

OVERVIEW OF 1 AND 2 CHRONICLES

Period: The books of 1 and 2 Chronicles were originally one book. They summarize the history of Israel under its kings, following only the kingdom of Judah during the period of the divided kingdom and then jumps to the second return from exile in Babylon. The book also includes extensive genealogical information back to Adam.

Theme: The purpose of Chronicles is to remind the exiles of God's faithfulness in Human history and to encourage them to restore worship of the LORD in the temple. Much of the content deals with the establishment of the first temple and ends with the decree from Cyrus to construct the new temple.

Authorship & Date: The author and date of the book are unknown, but the view that holds the most promise is that it was prepared by Ezra in the mid 400's. This is the tradition reflected in the Jewish Talmud (compilation of Jewish teachings from about 200-500 AD).

Key Passages:

- 1 Chron 4:9-10 The prayer of Jabez, popularized by Bruce Wilkerson
- 1 Chron 17 God's covenant with David
- 1 Chron 29:9 Then the people rejoiced, for they had offered willingly, because with a loyal heart they had offered willingly to the Lord; and King David also rejoiced greatly.
- 2 Chron 6:12-42 Solomon's prayer of Dedication
- 2 Chron 7:14 if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land...v. 19 "but..."
- 2 Chron 16:9a For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of *those* whose heart *is* loyal to Him
- 2 Chron 30:18-20 "...but Hezekiah prayed for them..."
- 2 Chron 33:12-13 Manasseh's repentance and restoration
- 2 Chron 35:18 There had been no Passover kept in Israel like that since the days of Samuel the prophet...
- 2 Chron 36:23 – Cyrus' command to rebuild the temple (hopeful ending)

Broad Outline for Chronicles

I. Genealogy (1 Chron 1-9)

The genealogies are almost more topical than they are chronological (though they are chronological in and of themselves). The Genealogies are extensive and provide a critical link for the nation of Israel to their past and the work God has done in the nation of Israel.

II. The United Kingdom (1 Chron 9:35 - 2 Chron 9:31)

A. Saul (1 Chron 9:35 – 10:14)

B. David (1 Chron 11:1- 29:30)

1. The Ark brought to Jerusalem (13:1-16:43)

2. The Covenant with David (17:1-27) (cf. 2 Sam 7:8-16)

3. David controls all Israel (18:14; cf. 2 Sam 8:15)

4. Establishment of the Temple Location, Provisions and Service (21:1-30 - 27:23-34)

C. Solomon (2 Chron 1:1 – 9:31)

1. Solomon's prayer for wisdom 1:1-13

2. Temple Construction (3:1-5:1)

3. Temple Dedication (5:2-7:22)

III. The Kingdom of Judah (southern kingdom) (2 Chron 10:1 – 36:21)

Food for Thought

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1. David expresses his desire to construct a temple for the Lord in 1 Chron 17. This desire is consistent with the emphasis on temple worship within the book. Surprisingly, God does not allow David to build the temple.
 - a. Why did God not allow David to construct the temple (see chapter 17 and 22:8 – consider God’s heart from Ezek 33:11 in considering why this is the case).
 - b. How does God “turn the tables” on David’s desire to build a temple?
2. Compare 1 Chron 21:1 with 2 Sam 24:1. Who is responsible for moving David to take the census and how would you propose to resolve the apparent contradiction?
3. 2 Chron 7:13-14 is an often quoted passage. Under what conditions does God promise to “heal their land” and how can we apply this promise to Israel to us today?
4. When the nation of Israel split to become two nations, what did many of the Levites do as recorded in 2 Chron 11:13-17? How do you think this effected the future history of the two nations and what lessons can we draw for Christian influence in our culture today?
5. Asa reigned 41 years in Judah. How did God encourage Asa to make spiritual reforms (2 Chron 15:1-8)?
 - a. What was Asa’s mistake in 16:1-6 and why do you think he made it at this time in his reign?
 - b. What does 16:9 tell us of the nature of God? How can this be encouraging to us in our Christian walk? How was it discouraging to Asa?
 - c. Asa obviously responded poorly to correction (16:7-10, cf. 15:2), what insight does this give us into human nature and how can we overcome this problem?
6. What qualities do we see in Jehosaphat from 2 Chron 20:3-15 that can help us know what to do when the odds are against us?
 - a. How did Jehosaphat and Judah prepare for the upcoming battle (20:18-19, 22) and how do we tend to prepare for battles in our own lives?
 - b. What change is there in Jehosaphat’s focus at the end of his reign when compared with the earlier victory discussed above (see 20:37 and 19:2)?
7. Joash led great reforms, but also fell away after the death of Jehoida. How might we as parents learn from the story of Joash and Jehoida (24:2, 15, 20-22).
8. Uzziah was a good king and he was afflicted with leprosy during his reign (26:4, 15-23). Do you think the leprosy fit the sin of Uzziah? What explanation exists for this? (Please also consider Isa. 6:1, Isaiah’s calling is related to the year of the death of this good king).
9. Manasseh was perhaps the worst of the kings of Judah. What do we see about God’s work in the reign of Manasseh in 33:10-20 and how might that encourage us?

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10. 2 Chronicles ignores most of the exile, but includes the proclamation of Cyrus for the second return of the people to Jerusalem. Why do you think the chronicler would end on this note?

Kings of Judah (Southern Kingdom)						
King	Good or Evil	Length of Reign	Kings Passages	Chronicles Passages	Prophet(s)	Remarks/Observations
Saul	G-E	42				The First King
David	G+	40			Nathan, Gad	The Covenant King
Solomon	G-	40	1 Ki 1:1-11:43	2 Chron 1-9		Solomon's 4 th year is 480 years after the exodus (1 Ki 6:1) The wise king
Rehoboam	E	17		10:1-15		The Division king
Abijah	G	3		13:1-22		Status not stated, but good assumed from Context – defender of the faith
Asa	G-	41 (3)		14:1-16:14	Azariah, Hanani	Peace Maker, later oppressed people
Jehoshaphat	G	25 (5)		17:1-20:37	Micaiah, Jehu	Military adventurer (Alliance problems – cf. 19:2, 37)
Jehoram	E	8		21:1-20	Elijah	Ahab's daughter was his wife, The Bloodthirsty, judged by God
Ahaziah	E	1		22:1-9		Jehoram's youngest son, (Textual error-he could not be 42 as stated in 2Chron. 22:2), weak-willed
Queen Athaliah	E	6	2 Ki 11:1-11:20	22:10-23:15		Killed royal heirs to usurp the throne. The Userper
Joash (Jehoash)	G-?	40	2 Ki 11:4-12:21	23:16 – 24:27	Elijah (2 Chron 21:12) Jehoida priest, Zechariah	King at age 7. Repaired the temple. Did good when Jehoida was priest. 1 st great reformer. Had Zechariah, Jehoida's son stoned for prophecy.
Amaziah	G-	29 (23)		25:1-28		The double-minded 25:2 – did right, but not with a loyal heart
Azariah (Uzziah)	G	52 (11)		26:1-23	Isaiah (6:1)	The Leper – did right, but became proud (26:16)
Jotham	G	16 (9)		27:1-9		The Rebuilder
Ahaz	E	16 (14)		28:1-27	Oded (28:8)	The Unrestrained – became “increasingly unfaithful” (28:22)
Hezekiah	G	29 (11)		29:1-32:33		The second great reformer
Manasseh	E	55		33:1-20		The worst of the lot – repented in the end
Amon	E	2		33:21-25		Like Father, Like Son

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Josiah	G	31		34:1-35:27		The 3 rd great reformer
Jehoahaz	E	3 mo		36:1-2		The Egyptian Vassal
Jehoiakim (Eliakim)	E	11		36:4-8		The first Babylonian captive
Jehoiachin		3 mo		36:9-10		The 2 nd Babylonian Captive
Zedekiah		11		36:11-21		The 3 rd Babylonian Captive

Kings of Israel (Northern Kingdom)						
King	Good or Evil	Length of Reign	Kings Passages	Chronicles Passages	Prophet(s)	Remarks/Observations
Jeroboam I	E	22				
Nadab	E	2				
Baasha	E	24				
Elah	E	2				
Zimri	E	7 days				
Tibni	E	6 (6)				
Omri	E	12				
Ahab	E	22		18:1-34	Micaiah	
Ahaziah	E	2				
Jehoram (Joram)	E	12				
Jehu	E	28				Did some good-destroyed Baal worship, but did not walk in the law of the Lord.
Jehoahaz	E	17				
Jehoash	E	16 (11)				
Jeroboam II	E	41				
Zechariah	E	6 mos.				
Shallum	E	1 mo.				
Menahem	E	10 (10)				

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Pekahiah	E	(2)				
Pekah	E	20				
Hoshea	E	9				Israel falls in 722 – pretty solid historic date.