

# 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,<sup>7</sup> but emptied himself,<sup>†</sup> taking the form of a servant,<sup>‡</sup> being born in the likeness of men.<sup>§</sup> And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross.<sup>¶</sup> Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name,<sup>||</sup> that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,<sup>|||</sup> and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

**Shinin**  
12 Therefore, obeyed, so now much more in salvation with f work in you, bo pleasure.  
14 Do all th tioning,<sup>15</sup> 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.

serious that we pur sense of awe at sen 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. Aug 2:15 pervers • Deuterono poetic lawsuit that and ingratitude du

*A Thing to Harpagmos* (G in the Greek O Occurrences of “robbery”. Its considerable de the leading vi (1) Some, like

## 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.

## Chapter 1



### For Understanding

#### 1 Chronicles 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?

#### 1 Chronicles 1:1–53

- From where are these genealogies taken?
- What are the differences in presentation between the chosen line and the non-elect lines?

#### 1 Chronicles 1:34

- Who is Israel?

## 1 Chronicles

- What name does the Chronicler always prefer to use for him?

### 1 Chronicles 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 Chronicles 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?

### 1 Chronicles 1:1–53

- How far back can you trace your family tree?
  
- Of all your ancestors, whom would you most like to know? Why?

## 1 Chronicles 1:19

- Read the note for this verse. What is your own ethnic background?
  
- What does it mean to you to have that ethnic identity?

### Reflect

After reading and reflecting on this chapter, I hear the Lord saying to me:

My prayer response to him:

## Chapter 2



### For Understanding

## 1 Chronicles 2:1—8:40

- With what do these genealogies deal?

## 1 Chronicles

- Why is most attention given to the tribes of Judah, Levi, and Benjamin?
- How are the genealogies of the other tribes handled?
- What might explain the absence from these lists of the tribes of Dan and Zebulun?

### 1 Chronicles 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?

### 1 Chronicles 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 the Chronicler seem to want to do by making David the *seventh* son of Jesse?



## For Application

### 1 Chronicles 2:1–55

- The note for this verse explains why the tribe of Judah is given most of the attention in this genealogy. Of all the ancestors for whom you have information, which group is the most prominent?
  
- What family stories do you have for them?
  
- What do these stories explain about yourself?

### 1 Chronicles 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 him?
  
- Is there a lesson or moral in what the family says about this person?

### 1 Chronicles 2:20

- The note for this verse comments on the identity of Bezalel. In your family tree, what seems to have been the main occupation of your ancestors?

- Has that occupation had an influence on the choice of careers made by others in your family?

### **Reflect**

After reading and reflecting on this chapter, I hear the Lord saying to me:

My prayer response to him:

## **Chapter 3**



### **For Understanding**

#### **1 Chronicles 3:1–24**

- With what are these verses concerned?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- Whom does the list include?

## *1 Chronicles*

- How do several names listed in the Chronicler's genealogy differ from the names given in Samuel and Kings?

### **1 Chronicles 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 it 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?

### **1 Chronicles 3:19**

- Although the Hebrew text refers here to the "sons of Pedaiah", to whom does the Greek LXX refer?
- How do scholars differ on what the original wording is, and how does this affect their explanation of who the father of Zerubbabel is?



## For Application

### 1 Chronicles 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 and 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?

### 1 Chronicles 3:19

- Zerubbabel was the grandson of “Jeconiah, the captive”, 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?

#### **Reflect**

After reading and reflecting on this chapter, I hear the Lord saying to me:

My prayer response to him:

## Chapter 4



### For Understanding

#### 1 Chronicles 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?
- What kinds of information are interspersed with the genealogies that follow?

#### 1 Chronicles 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?

#### 1 Chronicles 4:43

- Who are the Amalekites, and of what did they have a history in relation to Israel?



## For Application

### 1 Chronicles 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?

### 1 Chronicles 4:43

- The Amalekites, mentioned in this verse, were hereditary 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?

## Reflect

After reading and reflecting on this chapter, I hear the Lord saying to me:

My prayer response to him:

## Chapter 5



### For Understanding

#### 1 Chronicles 5:1–26

- Which tribes are discussed here?
  
- How is reference to these tribes evidence of the Chronicler's interest in "all Israel"?

#### 1 Chronicles 5:1

- Why did Reuben, the oldest son of Jacob, forfeit his first-born inheritance?

## *1 Chronicles*

- To whom did his birthright pass?
  
- According to Jewish tradition, what specifically did Reuben lose, and to whom?

### **1 Chronicles 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?

### **1 Chronicles 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 Chronicles 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?

### 1 Chronicles 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?

### 1 Chronicles 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?

### **Reflect**

After reading and reflecting on this chapter, I hear the Lord saying to me:

My prayer response to him:

## **Chapter 6**



### **For Understanding**

#### **1 Chronicles 6:1–81**

- How is the tribe of Levi listed in these verses?

- Why does Chronicles give detailed attention to Levi?

### **1 Chronicles 6:8**

- Who is Zadok?
  
- How does he become the first high priest in Solomon's Temple?
  
- To what does the line of Zadok eventually hold exclusive rights?

### **1 Chronicles 6:14**

- What is the fate of Seriah? of Jehozadak?
  
- When and where does the latter's son Jeshua/Joshua become high priest?
  
- What does the Chronicler thus demonstrate here?

### **1 Chronicles 6:31–53**

- Whom do these verses discuss?

- 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 Chronicles 6:1–81

- In your family's background, how many clergy of any denomination have there been?
- What has been their influence on the family history, such as positive or negative attitudes toward religious faith?

### 1 Chronicles 6:10

- Read the note for this verse. What does it mean with respect 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.)

## 1 Chronicles 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”?

### Reflect

After reading and reflecting on this chapter, I hear the Lord saying to me:

My prayer response to him:

## Chapters 7 and 8



### For Understanding

## 1 Chronicles 7:1–40

- Which tribes are covered in these verses?

## *1 Chronicles*

- What is the source of much of the information in these lists?
  
- From what do the several textual difficulties that are present in this chapter probably result?

### **1 Chronicles 7:15**

- According to the Book of Numbers, what does the fact that Zelophehad fathered no sons prompt Moses to do?

### **1 Chronicles 8:1–40**

- Which tribe is the subject of these verses?
  
- Among the genealogies in chaps. 1–9, where are the most extensive located, and which tribes do they list?
  
- What is one reason why the Chronicler shows a special interest in these three tribes?

### **1 Chronicles 8:40**

- For what did the Benjaminites have a reputation?



## For Application

### 1 Chronicles 7:3–4

- Is there a military tradition in your family (e.g., fathers, grandparents, great-grandparents, etc.)?
- If so, how many generations does it cover?
- What, if any, is your own military experience?

### 1 Chronicles 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 own attitude toward military service?

### 1 Chronicles 8:1–40

- 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?

## Reflect

After reading and reflecting on these chapters, I hear the Lord saying to me:

My prayer response to him:

## Chapter 9



### For Understanding

#### 1 Chronicles 9:1–34

- To whom do these verses refer?
  
- To what activity is the focus given?

#### 1 Chronicles 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?

### Word Study: *All Israel* (1 Chronicles 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?
- 
- From what location would members of the northern tribes living in the Southern Kingdom have returned?

### 1 Chronicles 9:17

- What are the gatekeepers?

## 1 Chronicles

- What are the roots of the office in the time of Moses and of David?
- How are their duties managed in the postexilic period?



### For Application

#### 1 Chronicles 9:2–3

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

#### 1 Chronicles 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?

## 1 Chronicles 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?

### Reflect

After reading and reflecting on this chapter, I hear the Lord saying to me:

My prayer response to him:

## Chapter 10



### For Understanding

#### 1 Chronicles 10:1

- What territory do the Philistine enemies of Israel control?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- Where is Mount Gilboa?

## **1 Chronicles 10:10**

- What is Dagon?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- What other gods does the Philistine pantheon include?

## **1 Chronicles 10:11**

- Where is Jabesh-gilead?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- Why do the warriors from Jabesh risk their lives to retrieve the body of Saul?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- What attitude toward the bodies of the dead do the people of Israel have, and how do they show it?

## **1 Chronicles 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 Chronicles 10:4

- According to CCC 2281–82, what are some reasons why suicide is considered a grave sin?
- What are some considerations that can diminish the responsibility of the one committing suicide?
- Do you think any of these factors might have applied in King Saul's case?

### 1 Chronicles 10:11–12

- Why do Christians treat the bodies of the dead with respect?
- Since the Church now allows cremation, what should be done with the ashes?
- What about organ donation (CCC 2300–2301)?
- Why is a Christian funeral more advisable than a simple burial without a funeral (CCC 1684–90)?

## 1 Chronicles 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?

### Reflect

After reading and reflecting on this chapter, I hear the Lord saying to me:

My prayer response to him:

## Chapter 11



### For Understanding

## 1 Chronicles 11:1—29:30

- As the focus of 1 Chronicles from this point forward, how is David portrayed?

## *1 Chronicles*

- Despite his faults, what explains David's astonishingly successful reign and the prosperity and blessing Israel enjoyed?

### **1 Chronicles 11:1–9**

- What do these verses describe?
- What does the Chronicler emphasize here and throughout chapters 11–12?
- According to St. Augustine, who is it that actually makes David king?
- How does the Lord gather these men to crown him king?

### **1 Chronicles 11:4**

- What is the ancient name for Jerusalem, and who controls 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?

## *1 Chronicles*

- From a canonical perspective, to what events in the Abrahamic stories in Genesis is the selection of this site linked?

### **1 Chronicles 11:10–47**

- Of what do these verses consist?
  
- How do these men distinguish themselves from the general army?
  
- Which three units are mentioned?
  
- Who are included alongside Israelite soldiers among David's mighty men?

### **1 Chronicles 11:18**

- How is the water, retrieved at the risk of human life, treated?
  
- Why does David refuse to drink it?



## For Application

### 1 Chronicles 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?

### 1 Chronicles 11:5

- What religious associations does the place name Zion have?
  
- The name Zion is sometimes used to indicate a part of Jerusalem (as in this verse) and sometimes to indicate the entire city. What other place names can you think of that people often associate with a much larger area or environment?

### 1 Chronicles 11:10–47

- Read the note for these verses, paying special 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 its army?
  
- Why would an army like that of our country incorporate non-citizens among its ranks?

### 1 Chronicles 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 whom you loved and admired as much as the three mighty men did David?

## Reflect

After reading and reflecting on this chapter, I hear the Lord saying to me:

My prayer response to him:

## Chapter 12



### For Understanding

#### 1 Chronicles 12:1–40

- How does David, as a unifying figure, win the support of “all Israel”?
- More than just a magnetic personality, how does David gain the backing of all the tribes?

### 1 Chronicles 12:2

- What does the mention of the Benjaminites indicate here?

### 1 Chronicles 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 Chronicles 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?

### 1 Chronicles 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?

## 1 **Chronicles 12:18**

- A Spirit-inspired proclamation of loyalty is essentially a prophetic utterance. According to 1 Cor 12:8–10, what are some of the other kinds of Spirit-inspired utterances that Paul mentions?
  
- Why would a prophetic utterance like Amasai's be significant?

### **Reflect**

After reading and reflecting on this chapter, I hear the Lord saying to me:

My prayer response to him:

## Chapter 13



### For Understanding

#### 1 Chronicles 13:1–14.

- What does David attempt to do?
- What prompts him to wait three months before attempting to complete the move?
- On what source does the Chronicler mainly rely for his narrative?

#### 1 Chronicles 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?

#### 1 Chronicles 13:13

- Who is Obed-edom?

- What does “the Gittite” mean?
- Where is the likely location in question?

### 1 Chronicles 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 Chronicles 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. Can you think of anything that the Church has restored, perhaps after a lapse of centuries?
- What were some of the reasons for its restoration?

### **1 Chronicles 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?

### **1 Chronicles 13:7–10**

- What kinds of reverence should we show to the Blessed Sacrament?
- What are some of the ways in which 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)?

## Reflect

After reading and reflecting on this chapter, I hear the Lord saying to me:

My prayer response to him:

## Chapter 14



### For Understanding

#### 1 Chronicles 14:1

- What does Hiram, the king of Tyre, do?
- What will he do for Solomon?
- For what is Tyre known?

### **1 Chronicles 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?

### **1 Chronicles 14:8**

- Who are the Philistines?
  
- What is the contrast between David and Saul in their battles with the Philistines?

### **1 Chronicles 14:12**

- What are the gods referred to in this verse?
  
- Why does David burn them?



### **For Application**

### **1 Chronicles 14:1–2**

- How does your house, including its grounds and furniture, reflect your social status?

## *1 Chronicles*

- What do you want it to reflect?
  
- How might your house reflect your relationship with the Lord?

### **1 Chronicles 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?

### **1 Chronicles 14:12**

- The Catechism calls superstition “in some sense ... a perverse excess of religion” (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?

## Reflect

After reading and reflecting on this chapter, I hear the Lord saying to me:

My prayer response to him:

## Chapter 15



### For Understanding

#### 1 Chronicles 15:1

- What is “the city of David”?
- What kind of shelter for the Ark of the Covenant does David erect?
- What is the Chronicler careful to distinguish between in connection with this new Davidic Tabernacle?

## *1 Chronicles*

- Stationed at different places, what do the two sanctuaries also support?

### **1 Chronicles 15:4–11**

- Why is David summoning more than 850 men from the tribe of Levi?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- Who heads up these men?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- Why are most of the men Kohathites?

### **1 Chronicles 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 is David's arrangement of vocalists to sing the psalms to the sound of musical instruments intended to accomplish?

### 1 Chronicles 15:27

- What does David's wearing of a linen ephod show about him?
  
- Besides clothing himself in a priestly garment, what other priestly functions does he perform?



### For Application

### 1 Chronicles 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?

### 1 Chronicles 15:13

- Why are only certain persons (priests, deacons, or instituted acolytes) allowed to handle sacred vessels like chalices, patens, and ciboria?

- What does the doctrine of the Real Presence have to do with restrictions on handling these sacred vessels?

## 1 Chronicles 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 (compare Eph 5:19)?
- Why do you think shouting would be included as an act of worship?

### **Reflect**

After reading and reflecting on this chapter, I hear the Lord saying to me:

My prayer response to him:

## Chapter 16



### For Understanding

#### 1 Chronicles 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?
- Whom do the attendants of the Ark include?

#### 1 Chronicles 16:31

- What does the line “The Lord reigns” mean in reference to Yahweh?
- According to Justin Martyr, what does the Spirit bear witness about Christ through David?

## Essay: *David's New Liturgy.*

---

- What portrait of David emerges from 1 Chronicles?
- What is the first of David's cultic initiatives to stand out?
- What are other liturgical initiatives by David, and to whom does he entrust this ministry?
- How does the Chronicler legitimize these innovations?
- What are some of the parallels between David and Moses?
- In what ways does David stand alongside Moses as co-founder of Israelite worship?

### **1 Chronicles 16:37–42**

- Which two sanctuaries are recognized in David's day?

- What is the similarity between them?
- What differentiates them?
- When will the Ark and the Tabernacle, separated since the days of Samuel, come together again?

**Word Study: *Continually* (1 Chronicles 16:37).**

- How is the Hebrew noun *tamid* used here?
- What does it mean on occasion, and when does it mean “regularly” 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 Chronicles 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?

### 1 Chronicles 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?

### 1 Chronicles 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 a promise of something that land might represent?

## Reflect

After reading and reflecting on this chapter, I hear the Lord saying to me:

My prayer response to him:

## Chapter 17



### For Understanding

#### 1 Chronicles 17:1

- What office does Nathan hold?
- To which “house” does David refer, and to which tent?
- What injustice strikes David?

## *1 Chronicles*

- Why is David unsuited for the task of building a glorious Temple for God?
- To whom will that privilege go?

### **1 Chronicles 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?

### **1 Chronicles 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 embodied?
- What comparison as first-born exists between Israel and the heirs of the Davidic covenant?

## **1 Chronicles 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 Chronicles 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 in life, of what might that “something beautiful” consist?

## *1 Chronicles*

- How well have you fared?

### **1 Chronicles 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?

### **1 Chronicles 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?

## 1 Chronicles 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?

### Reflect

After reading and reflecting on this chapter, I hear the Lord saying to me:

My prayer response to him:

## Chapter 18



### For Understanding

## 1 Chronicles 18:1–13

- Expanding his kingdom by military conquest, which states does David subdue?

## 1 Chronicles

- What happens to survivors of these campaigns, and with what result?

### 1 Chronicles 18:11

- What does “dedicated to the Lord” mean here?
- How does David show himself to be pious?
- Where will these dedicated valuables eventually be stored?

### 1 Chronicles 18:14–17

- How does David utilize peacetime?
- Of what are his administrative staff given charge?



### For Application

### 1 Chronicles 18:6

- Read the note for this verse. What promises of spiritual victory has the Lord given his people?

## *1 Chronicles*

- What are some examples of victory that he has given you in your spiritual battles?

### **1 Chronicles 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?

### **1 Chronicles 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?

## Reflect

After reading and reflecting on this chapter, I hear the Lord saying to me:

My prayer response to him:

## Chapter 19



### For Understanding

#### 1 Chronicles 19:4

- For bearded Semites, for what is shaving usually reserved?

- How are the emissaries humiliated?

#### 1 Chronicles 19:5

- What is Jericho like in David's time, and why?

## 1 Chronicles 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 Chronicles 19:2

- Have you ever questioned the motives of someone who came to you with a request or an offering?
- Have you ever experienced someone questioning your motives?

## 1 Chronicles 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? (See Mt 5:44–48.)

## 1 Chronicles 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?

### Reflect

After reading and reflecting on this chapter, I hear the Lord saying to me:

My prayer response to him:

## Chapter 20



### For Understanding

## 1 Chronicles 20:1

- What is the spring like in Israel?

## *1 Chronicles*

- What makes spring a window of opportunity for military operations?
- Why is David a curious exception?
- What is Rabbah, and where is it?

### **1 Chronicles 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?

### **1 Chronicles 20:4**

- Who are “the giants”?



## **For Application**

### **1 Chronicles 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”?

### **1 Chronicles 20:3**

- How does David’s treatment of the survivors of this battle differ from that following earlier Israelite victories, where the defeated population was placed under the ban?
- What is the benefit to both sides in David’s policy?
- How have defeated populations typically been treated following American victories?

#### **Reflect**

After reading and reflecting on this chapter, I hear the Lord saying to me:

My prayer response to him:

## Chapter 21



### For Understanding

#### 1 Chronicles 21:1

- According to the parallel passage in 2 Sam 24:1, who incites 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?

#### 1 Chronicles 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?

## *1 Chronicles*

- According to St. Bede, why does David bring a plague upon the people in numbering them?

### **1 Chronicles 21:14–27**

- How does David halt the plague?
  
- What are embedded in the account?
  
- Even more important, in what four ways does the incident display parallels with Abraham's sacrifice of Isaac?

### **1 Chronicles 21:25**

- What is 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 Chronicles 21:1

- Has Satan ever tested your faithfulness and that of your family?
- How well do you think all have withstood the test?
- In your understanding, what is the difference between temptation and sin?

### 1 Chronicles 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?

### 1 Chronicles 21:10–12

- Of the three choices offered David in these verses, which would you take?

## 1 Chronicles

- 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?

### 1 Chronicles 21:24

- In *The Cost of Discipleship*, Dietrich Bonhoeffer frequently alludes to “cheap grace”. Even if you have never read the book, what do you think he means by that?
- What should God’s grace cost you?

#### **Reflect**

After reading and reflecting on this chapter, I hear the Lord saying to me:

My prayer response to him:

## Chapter 22



### For Understanding

#### 1 Chronicles 22:1—29:22

- What do chaps. 22–29 describe?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- In addition to stockpiling building materials, what does David do?

#### 1 Chronicles 22:7

- What does the theology of Deuteronomy indicate about the sanctuary of Yahweh?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- How does this understanding apply to David?

#### 1 Chronicles 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?

## 1 Chronicles 22:9

- Why did Moses make peace a precondition for building a national sanctuary in Israel?
- How does David achieve this peace?
- With what Hebrew word is the name Solomon associated?
- What do we learn here?



## For Application

## 1 Chronicles 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?

## 1 Chronicles 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?

## 1 Chronicles 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)?

### **Reflect**

After reading and reflecting on this chapter, I hear the Lord saying to me:

My prayer response to him:

## Chapter 23



### For Understanding

#### 1 Chronicles 23:2–32

- What kind of census is this?
- What are the responsibilities of the four different divisions eligible for service?
- Again, for what is David assuming responsibility?

#### 1 Chronicles 23:3

- What are the age requirements for Levitical service?
- What might the lower number include?

#### 1 Chronicles 23:26

- What has been 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 free to assume?

- To whom do they remain subordinate?

### 1 Chronicles 23:30

- What is the distinguishing feature of the Levitical ministry introduced by David?
  
- With what is it coordinated?
  
- How long are both of these offerings made?



### For Application

### 1 Chronicles 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 explains the difference in age requirements?

### 1 Chronicles 23:13

- Read the note for this verse. How are the cultic responsibilities of modern priests analogous to those of OT Levitical priests?

## 1 Chronicles 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?

### Reflect

After reading and reflecting on this chapter, I hear the Lord saying to me:

My prayer response to him:

## Chapter 24



### For Understanding

## 1 Chronicles 24:1–19

- With what do these verses deal?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- How are priestly families placed within a regular rotation?

## *1 Chronicles*

- What does David devise the system to ensure?
- How long do these cycles last in the preexilic period?
- In NT times, how long does each division minister?

### **1 Chronicles 24:2**

- Why do the priests of David's day trace their ancestry to Aaron's two youngest sons rather than to his two older sons, Nadab and Abihu?

### **1 Chronicles 24:5**

- Why are priestly assignments chosen by lot?
- How are lots cast?
- For whom else is the same procedure followed?
- How do the apostles use the casting of lots?



## For Application

### 1 Chronicles 24:1–19

- According to Lk 1:5, to which section of the priesthood does Zechariah, husband of Mary's relative Elizabeth, belong?
  
- How is he chosen to perform his priestly duty in the Temple (vv. 8–9)?

### 1 Chronicles 24:5

- Look up Prov 16:33. Have you ever cast lots to decide who among several people should perform a course of action?
  
- Did you think that the selection method indicated God's will or something else?

#### **Reflect**

After reading and reflecting on this chapter, I hear the Lord saying to me:

My prayer response to him:

## Chapter 25



### For Understanding

#### 1 Chronicles 25:1–31

- With what are these verses concerned?
- From which families are members selected?
- How is the ministry of sacred song, here organized for the future Temple, already in place?

#### 1 Chronicles 25:1

- How old is the link between prophecy and music?
- Though it is difficult to specify what this looked like in practice, what might the Levites have been responsible for singing?
- If so, of what does their prophetic role consist?
- To whom are most of the 150 psalms in the Book of the Psalms attributed?



## For Application

### 1 Chronicles 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?

### 1 Chronicles 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?

### 1 Chronicles 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?

### **Reflect**

After reading and reflecting on this chapter, I hear the Lord saying to me:

My prayer response to him:

## **Chapter 26**



### **For Understanding**

#### **1 Chronicles 26:1–19**

- What do these verses describe?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- Where will Levites assigned to sentry duty be posted?

- With what are the gatekeepers charged?

### **1 Chronicles 26:14**

- Why is the lot for the east entrance important?
  
- What may heavier traffic through the front entrance explain?

### **1 Chronicles 26:29**

- What are the officers and judges also tasked with overseeing?
  
- What remains unclear about their duties?



### **For Application**

### **1 Chronicles 26:1**

- Who opens and closes your church each day?
  
- What do your ushers do during the liturgy?

## *1 Chronicles*

- What needs does your parish have for security personnel or devices?

### **1 Chronicles 26:12–19**

- What are some of the maintenance needs at your parish?
  
- What staff does the parish employ for building maintenance and grounds keeping?
  
- What happens to a parish when these needs are neglected?

### **1 Chronicles 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 that your diocese or parish has for handling and reporting the monies collected?

### **1 Chronicles 26:29–32**

- If your diocese has a website, look up the functions of the diocesan tribunal or 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?

### **Reflect**

After reading and reflecting on this chapter, I hear the Lord saying to me:

My prayer response to him:

## **Chapter 27**



### **For Understanding**

#### **1 Chronicles 27:1–34**

- With what do David's organizational efforts continue?

### 1 Chronicles 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?

### 1 Chronicles 27:23–24

- Who is 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 Chronicles 27:1

- What are the major groups of military forces in your country?
- For what are each of these groups responsible?

## 1 Chronicles

- 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?

### 1 Chronicles 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?

#### **Reflect**

After reading and reflecting on this chapter, I hear the Lord saying to me:

My prayer response to him:

## Chapter 28



### For Understanding

#### 1 Chronicles 28:1–8

- What do these verses narrate?
- In what four ways is the address marked by an emphasis on divine election?

#### 1 Chronicles 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, is the Ark believed to be?

#### 1 Chronicles 28:11

- What is “the room” for the mercy seat?
- What does it look like?

- What is the “mercy seat”?

### **Word Study: *Plan* (1 Chronicles 28:11).**

- What does the Hebrew word *tabnit* mean?
- For what three things can the term be used?
- To what does the word refer in 1 Chronicles in the four times it is used?
- Significantly, what are these building plans?
- How does the king receive them?
- In this respect, how is David like Moses?



## For Application

### 1 Chronicles 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?

### 1 Chronicles 28:4–5

- God's choices for leadership of his Church are often mysterious. Within the last century, which papal election most surprised you?
  
- In what respect?
  
- How did his subsequent ministry either confirm that this pope's selection was divinely ordained or cause you to wonder why he was elected?
  
- How has it affected your faith in the leadership of the Holy Spirit over the Church?

### 1 Chronicles 28:9

- How would you apply David's admonition to Solomon to yourself?

## *1 Chronicles*

- What does it mean for you to “seek the Lord”?
  
- What does it mean to you to “be found” by him?

### **1 Chronicles 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?

### **1 Chronicles 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?

## Reflect

After reading and reflecting on this chapter, I hear the Lord saying to me:

My prayer response to him:

## Chapter 29



### For Understanding

#### 1 Chronicles 29:3

- How is David “leading the way”?
  
- To how much gold and silver do the figures in 29:4 amount?

#### 1 Chronicles 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 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?

### **1 Chronicles 29:15**

- What does David recognize about the world?

### **1 Chronicles 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 Chronicles 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?

#### 1 Chronicles 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?

#### 1 Chronicles 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 might respond?

**Reflect**

After reading and reflecting on this chapter, I hear the Lord saying to me:

My prayer response to him:



## **Review and Respond**

To complete your study of 1 Chronicles, prayerfully read it straight through, focusing on the biblical text alone. What stands out to you?

Ask the Holy Spirit to speak to your heart. What is your response to him?