

# **1 & 2 Chronicles**

## **“An Historical Review”**

### **I. Introduction to 1 & 2 Chronicles**

- A. 1 & 2 Chronicles were originally a single book.
  - 1. Like Samuel and Kings, they were divided when translated into Greek in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Century B.C.
  - 2. For our purposes, we will be combining them in our study.
    - a. We will use ‘Chronicles’ to refer to both 1 & 2 Chronicles
- B. Chronicles gets its name from its content.
  - 1. Chronicles – “An historical account of events arranged in order of time.” Webster
  - 2. This has not always been the title.
    - a. Hebrew Bible: “Matters of the Day”; which carries the same idea
    - b. Septuagint: “What Is Left Out”; perhaps referring to the additional information Chronicles provides to the history of Israel, that was “left out” of Samuel and Kings
- C. Location and Purpose of Chronicles
  - 1. In our Bibles, Chronicles comes between 2 Kings and Ezra and forms a re-cap of the history from Genesis through 2 Kings
  - 2. In the Hebrew Bible, Chronicles is the last book and is a re-cap of the entire Old Testament story.
  - 3. It is easy to see that much of the purpose of Chronicles is to review and remind us of the most essential truths of Israel’s sacred history.
    - a. We must not make the mistake of thinking that because it is a re-cap, that it is any less important than other books in the Bible.
      - i. “Our Bibles would certainly be poorer without it” J. Sidlow Baxter
      - b. These books have been designed to emphasize certain spiritual truths.
- D. Chronicles spans the time period from Creation to the return of Israel from captivity.
  - 1. If measured by time, it is the longest book of the Bible.
  - 2. Although Chronicles covers such a vast period:
    - a. Most is covered by genealogy rather narrative.
    - b. The majority is devoted to David and the kings of Judah
- E. Chronicles ends with the decree of Cyrus, King of Persia, allowing Israel to return to Jerusalem.
  - 1. The earliest possible date for Chronicles is 539 B.C.
  - 2. Tradition holds it was written by Ezra
    - a. Ezra begins where Chronicles ends
  - 3. Whoever the author was he had:
    - a. A vast knowledge of the Word of God
    - b. Used a variety of extra-biblical sources
      - i. Book of the Kings of Israel and Judah (2 Chronicles 27:7)
      - ii. A Midrash (commentary) on the above (2 Chronicles 27:7)
      - iii. Words, or History, of Samuel the Seer (2 Chronicles 29:29)
      - iv. Words, or History, of Gad the Seer (1 Chronicles 29:29)
      - v. Words, or History, of Nathan the Prophet (2 Chronicles 9:29)

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- vi. The Prophecy of Ahijah the Shilonite (2 Chronicles 9:29)
- vii. The Visions of Iddo the Seer (2 Chronicles 9:29)
- viii. Words, or History, of Shemaiah the Prophet (2 Chronicles 8:15)
- ix. Work of Iddo the Prophet on genealogies (2 Chronicles 12:15)
- x. A Midrash (commentary) of Iddo the Prophet (2 Chronicles 13:22)
- xi. Words, or History, of Jehu, son of Hanani (2 Chronicles 20:34)
- xii. Acts of Uzziah, by Isaiah the Prophet (2 Chronicles 26:22)
- xiii. The Vision of Isaiah the Prophet (2 Chronicles 32:32)
- xiv. Words, or History, of Hozai (or the Seers) (2 Chronicles 33:19)

## **II. Out Line of Chronicles**

These two books divide neatly into four sections.

- |              |                      |                |
|--------------|----------------------|----------------|
| 1. Section 1 | 1 Chronicles 1 – 9   | Adam to Saul   |
| 2. Section 2 | 1 Chronicles 10 – 29 | David          |
| 3. Section 3 | 2 Chronicles 1 – 9   | Solomon        |
| 4. Section 4 | 2 Chronicles 10 – 36 | Kings of Judah |

### **A. Section 1 1 Chronicles 1 – 9 Adam to Saul**

- 1. The text is dominated by genealogy and makes for very tedious reading.
- 2. However, Genealogies play a critical role in the Biblical record.
  - a. Used for land distribution
  - b. Critical to resettling after captivity
  - c. Used to recognize who was qualified to serve as a priest.
  - d. Way to recognize the promised Messiah
    - i. Seed of the woman
    - ii. Descendant of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Judah and David
- 3. There are a few portions of narrative.
  - a. One example is 1 Chronicles 4:9-10
    - i. The purpose of this narrative is to emphasize and honor prayer.
    - ii. He prayed the promises
    - iii. He sought to live out the Word

### **B. Section 2 1 Chronicles 10 – 29 David's reign**

- 1. Nineteen chapters are devoted to Israel's greatest king.
- 2. Two things catch our attention:
  - a. First – What Is Left Out
    - i. Most of his personal experiences are ignored
      - 1. No Goliath
      - 2. No flight from Saul
      - 3. No caves of Adullam
      - 4. No failure with Bathsheba
      - 5. No struggle with Absalom

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- b. Second – What Is Emphasized
    - i. While his being crowned King, forming an army, and victories are mentioned, they seem to only set the stage for his spiritual endeavors.
    - ii. He brings the Ark to Jerusalem
    - iii. Spends his efforts on the preparation for building the Temple
    - iv. 1 Chronicles 29:3 sums up his desires:  
“Moreover, because I have set my affection on the house of my God, over and above all that I have prepared for the holy house, my own special treasure of gold and silver: . . . “
  - 3. David spends his energies
    - a. Stockpiling supplies
    - b. Preparing the people for Temple worship
      - i. Priests
      - ii. Levities
      - iii. Musicians are organized into rankings
  - 4. Chapter 21 One personal story is highlighted.
    - a. Satan influences David to number Israel.
    - b. David knew their strength was in the Lord and not in the army
    - c. God struck Israel
    - d. David cried out to the Lord
    - e. Gad gives David three choices:
      - i. 3 years of famine
      - ii. 3 months of defeat in battle
      - iii. 3 days the Sword of the Lord
    - f. David chooses the Sword of the Lord
      - i. The Angel of the Lord began to strike against Judah, but stopped at the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite
      - ii. Judgment ceased there
    - g. This was symbolic, for this would be the very site of the Temple
    - h. David purchased the site of the Temple and we have the receipt in 1 Chronicles 21:24-25
    - i. This mountain is full of history
      - 1. Where Abraham offered Isaac
      - 2. Where judgment stopped
      - 3. Where Solomon built the Temple
      - 4. Where Herod built the Temple
      - 5. Where Jesus died
- C. Section 3 2 Chronicles 1 – 9 Solomon’s Reign
- 1. 1 Chronicles ends with David’s exhortation to Solomon to build the Temple.
  - 2. 2 Chronicles emphasizes only what is important to that task.
    - a. Solomon builds the Temple and its furnishings
    - b. He gathers the nation to dedicate it

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- c. Once the Temple is completed it is the hinge upon which the pages of the book turn
- 3. Terms for Temple
  - a. All-in-all the term Temple is found over 50 times in Chronicles
  - b. “Ark” is found over 40 times
  - c. “House of the Lord” is found over 100 times
- D. Section 4 2 Chronicles 10 – 36 The Kings of Judah
  - 1. Solomon’s sin led the division of the nation into Israel and Judah.
  - 2. Chronicles follows only Judah’s story
  - 3. The underlying truth is the success of the nation is contingent on their faithfulness to the Lord.

### **III. Why Study Chronicles**

- A. A condensed version of Samuel and Kings
- B. The lessons we learn
  - 1. God blesses godliness
    - a. 1 Chronicles 10:13
    - b. 2 Chronicles 28:19
    - c. 2 Chronicles 29:9
  - 2. The Word of God ignites revival
    - a. 2 Chronicles 15:8-9
    - b. 2 Chronicles 17:9-10
    - c. 2 Chronicles 30:10-11
  - 3. The importance of worship
    - a. 1 Chronicles 15:16
    - b. 1 Chronicles 16:37
    - c. 1 Chronicles 25:1
  - 4. Filled with precious promises
    - a. 2 Chronicles 6:14-15; 6:18
    - b. 2 Chronicles 7:14
    - c. 2 Chronicles 14:11
    - d. 2 Chronicles 16:9
    - e. 2 Chronicles 20:15, 17, 20
    - f. 2 Chronicles 32:8
  - 5. Filled with great examples
    - a. 1 Chronicles 19:12
    - b. 2 Chronicles 24:8