Israel’s Ancestry.com Lesson 4: Taking a Step Back

Prayer: Almighty God, as we read the stories of the Kings, help us to remember that you are always in control of the Kingdom you are bringing about in this world. In Jesus name, amen.

Day 1: Read 1 Chronicles 10 & 1 Chronicles 17

1). A. What tragic events are “chronicled” in 10:1-7?

B. What two sins led to this tragic result?

2). In 1 Chronicles 17, we hear that Israel’s next king had plans, yet God overturns them. Why did God do this?

3). The Lord’s promises captured in 1 Chronicles 17: 11-14 are central to the message of Chronicles (and Kings!). How are/will these promises be fulfilled?

Day 2: Read 1 Chronicles 11 & 12

1). A. Following Saul’s death, what do the leaders of Israel tell David about the choice of him being King?

B. According to the same elders, what did the Lord tell David?

2). Reflecting on what happens at Hebron and what is said to David, how might you describe David’s character prior to his reign as King?

3). In these two chapters we hear about David’s “Mighty Men”, what are some of the things that stuck out to you about these mighty warriors?

Day 3: Read 1 Chronicles 13

1). A. In this chapter we switch gears from the military might of the Israelites to something completely different. What becomes David’s focus now that he has become King?

B. What might David have been thinking that precipitated this change?
2). The best laid plans go awry in this story. As the Ark is in transit something very unsettling happens. What happens?

3). What God does to Uzzah is shocking, and uncharacteristic of the God who we proclaim to be the “light and life of all people”. In your own life, have there been moments in life where you have reached out and touched God and you found life?

Day 4: Read 1 Chronicles 14

1). A. The king of Tyre and the Philistines react very interestingly to the news that David has become King of Israel. What do they do?

   B. How does David respond to their actions?

2). What happens following this clash between nations?

Day 5: Read 1 Chronicles 15

1). Compare the procession of the ark of the covenant in this chapter to the episode in chapter 13. How are they different?

2). David urges the priests and Levites to make special preparations for moving the ark, yet we don’t hear what those preparations are. Read Exodus 19:10, 14-15. What kind of preparations needed to be made to handle the ark of the covenant?

3). The ark incident seems to declare that there is a “right” way to approach God, yet each of us has a unique faith with unique expressions. Thinking about your own faith practices, what “preparations” do you make before you encounter God in worship or everyday life?

Day 6: 1 Chronicles 16

1). As we read through the singing of praise, these songs sound quite familiar. Where might we have heard these “songs” before?

2). Asaph, the singer, decides to give the Israelites a history lesson in verses 14-22. What event(s) is he singing about?