

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

August 19-25, 2024

Monday:	1 Chronicles 19	Psalms 45
Tuesday:	1 Chronicles 20:1-22:1	Psalms 46
Wednesday:	1 Chronicles 22:2-19	Psalms 47
Thursday:	1 Chronicles 23-24	Psalms 48
Friday:	1 Chronicles 25-26	Psalms 49
Saturday:	1 Chronicles 27-28	Psalms 50
Sunday:	1 Chronicles 29	Psalms 51

Weekend Reflection

This week we read the account of the census that David ordered, which displeased the Lord, and ended up costing David (and Israel) greatly. Why was this census such an affront to God?

I think there is a clue in Joab's resistance to David's orders. In 1 Chronicles 21:3, Joab protests by saying, "May the Lord add to his people a 100 times as many as they are..." Even Joab (who wasn't the most spiritual man in David's circle) could see that this census was motivated by the sin of pride and self-reliance.

And that makes sense. Right at the heart of this sin, in 1 Chronicles 21:1, we learn that behind David's desire to exalt in his own strength, there was Satan. This is the way Satan operates.

We would do well to learn from David's mistake. David looked to the 'his' standing army (it wasn't really his, was it?) and not to the Lord. May we not be tempted towards self-reliance, or to taking our own "census", whatever that might look like for us. Rather, let's trust in the Lord, and in the Lord alone.

SUNDAY SERMON

The sermon for Sunday, August 25 will be on Philippians 4:10-20. Be sure to read this passage before the Sunday gathering, in order to prepare your heart for the preaching of God's Word.

Faith Groups

- What is "the secret" Paul has learned?
- What did Paul mean when he said, "I can do all things through him who strengthens me?"
- What are some practical ways we should apply that truth?
- What do we learn about Christian giving from verses 14-20?
- How should these verses affect the way we view 1) our needs, 2) our finances, 3) our generosity?