

Date: 7-31-2022-AM

Church: Safe Harbor Baptist Church

Text: I Chronicles 5:18-22

Title: "The Faithfulness of God"

## Introduction:

What is the purpose of all the names in Chronicles?

### 1. Records.

To the Jews returning from captivity, it was important for them to know the family relationships and the settlement of the land.

### 2. Redeemer.

It lines up the Historical line of Jesus Christ.

### 3. Reminder.

God does not forget anyone!

## End of Introduction.

### I. The Identification of the Tribes. Vs 18

1. Reuben- **The Unstable Tribe**- Genesis 49:3-4 Reuben, thou art my firstborn, my might, and the beginning of my strength, the excellency of dignity, and the excellency of power: 4 *Unstable as water, thou shalt not excel; because thou wentest up to thy father's bed; then defiledst thou it: he went up to my couch.*

James 1:8 **A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.**

- Water always seeks the lowest point
- Water is cold by nature

2. Gad- The **Underdog Tribe**- Genesis 49:19 **Gad, a troop shall overcome him: but he shall overcome at the last.**

Gad in the New Testament is the land of the Gadarenes where Jesus saved the Maniac and they ran Jesus out of town because of the loss of their profit.

3. - **The Unnoticed Tribe**- Genesis 48:12-14 **And Joseph brought them out from between his knees, and he bowed himself with his face to the earth. 13 And Joseph took them both, Ephraim in his right hand toward Israel's left hand, and Manasseh in his left hand toward Israel's right hand, and brought them near unto him. 14 And Israel stretched out his right hand, and laid it upon Ephraim's head, who was the younger, and his left hand upon Manasseh's head, guiding his hands wittingly; for Manasseh was the firstborn. Vs 17-19 And when Joseph saw that his father laid his right hand upon the head of Ephraim, it displeased him: and he held up his father's hand, to remove it from Ephraim's head unto Manasseh's head. 18 And Joseph said unto his father, Not so, my father: for this is the firstborn; put thy right hand upon his head. 19 And his father refused, and said, I know it, my son, I know it: he also shall become a people, and he also shall be great: but truly his younger brother shall be greater than he, and his seed shall become a multitude of nations.**

**All 3 of these Tribes were Vulnerable and indeed were the first to be carried away by the Assyrians.**

## **II. The Indifference of these Tribes.**

The will of God was for all the tribes to be in the land of Canaan on the other side of the Jordan.

**Exodus 3:7-8** And the Lord said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows. 8 And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey; unto the place of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites.

**Numbers 32:1** Now the children of Reuben and the children of Gad had a very great multitude of cattle: and when they saw the land of Jazer, and the land of Gilead, that, behold, the place was a place for cattle;

**Numbers 32:5** Wherefore, said they, if we have found grace in thy sight, let this land be given unto thy servants for a possession, and bring us not over Jordan.

### **1. Where they were Looking.**

**Numbers 32:1** “and when they **saw** the land of Jazer, and the land of Gilead, that, behold, the place was a place for cattle;”

Notice the text tells us “**When they saw the land**” They more interested in what they could see then what God had said:

### **II Corinthians 5:7 (For we walk by faith, not by sight:)**

Looking in the wrong place is what got Lot into Sodom and looking back to Sodom turned Lot's wife into a pillar of salt.

**Luke 9:62** And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.

### **Fit- Useful.**

### **2. What they were Loving. Vs 1**

There was something about this land that they loved

**I John 2:15-19** Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. 17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

**II Timothy 4:10** “For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world”

Could it be because there was?

### **A. No Authority over them**

On the Egypt side of Jordan there was no Joshua commanding the people on how to live and what to do according to God's laws!

There are many who will not get committed to God because they know that if they do that he will demand and expect things out of their life and they do not want that authority over them!

***These are the people who get on social media and talk about how free they are now that they are out from under the bondage of the church.***

### **B. No Assignment to them**

On the Egypt side of Jordan there was no job to do, you can just do as you please to better yourself in this thing we called life was the slogan of these people!

Some people have the idea that they just want to come to church, spend their 1 to 1 ½ hours in church and then go on their way without getting involved in the work of God. They have the mentality that if they do not come to church, they are not going to get involved!

### **C. No Aggression against them**

It's seemingly easy over on this side, no battles, no attacks we are just at rest and at ease!

Seemingly for those who are uncommitted to God their life is full ease and pleasure, but that soon will change!

### **3. Where they **Loyalties** lied. Vs 1**

**“and when they saw the land of Jazer, and the land of Gilead, that, behold, the place was a place for cattle;”**

The Cattle was their livelihood, their means of making money!

Thus, they were more concerned about **their cattle than they were their children** and we are certainly seeing that played out before us in this generation!

Now days people are more concerned with Finances than Family, Cash than Children, Money than Marriage, Pleasures than priorities, etc.

**II Timothy 3:1-3 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. 2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,**

**These people are:**

- **Complacent.**
- **Comfortable.**
- **Conformed.**
- **Compromisers.**

### **III. The Issue of these Tribes. Vs 18-19**

**The sons of Reuben, and the Gadites, and half the tribe of Manasseh, of valiant men, men able to bear buckler and sword, and to shoot with bow, and skilful in war, were four and forty thousand seven hundred and threescore, that went out to the war. 19 And they made war with the Hagarites, with Jetur, and Nephish, and Nodab.**

## 1. The Enemies.

The text informs us that they were fighting the “Hagarites”. Matthew Henry’s commentary on this text comments that these were the descendants of Ishmael (Hagar, the Egyptian hand maiden was his mother).

Thus, these Hagarites are a type and picture of the flesh!

The 3 named men are also the descendants of Ishmael.

## 2. The Engagement.

It does not matter what side of the Jordan you live on, wither it is the world’s side, on the Canaan side you will always have to deal with the wickedness of your flesh!

It will always be a war!

**Romans 7:23-25** But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. 24 O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? 25 I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.

## IV. The Intervention for these Tribes. Vs 20

**And they were helped against them, and the Hagarites were delivered into their hand, and all that were with them: for they cried to God in the battle, and he was intreated of them; because they put their trust in him.**

### 1. The Prayer. Vs 20

“for they cried to God in the battle, and he was intreated of them;”

#### A. Their Desperation.

“for they cried to God in the battle”

Cried- To Call for Help!

#### B. Their Desire.

“and he was intreated of them;”

Intreated- To Supplicate, plead or beg.

### 2. The Providence. Vs 20

**“And they were helped against them, and the Hagarites were delivered into their hand, and all that were with them:”**

Helped- to Support, to Succour, the primitive root word is to “surround” In other words, God had their back, and had them covered!

Don’t miss this truth, here is this crowd who is not living where they should be living, but yet they still belong to God and when they cried unto him in trouble he intervened on their behalf!

### 3. The Persuasion. Vs 20

“because they put their trust in him.”

Because they trusted in the LORD, they had victory over their enemies!

#### 4. The Prevailing. Vs 22

“For there fell down many slain, because the war was of God. And they dwelt in their steads until the captivity.”

This verse indicates to us that God fought their battle!

#### V. The Idolatry of these Tribes. Vs 25-26

“And they transgressed against the God of their fathers, and went a whoring after the gods of the people of the land, whom God destroyed before them. 26 And the God of Israel stirred up the spirit of Pul king of Assyria, and the spirit of Tilgathpilneser king of Assyria, and he carried them away, even the Reubenites, and the Gadites, and the half tribe of Manasseh, and brought them unto Halah, and Habor, and Hara, and to the river Gozan, unto this day.”

You would automatically think that after this great victory that these tribes would be fully committed to the LORD all the days of their life, but sadly we find that this was not the case.

#### 1. Their Choice. Vs 25

“And they transgressed against the God of their fathers, and went a whoring after the gods of the people of the land, whom God destroyed before them.”

These people made the choice to go after idolatry and wickedness even after all they had seen God do for them!

**Application:** We cannot be so quick to judge them because how many times has God helped us, only for us to not fully commit our lives to him?

**Illustration:** None of us appreciates people that only call when they need something or want something, or they only come around when the rent is due etc. But in reality this is how we treat the LORD often only praying and reading the word of God when we are wanting something from him.

#### 2. Their Chastisement. Vs 25

“26 And the God of Israel stirred up the spirit of Pul king of Assyria, and the spirit of Tilgathpilneser king of Assyria, and he carried them away, even the Reubenites, and the Gadites, and the half tribe of Manasseh, and brought them unto Halah, and Habor, and Hara, and to the river Gozan,”

**Hebrews 12:6** For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.

#### 3. The Cost. Vs 26

“unto this day.”

Their decision to go after false gods affected the following generations.

They raised their children to serve idols, instead of serving the true God of heaven!

#### 4. The Consolation.

**Revelation 7:1-6 (specifically Vs 4-6)** These make up the 144,000 prophets of the Tribulation period.

Even during the Tribulation period, God will not forget about his people.

**Conclusion:**

In closing we learn 2 truths about the Faithfulness of God.

1. The Reality of God's faithfulness.

- A. He is Faithful when I am not Where I am supposed to be.
- B. He is Faithful when I am not What I am supposed to be.
- C. He is Faithful when I am not Who I am supposed to be.

II Timothy 2:13 **If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself.**

**POINT:** We must never mistake the faithfulness and the mercy of God as his approval on our lives!

2. The Response to God's faithfulness.

- A. I should be faithful in his Word.
- B. I should be faithful in his Will.
- C. I should be faithful in my Walk.
- D. I should be faithful in my Worship.