

Through the Bible at 30,000 Feet  
1 Chronicles | *Christmas & 1 Chronicles*  
North Center | *November 28, 2021*  
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After about 70 years in captivity in Babylon (**Jer. 29:10**), many of God's people were heading back to Jerusalem.

**Purpose:** 1–2 Chronicles was written to remind God's people of their past and to point them toward their future.

Simple Outline:

1. **Chapters 1–9** | the genealogies of the families of in the storyline of God's people, primarily focused on the line of Judah.
2. **Chapter 10** | a brief history of Israel's first king
3. **Chapters 11–29** | a *selective* history of King David's reign<sup>1</sup>
  - Chronicles has some details about David's life that we didn't read about in Kings.<sup>2</sup>
  - And there are some details in Kings that aren't recorded in Chronicles.<sup>3</sup>

But if you read through the Samuel & Kings, then most of the stories in Chronicles will be **familiar** to you. However, there are some sections of this history that are **strikingly different** than the way Samuel & Kings was written!

For example, the **first 9 chapters** are nothing but **names!** This is the perilous section of the Bible where so many noble plans of reading straight through the entire Bible collapse. If Leviticus couldn't discourage them, 1 Chronicles will!

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<sup>1</sup> I say that it's a *selective* history, but then, in reality, every history is selective. Every history book in the world has an agenda of some sort. So, one of the questions you need to ask as you read history is, "What is this author's agenda?" Nobody can record all the historical details of a story, and so the author must choose what to include and what to leave out – and that decision will be based on their agenda.

Let's take the story of Bathsheba as an example.

Q. Why would the Chronicler leave such an important story out of the history of King David?

A. Because it wasn't crucial for the purpose of the book.

- **Kings** was written to remind God's people of the reason why they were exiled into Babylon: because they were continuously disobedient to the Word of God. Therefore, the story of David & Bathsheba was an important story to include.
- **Chronicles** (on the other hand) was written to remind God's people of their rich heritage and to remind them of the supremacy and centrality of God in their life. Since the story of David's sin with Bathsheba doesn't directly serve this purpose, the author chose to leave it out.

<sup>2</sup> Like all the work that David went to in preparing for the Temple to be built

<sup>3</sup> Like his affair with Bathsheba

Most of the books we've covered so far are widely engaging because they are full of wonderful stories. But then you get to 1 Chronicles, and you run into a list of **over 900 names**.<sup>4</sup> Why spend so many chapters with names?

1. It's a great opportunity to get some ideas for baby names! It's even better if you are looking for names that are unique. If you chose to give your baby a name from 1 Chronicles, there is a good chance you would never meet another baby with that name!
2. The author is connecting the people of Judah to their history, going all the way back to Adam.

Remember: one of the major purposes of 1 Chronicles is to remind God's people who they are and where they have come from.

This brings us to the first of the three overarching lessons that we glean from 1 Chronicles:

1. **Know your history**: both the history of your *sinfulness* & the history of your *rescue* <sup>5</sup>

The Chronicler begins by connecting their story all the way back to Adam.

Q. What does that mean?

A. It means a lot of things, but one of the things it means is that they are sinners.

Whether or not they connected all the dots (and whether or not the Chronicler himself even understood the significance of their connection to Adam) Paul makes this connection abundantly clear in the NT.

Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin,  
and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned...

...

For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners...

~ **Romans 5:12**

...in Adam all die...

~ **1 Cor. 15:22**

None of us did anything to be human or to be a male or to be a female (our humanity and our biology are simply products of our conception). Likewise, we didn't do anything to be a sinner.

Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,  
And in sin my mother conceived me

~ **Psalms 51:5**

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<sup>4</sup> One commentator counted 886 male names, 25 female names, and 25 names for nations or people groups.

<sup>5</sup> Which comes at the very end of 2 Chronicles 36:22-23.

You are a human *by nature*, and you are a sinner *by nature*. We are not sinners because we sin. Rather, we sin because we are sinners.

You just don't have to teach your children to sin. They naturally figure it out at a very young age!

- **Asher** standing up in his highchair | *disobeying*
- Asher taking candy from the center of the table of the table | *stealing*
- Asher screaming his demands from his crib | *impatience*
- Asher saying that his nap was "trash" | *ungratef0ul*

Though the Chronicler doesn't spend the majority of the book on the history of their sinfulness (*that's emphasized more in the book of Kings*), but he does root their heritage in over 900 names of people whose stories are full of sin and brokenness and tragedy and mistakes and hurt and tears.

- Adam (1:1) | We know the brokenness in his story (**Gen. 3:6**).
- Seth (1:1) | Why is he listed instead of Cain or Abel?
  - Because Cain murdered Abel (**Gen. 4:8**)
  - And then turned his back on the Lord (**Gen. 4:16**)

We've also seen the brokenness in the stories of Ishmael, Abraham, Jacob, Judah, Reuben, Boaz, David, Solomon...<sup>6</sup>

But you don't have to know their stories to know that their is brokenness all of this story. Scattered throughout the book, the Chronicler just comes right out and tells us:

And they were *unfaithful* to the God of their fathers,  
and played the harlot after the gods of the peoples of the land,  
whom God had destroyed before them.  
~ **1 Chronicles 5:25**<sup>7</sup>

So Saul died for his *unfaithfulness* which he had committed against the Lord,  
because he did not keep the word of the Lord,  
and also because he consulted a medium for guidance.  
But he did not inquire of the Lord;  
therefore He killed him, and turned the kingdom over the David the son of Jesse.  
~ **1 Chronicles 10:13-14**

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<sup>6</sup> Ishmael (1:29) | Why is Ishmael listed in this genealogy? Because Abraham & Sarah didn't trust God (**Gen. 16:2**). Esau & Israel (1:34) | We know the brokenness in that relationship (**Gen. 30**). Why is Judah's genealogy listed first even though he was born 4<sup>th</sup> (**2:3**)? Because Reuben (the first born) sinned against his father Jacob – big time (**1 Chr. 5:1**). But then how does Judah end up having a family line that eventually leads to King David (2:3-15)? Through the children that he had with his daughter-in-law who he thought was a prostitute (**2:4**). How did Boaz end up getting his son, Obed (**2:12**)? Through the famine, disobedience, death, and heartbreak that brought Ruth from Moab to Bethlehem (**Ruth 1:1-22**).

<sup>7</sup> "So all Israel was recorded by genealogies, and indeed, they were inscribed in the book of the kings of Israel. But Judah was carried away captive to Babylon because of their *unfaithfulness*" (**1 Chronicles 9:1**).

From Adam (1:1) to Saul (10:13–14), their history is full of unfaithfulness. The Chronicler probably had several reasons for recording this extended genealogy, but the one reason that I want to emphasize this morning is the fact that God’s people needed to understand their past in order to live well in the present.

There’s a song by Switchfoot that goes, “Life is short, I want to live it well.”

- That is why the Chronicler gives this genealogy.

He gives this long genealogy because your history really does matter.

- Every person in your history matters. You cannot fully understand who you are without knowing:
  - the people who are part of your story.
  - where you were raised
  - and the people you grew up with
  - and the trials you went through

We live in a culture that doesn’t put much emphasis on history because we are so focused on what affects our lives right now. We don’t care about history!

- We want to know what outfit this celebrity wore yesterday or why that movie star broke up with her 15<sup>th</sup> boyfriend (within the last week).
- Give us memes or gossip or current events or sports updates – or anything but history.

That’s why social media holds such a powerful influence over this generation: it’s all about the “right here, right now.”<sup>8</sup> I can’t speak for all the other countries of the world, but here in America we are raising a generation that knows all about pop culture but has no idea who they are.

- Why has the LGBTQ+ have such a massive platform today?
  - We don’t know who we are.<sup>9</sup>

**1 Chronicles** is like a letter to the returning exiles:

*Dear Judah,*

*God is bringing you back to the Promised Land, but you won't have any idea "why" He is bringing you back or "what" He is calling you to do or "where" you are supposed to live or "who" He has created you to be if you don't first understand your history - all of it.*

It’s only been in the last 3 years that I have begun to realize how important it is to reckon with the people and the events of your past.

- I spent the first decade of my marriage essentially ignoring my past, which meant that I basically just continued to relive my past over and over again.

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<sup>8</sup> This is what is known as “chronological snobbery” – which is the belief that the only thing that really matters is what’s happening in my life, right here, right now.

<sup>9</sup> Doubtless there are also many other viable answers to this question, but this is certainly one of them.

- You've heard the phrase, "***If you don't know your history, you are bound to repeat it.***" Now, there's some scholarly debate as to where that phrase comes from and what exactly the original author meant when he wrote it, but regardless, there is certainly an element of truth to it.
- For the first decade of my adulthood, I wanted to pretend as though there was nothing painful or broken about my past. In order to do that, I had to pretend as though people hadn't hurt me and that I hadn't hurt other people...which meant that a lot of sin and hurt and brokenness just got buried in my heart.
- I thought I could pursue a better future without reckoning with my past, and my blindness caused a lot of damage to everybody I loved – most especially to my wife.

The point is this: the people and the stories of your history really matter, and you simply must look at them before you can look at what God wants to do with your future.<sup>10</sup>

That brings us to a second theme in 1 Chronicles:

## 2. **Know that God is sovereign over your history.**

If you have every read through the second half of **1 Chronicles** (*or any other book in the Bible for that matter*), one of the inescapable realities you see is that God is sovereign over all of history.

- Why did Saul die in battle? Because the Lord killed him (**1 Chr. 10:13–14**).
- Why was David anointed as king? Because God decreed it (**11:3; 17:7**).
- Why did David become great? Because the Lord was with him (**11:9**).
- Why did Israel defeat the Philistines? Because the Lord brought about the victory (**11:14**).
- Why couldn't David's enemies defeat him? Because the Lord persevered David wherever he went (**17:8; 18:6, 13**).

And we could keep going.<sup>11</sup> The theme of God's sovereignty over all of history is all over 1 Chronicles. And it's all over the rest of the Bible.

Even when it seems like Satan is wreaking havoc in our lives, God is still sovereign.

**Now Satan stood up against Israel, and moved David to number Israel.  
~ 1 Chronicles 21:1**

But just a couple of weeks ago, we read a very different version of this story in **2 Samuel 24**.

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<sup>10</sup> As the people of God, it's only when we understand the sinfulness in our story that we cherish the rescue in our story. If you don't know the story of your sin, your heart will never feel its need for the Savior. And if you don't know the story of your Savior, your heart will never know the freedom from sin.

<sup>11</sup> There was a sovereign reason why Solomon followed David and that he would go on to build the Temple (**17:11–12; 28:10**). There was a sovereign reason why Solomon had such a magnificent kingdom during his lifetime (**29:25**).

Again the anger of the Lord was aroused against Israel, and He moved David against them to say,  
“Go, number Israel and Judah.”  
~ 2 Samuel 24:1

Is that a contradiction? No. Not if you understand the sovereignty of God. God meant to punish Israel for their rebellion, and so He used Satan’s scheming and David’s sin as a divinely ordained means of punishing Israel.

And we see Him doing this all the time.

Who sold Joseph to Egypt as a slave?

- His brothers? Yes (Gen. 37:26–28), and no...

And God sent me before you to preserve a posterity for you in the earth,  
and to save your lives by a great deliverance.  
So now it was **not you** who sent me here, **but God;**  
and He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house,  
and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt.  
~ Genesis 45:7–8

Whose hand was behind the destruction of all that Job owned?

- The Sabeans and Chaldeans (Job 1:15, 17)? Satan (1:12)? Yes, and no...

The Job arose, tore his robe, and shaved his head;  
And he fell to the ground and worshiped,  
And he said:  
“Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked shall I return there.  
The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away;  
Blessed be the name of the Lord.”  
~ Job 1:20–21

**Q.** What do we mean when we talk about the sovereignty of God?

**A.** We mean that He has all power and all authority over all things at all times – which is what we hear David saying at the end of the book:

Blessed are You, Lord God of Israel, our Father, forever and ever.  
Yours, Lord, is the greatness,  
The power and the glory, the victory and the majesty,  
for all that is in heaven and in earth his Yours;  
Yours is the kingdom, Lord, and you are exalted as head over all.  
...  
For all things come from You...  
~ 1 Chronicles 29:11–12, 14

Church, there is not a star in the heavens, a song in your head, or a scar in your heart that is out of place. Every moment of your history has been orchestrated by a wise and good and loving God.

Whether the names & the stories of your history bring *pleasant* memories or *painful* memories, God has orchestrated **all** the footprints of your life to make you who you are today – and the reason He has made you the person you are today is so that you might glorify Him in a way that no other person in the history of the world could do.

If you haven't grown up with this kind of theology, then this teaching of the sovereignty of God can be really hard to swallow initially. It raises so many questions – questions that are painful. Oh how I hated this teaching when I first came across it in college.

- My dad lost his mom on Christmas Eve when he was only 17 years old. Was God sovereign over that?
- Was God sovereign over the hijackers who crashed into the Twin Tower, killing nearly 3,000 people?
- Was God sovereign over Hurricane Katrina as it took the lives of nearly 2,000 people?
- Was God sovereign over the Liberian Civil War that took the lives of around 200,000 Liberians?
- Was God sovereign when my friends and family lost their job or lost all their worldly belongings in a house fire or were sexually abused or raped or committed suicide or lost their marriage or couldn't get pregnant or had to flee their country due to war?

But the older I get, the more I love it as one of the greatest truths in the universe. Because it means that none of my suffering is meaningless. None of my tears. None of my brokenness. None of my mistakes. None of my sinful rebellion. Not a single moment in my story is meaningless, because God is sovereign and good (in ways that I will never comprehend), and I have seen Him working all these things together for good – just as He promised He would (**Rom. 8:28**).

Finally

### 3. **Know that all of history is pointing to Jesus.**

1 Chronicles starts with Adam (**1:1**) and ends with the anointing of the Son of David (**29:21–25**), which is exactly how the story of every Christian begins and ends!

The Bible rightly gives many names to Jesus, because His is “*the name that is above every name*” (**Phil. 2:9**), and there are two names that I want you to see before we close:

1. First, He is called “*the last Adam*.”

And so it is written,  
“The first man Adam became a living being,”  
The last Adam became a life-giving spirit.  
~ **1 Cor. 15:45**

Or again in **verses 21–22** it says...

For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead.  
For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.  
~ **1 Cor. 15:21–22**

We are going to close our worship this morning by singing about “*the true and better Adam*”, and this (*this truth in 1 Corinthians*) is what we are celebrating.

- Adam was the first of the old creation, and (*through the miracle of Christmas*) Jesus became the first of the new creation.
- All the ways that Adam failed in the first creation, Jesus fulfilled in the new creation.
  - The first Adam received the gift of life
    - But the second Adam had the power to give life.
  - Through the first Adam, death came into the world
    - But through the second Adam, we have the promise of resurrection
  - Because of the first Adam, death entered the story
    - But through the second Adam, we have life.

2. Second, He is called “*the Son of David*”<sup>12</sup>

Then the multitudes who went before and those who followed cried out, saying:

“Hosanna to the **Son of David!**”

“*Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!*”

Hosanna in the highest!”

~ **Matthew 21:9**

- Solomon was the son of David who was called by God to build the Temple, but that Temple was eventually destroyed.
  - Jesus is the Son of David who became the Temple, and He came to give us a Temple that would never be destroyed.

So the Jews answered and said to Him,

“What sign do You show to us, since You do these things?”

Jesus answered and said to them,

“Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”

Then the Jews said,

“It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?”

But He was speaking of the temple of His body.

~ **John 2:18–21**

- God promised David that He would establish the kingdom and the throne of his son forever (**1 Chr. 17:11–14**), and while it seemed that Solomon was going to be that son, Solomon’s kingdom was ripped apart, and his throne was eventually destroyed.
  - But there was another seed of David whose throne is established forever and whose kingdom has never been destroyed.
  - And we celebrate the birthday of this Son of David every Christmas.

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<sup>12</sup> Matt. 9:27; 12:23; 15:22; 20:30–31; 21:9, 15; 22:42



Know your history. Know that God is sovereign of your history. And know that all of history is pointing to the One we celebrate on Christmas: the better Adam, the better Solomon, the King of Kings, the Messiah, Jesus Christ.