

## BIBLE READING LIST FOR MAY 1-7

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| <b><u>May 1</u></b><br>II Samuel 2;<br>Psalm 78                           |
| <b><u>May 2</u></b><br>II Samuel 3;<br>Psalms 81, 88, 92                  |
| <b><u>May 3</u></b><br>II Samuel 4;<br>Psalms 93, 102-104                 |
| <b><u>May 4</u></b><br>II Samuel 5;<br>I Chronicles 11<br>Psalms 106, 133 |
| <b><u>May 5</u></b><br>I Chronicles 12-13<br>Psalms 1-2, 107              |
| <b><u>May 6</u></b><br>I Chronicles 14<br>Psalms 15, 22-24,<br>47, 68     |
| <b><u>May 7</u></b><br>I Chronicles 15<br>Psalms 89, 96, 100              |

In this week's reading, we see David taking over the throne in Israel. As we mentioned last week, the early accounts present events from man's viewpoint, while Chronicles sees the same events from God's point of view. Notice that II Samuel 2-4 show the politics involved as Saul's son assumes rule over some tribes at first, only to be betrayed by his general and then assassinated by two of his captains. God ignores all of this in Chronicles. He sets kings up and takes them down, and it is not a matter of politics to Him. His stress is on getting the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem where it belongs. Second Samuel will also mention this story next week, but only after the politics and without the emphasis that Chronicles gives it.

Also this week we see another reason there are sometimes differences in the two accounts. In I Chronicles 11 is a list of David's mighty men. There is also a list of mighty men given in II Samuel 23. Bible skeptics point out that the list has similarities but is not the same and say that this is an error in the Bible. Notice that the list in I Chronicles is given at the beginning of David's reign, and the one in II Samuel is presented at the end of his reign. They are talking about two different periods of time, and one would expect changes in the makeup of a military unit over several years. Perhaps this is why there are over fifty names in the list of I Chronicles while II Samuel 23 ends by specifying that there were a total of thirty-seven troops in the group at that time.

We can learn a few spiritual lessons by comparing the two lists. First is the fact just mentioned; there was attrition among the troops over time. When we get in the battle against the Devil, we can expect some casualties. He is very serious about his opposition to God and His work, and he will spare no one. We must be prepared to suffer some damage if we serve God.

But we can also take comfort in another fact. As we examine the list in II Samuel 23, we see the names of Asahel and Uriah the Hittite. We know that both of these had died in battle (chapters 2 and 11). God does not forget those who sacrifice all for Him, and their name will be honored in Heaven. His smile and reward should be worth more than anything we give up on earth.