who opens and closes your church each day? What do your ushers do during the liturgy? What needs does your parish have for security personnel or devices?
2. **26:12–19.** What are some of the maintenance needs at your parish? What staff does the parish employ for building maintenance and groundskeeping? What happens to the parish when these needs are neglected?
3. **26:20–28.** What are the responsibilities of those who have charge of the money collected? What characteristics should people have who are recruited to handle money? What are some of the policies your diocese or parish has for handling and reporting the monies collected?

4. **26:29–32.** If your diocese has a website, look up the functions of the diocesan tribunal; or, failing that, do an Internet search on diocesan tribunals. What are some of the functions of a diocesan tribunal? Who typically serves on it? What qualifications do they need to have?

Chapter 27

For understanding

1. **27:1–34.** With what do David's organizational efforts continue?
2. **27:1.** How much active duty is each army division assigned each year? On what is military service thus based? Since the total enlistment is 288,000 soldiers, how do scholars explain the high number for the times?
3. **27:23–24.** Who was left out of David's count in the census? What does the remark about the official court annals suggest about the Chronicler's sources?

For application

1. **27:1.** What are the major groups of military forces in your country? For what is each of these groups responsible? How do such groups differ in their general functions from a military force such as that under King David? For example, what can a modern military do that an ancient one could not?
2. **27:25–31.** Read the note for these verses. How is the government of your country organized to handle the monetary system, state lands, and agriculture and commerce? How does your government make the citizens aware of what these offices do? Why is it important for you to know about them?

Chapter 28

For understanding

1. **28:1–8.** What do these verses narrate? In what four ways is the address marked by an emphasis on divine election?
2. **28:2.** What does the "ark of the covenant" represent? What do the cherubim, with their wings unfurled above its top surface, form? What else, according to Chronicles, was the ark believed to be?
3. **Word Study: Plan (28:11).** What does the Hebrew word *tabnit* mean? For what three things can the term be used? What does the word refer to in 1 Chronicles for the four times it is used? Significantly, what are these building plans? How did the king receive them? In this respect, how is David like Moses?
4. **28:11.** What is "the room" for the mercy seat? What did it look like? What is the "mercy seat"?

For application

1. **28:4–5.** God's choices for leadership of his Church are often mysterious. Within the last century, which of the choice of popes has most surprised you? In what respect? How has his subsequent ministry either confirmed that this pope's selection was divinely ordained or caused you to wonder why he was elected? How has it affected your faith in the leadership of the Holy Spirit over the Church?
2. **28:2.** Read the note for this verse. How does the Eucharist replace the functions of the Ark of the Covenant as described in the note? Given people's restricted access to the ark, how is God's presence in the Eucharist different?
3. **28:9.** How would you apply David's admonition to Solomon to yourself? What does it mean for you to "seek the Lord"? What does it mean for you to "be found" by him?
4. **28:10.** What has the Lord chosen you to do in the building of his house? How do you regard your strength in this task?
5. **28:11.** Read the "Word Study: Plan" at this verse. Ephesians 1:3–14 alludes to God's plan. What are its details? How does a physical building, such as a church, contribute to the realization of that plan?

Chapter 29

For understanding

1. **29:3.** How is David leading the way? How much gold and silver do the figures in 29:4 amount to?
2. **29:7.** How heavy is each talent estimated to be? What are darics? What does the use of that term clearly mean? How much gold do ten thousand darics equal?

1 Chronicles

3. **29:10–19.** What types of prayer does David’s prayer combine? In response to the generous outpouring of Temple donations, what theology does he expound? How does Paul likewise speak of generosity?
4. **29:15.** What does David recognize about the world?
5. **29:29.** Of what did Samuel, Nathan, and Gad apparently keep records? Where are these records now? What did the Chronicler do with them?

For application

1. **29:1–9.** Why is it important that contributions to the Church be made willingly? How do you feel about frequent appeals for money? How do you respond to Paul’s description of a person’s motives and rewards for contributing in 2 Cor 9:6–14?
2. **29:11–13.** These verses have been incorporated into the Liturgy of the Hours. Read the prayer slowly and apply its meaning to yourself. For example, what does the prayer say about the possessions you have?
3. **29:23–25.** Have you ever had to relinquish a position you have held for a long time? What did giving it up feel like? If the Lord ever asks you to give up something to which you have devoted your life, how do you think you will respond?