

Of the Sons of Issachar Who Had Understanding of the Times, to Know What Israel Ought to Do
1 Chron 12:23-40

23 Now these were the numbers of the divisions that were equipped for war, and came to David at Hebron to turn over the kingdom of Saul to him, according to the word of the Lord: 24 of the sons of Judah bearing shield and spear, six thousand eight hundred armed for war; 25 of the sons of Simeon, mighty men of valor fit for war, seven thousand one hundred; 26 of the sons of Levi four thousand six hundred; 27 Jehoiada, the leader of the Aaronites, and with him three thousand seven hundred; 28 Zadok, a young man, a valiant warrior, and from his father's house twenty-two captains; 29 of the sons of Benjamin, relatives of Saul, three thousand (until then the greatest part of them had remained loyal to the house of Saul); 30 of the sons of Ephraim twenty thousand eight hundred, mighty men of valor, famous men throughout their father's house; 31 of the half-tribe of Manasseh eighteen thousand, who were designated by name to come and make David king; 32 of the sons of Issachar who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do, their chiefs were two hundred; and all their brethren were at their command; 33 of Zebulun there were fifty thousand who went out to battle, expert in war with all weapons of war, stouthearted men who could keep ranks; 34 of Naphtali one thousand captains, and with them thirty-seven thousand with shield and spear; 35 of the Danites who could keep battle formation, twenty-eight thousand six hundred; 36 of Asher, those who could go out to war, able to keep battle formation, forty thousand; 37 of the Reubenites and the Gadites and the half-tribe of Manasseh, from the other side of the Jordan, one hundred and twenty thousand armed for battle with every kind of weapon of war.

38 All these men of war, who could keep ranks, came to Hebron with a loyal heart, to make David king over all Israel; and all the rest of Israel were of one mind to make David king. 39 And they were there with David three days, eating and drinking, for their brethren had prepared for them. 40 Moreover those who were near to them, from as far away as Issachar and Zebulun and Naphtali, were bringing food on donkeys and camels, on mules and oxen — provisions of flour and cakes of figs and cakes of raisins, wine and oil and oxen and sheep abundantly, for there was joy in Israel. NKJV

I think it is so significant that they list all these tribes and partial tribes with the number of troops each contributes to the fighting force. And yet the tribe of Issachar has listed 200 who know what to do.

Boy do we need some people in this country who understand the times and know what we ought to do.

Auto maker Henry Ford asked electrical genius Charlie Steinmetz to build the generators for his factory. One day the generators ground to a halt, and the repairmen couldn't find the problem. So Ford called Steinmetz, who tinkered with the machines for a few hours and then threw the switch. The generators whirred to life—but Ford got a bill for \$10,000 from Steinmetz. Flabbergasted, the rather tightfisted car maker inquired why the bill was so high and asked for an itemized statement.

Steinmetz's reply: For tinkering with the generators, \$10. For knowing where to tinker, \$9,990.

But that is knowledge, not wisdom. We have a whole lot of people tinkering with things they just do not understand. God understands them, He made them. And the more the tinker the worse it gets. But what about us. Aren't we to be a part of the cure and not a part of the problem?

I. Is it important to understand the times and know what to do?

A. Matt 16:1 ¶ Then the Pharisees and Sadducees came, and testing Him asked that He would show them a sign from heaven. 2 He answered and said to them, "When it is evening you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red'; 3 "and in the morning, 'It will be foul weather today, for the sky is red and threatening.' Hypocrites! You know how to discern the face of the sky, but you cannot discern the signs of the times.

B. Luke 19: 41 ¶ Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it, 42 saying, "If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things that make for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes.

II. Having wisdom is highly esteemed in the Bible.

A. Pr 14:8 ¶ The wisdom of the prudent is to understand his way, But the folly of fools is deceit.

B. Ec 7:19 Wisdom strengthens the wise More than ten rulers of the city.

C. Ec 9:18 Wisdom is better than weapons of war; But one sinner destroys much good."

D. Eph 5:17 Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

III. Good and bad examples are found everywhere.

A. Moses

1. He was a man greatly used of God, and I would never think I have anything over on Moses, but we can learn from him as well as others.
2. Moses was about 40 years ahead of God. Ac 7:25 "For he supposed that his brethren would have understood that God would deliver them by his hand, but they did not understand.
3. I heard a wise preacher once say that Moses spent 40 years learning to be somebody, the next 40 years learning to be nobody and the last 40 learning that God was everything.
4. But even Moses had his failings.
 - a. He was often discouraged by the congregation.
 - b. He struck the rock the second time and "refused to sanctify the Lord in the midst of the people."
 - c. And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron, Because ye believed

me not, to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore ye shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given them. Num 20:12

B. Peter

1. Peter was great and was given a special place in early Christianity.
2. Ac 4:13 Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus.
3. But do be like Peter on the housetop. Ac 10:14 But Peter said, "Not so, Lord! For I have never eaten anything common or unclean."
4. Hopefully there will always be a brother to point out our failings.
5. Ga 2:11 Now when Peter had come to Antioch, I withstood him to his face, because he was to be blamed;

IV. Maybe like Elisha

- A. 2Ki 4:9 And she said to her husband, "Look now, I know that this is a holy man of God, who passes by us regularly.
- B. And he knew not to take gifts from Naaman as Gehazi did.

V. And learn a lesson from James and John, sons of thunder.

- A. Lu 9:55 But he turned, and rebuked them, and said, Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of.

VI. Lastly not like the nameless prophet.

- A. Vance Havner "Alas my Brother" 1Ki 13:30 Then he laid the corpse in his own tomb; and they mourned over him, saying, "Alas, my brother!"
- B. Don't listen to anyone who has spoken to God since you have.

Dear Lord give us the knowledge of the truth, and the wisdom to know what to do with it.

<http://ToulonBaptist.com>