

The Book of SECOND CHRONICLES

Chapters 1 – 3

“The Heart of Prayer”

> **Date of writing:** 5th Century B.C.

> **Author:** Unknown

> **Theme:** The Kingdom of Judah (The rise, the reformations, the revivals, and its ruin.)

> **Key Verses:** **2 Chronicles 7:14-16** - *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 will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land. Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayers offered in this place. I have chosen and consecrated this temple so that my Name may be there forever. My eyes and my heart will always be there.* **2 Chronicles 16:9-10** - *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. In this you have done foolishly; therefore from now on you shall have wars."*

> **Key Chapter:** **Chapter 34** reveals a powerful revival when the *Book of the Law* is found, read and obeyed during the reign of King Josiah.

> **Book divisions:** **I) Chapters 1—9** - The reign of Solomon, with the building and dedication of the Temple. (Chapters 1—9 cover 40 years, 971 B.C. to 931 B.C.)

II) Chapters 10—36 - The history of Judah from the reign of Rehoboam to the destruction of Jerusalem and the captivity. (Chapters 1—36 cover 393 years, 931 B.C. to 538 B.C.)

> **Interesting insight:** One commentator writes, “Ultimately the throne of David will be destroyed, but the line of David will remain. Murders, treachery, battles, and captivity all threaten the messianic line; but it remains clear and unbroken from Adam to Zerubbabel. The fulfillment in Christ can be seen in the genealogies of Matthew 1 and Luke 3. The temple also prefigures Christ. Jesus, says, “*in this place there is One greater than the temple*” (Matt. 12:6). He also likens His body to the temple: “*Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up*” (John 2:19). In Revelation 21:22 He replaces the temple: “*But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.*””

Chapter 1- “The Heart of Prayer”

> There are two keys to having the right heart for prayer:

(v1-6) **Key #1 - Solomon’s Worship** - “**Loving God with Heart, mind, soul & strength**”

(v7-10) **Key #2 - Solomon’s Prayer** - “**Loving others as himself**” (*Now give me wisdom and knowledge, that I may go out and come in before this people; for who can judge this great people of Yours?*” (2 Chronicles 1:10))

> **There's three key elements to this prayer:**

#1- His prayer was for the benefit of **others**.

#2- His prayer recognized that the people belonged to **God**, not himself.

#3- His prayer was for proper **judgment**. (Equity, equality, justice.)

(v11-12) **God’s response to Solomon’s prayer:** *God said to Solomon: "Because this was in your heart, and you have not asked riches or wealth or honor or the life of your enemies, nor have you asked long life--but have asked wisdom and knowledge for yourself, that you may judge My people over whom I have made you king-- wisdom and knowledge are granted to you; and I will give you riches and wealth and honor, such as none of the kings have had who were before you, nor shall any after you have the like."* (2 Chronicles 1:11-12)

> **God's compliment to Solomon:**

#1- Because you did not ask for *riches or wealth* – **Materialism** (Jesus said in **Matt 6:19-21; 24** - *"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.)*)

#2- Because you did not ask for *honor*- **Glory**

#3- Because you did not ask for *the life of your enemies* - **Power**

#4- Because you did not ask for *long life* – **Self-will**

> **God's blessing to Solomon:**

#1- ***Wisdom & knowledge are granted!***

#2- ***Bonus blessing- riches, wealth & honor***

(New Testament example of an excellent prayer: Colossians 1:9-14)

(v13-17) Observe Solomon's multitude of blessings.

Chapter 2- "Building a Temple for the Name of the LORD"

(v1-2) Solomon's determination

(v3-10) Solomon's dealings & dedication - His letter describes the character of God:

(v4a) The name of the LORD my God - Jehovah, YHWH, I AM WHO I AM (Ex. 3:14)

– God is **Omniscient** (All knowing!)

(v4b) Our God is to be worshiped, our dedication to Him

(v5) He is the greatest God – Omnipotent (All powerful!)

(v6) He is Omnipresent (All present!)

Just a reminder - Phil 2:5-11- *Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

(v11-16) Hiram testifies of God's love and answers Solomon's request.

Chapter 3- "Time to Build"

(v1-2) The place: Mount Moriah (*Jehovah provides*) - The name of two sites in the Old Testament:

1. A land to which God commanded Abraham to take his only son Isaac and to offer him as a burnt offering on one of the mountains. The mountains of this land were a three-day journey from Beersheba and were visible from a great distance (**Gen 22:2,4**).

2. The hill at Jerusalem where Solomon built "*the house of the Lord*," the Temple. Originally this was the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite (**2 Chron 3:1**), also called Araunah the Jebusite (**2 Sam 24:16-24**), where God appeared to David. David purchased the threshing floor from Ornan (**1 Chron 21:15-22:1**), and built an altar on the site. It was left to David's son (Solomon) to build the Temple.

The Jews believe the altar of burnt offering in the Temple at Jerusalem was situated on the exact site of the altar on which Abraham intended to sacrifice Isaac. To them the two Mount Moriahs mentioned in the Bible are identical. The Muslim mosque, the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem, presently is situated on this site. (from Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary)

- Time: 2nd day, 2nd month & fourth year of Solomon's reign.

(v3-17) The Temple description. (Jachin means "*He shall establish*" and Boaz means "*In it is strength*" (cf. 1 Kin. 7:21).)

