

## 1 & 2 CHRONICLES

Author: possibly Ezra

Date written: approximately 430 B.C.

First and Second Chronicles were originally one continuous work. Jewish tradition is probably correct in assuming that Ezra is the author although he is not specified by name in the book. The whole book of First Chronicles is dedicated to the life of David. It begins with the genealogy of the royal line of David before surveying key events of the reign of David. Second Chronicles begins with the reign of Solomon (chapters 1-9). While these chapters relate the grandeur of Solomon's kingdom, their primary concern is to describe the construction and dedication of the temple. The balance of Second Chronicles (chapters 10-36) is focused almost totally on the southern kingdom of Judah. The author gives a history of the Davidic dynasty with particular attention to the history of temple worship.

**Historical background:** First and Second Chronicles cover the same period of Jewish history as described in Second Samuel and First and Second Kings, though from a different perspective. While the books of Kings relate the history of Israel from the standpoint of captivity in Babylon, Chronicles presents the history of the Jews from the post-exilic standpoint. It summarizes Israel's history, emphasizing the Jewish people's spiritual heritage. The author is selective in his history telling virtually ignoring the northern kingdom. He highlights spiritual lessons teaching moral truths. David's triumphs, not his sins, are recalled, and the temple is given great prominence as the vital center of national life.

**Theme:** The theme of this book is to unify God's chosen people with a true spiritual foundation, and to trace the Davidic line. The law and the prophets, the temple and genuine worship, are crucial to Israel's continuing relationship with the Lord.

**Key verses:** Important passages included the Davidic covenant (1 Chr. 17:11-14); David's prayers (1 Chr. 16:7-36; 29:10-19); Solomon's prayer (2 Chr. 6:12-42); God's response (2 Chr. 7:12-22); Jehoshaphat's prayer (2 Chr. 20:5-12); Hezekiah faces the Assyrians (2 Chr. 32:1-23); the fall of Jerusalem (2 Chr. 36:1-21); and the decree of Cyrus king of Persia (2 Chr. 36:22-23).

### **Samuel-Kings**

Prophetic Perspective  
Political History  
Wars Prominent  
Record of Both Kingdoms  
Continuing History of the Nation  
Man's Failure  
What went wrong

### **Chronicles**

Priestly Perspective  
Spiritual History  
Temple Prominent  
Record of Southern Kingdom  
Continuity of David's Line  
God's Faithfulness  
What went right

## I CHRONICLES OUTLINE

- I. The Genealogies from Adam to Saul (Chapters 1-9)
- II. The Death of Saul (Chapter 10)
- III. The Reign of David (Chapters 11-29)

## II CHRONICLES OUTLINE

- I. The Reign of Solomon (Chapters 1-9)
- II. The Reign of the Kings of Judah (Chapters 10-36)