

The Book of FIRST CHRONICLES

Introduction & Chapters 1 – 9

Intro: The books of First & Second Chronicles cover the same period of Jewish history described in Second Samuel through Second Kings but the perspective of Chronicles is different. These books are no mere repetition of the same material, but rather are a divine editorial on the history of God's people. While Second Samuel and Kings give political history of Israel and Judah, Chronicles gives a religious history of the Davidic dynasty of Judah. The former were written from a prophetic and moral viewpoint, the latter from a priestly and spiritual perspective. The Book of First Chronicles begins with the line of David, then traces the spiritual significance of David's righteous reign.

Author: Although the text does not identify the author, several facts seem to support the tradition in the Jewish Talmud that Ezra the priest was the author. Chronicles is quite similar in style to the Book of Ezra, and both share a priestly perspective: genealogies, temple worship, ministry of the priesthood, and obedience to the law of God. In Addition, the closing verses of Second Chronicles (36:22-23) are repeated with minor changes as the opening verses of Ezra (1:1-3). Thus, Chronicles and Ezra may have been one consecutive history as were Luke and Acts.

Date: The genealogies in chapters 1—9 cover the time from Adam to David, and chapters 10—29 focus on the thirty-three years of David's rule over the united kingdoms of Israel and Judah (1004-971B.C.). However, the genealogies extend to about 500B.C., as seen in the mention of Zerubbabel, grandson of King Jeconiah, who leads the first return of the Jews from exile in 538 B.C., and also Zerubbabel's two grandsons Pelatiah and Jesaiah (3:21). Ezra probably completed Chronicles between 450 and 430B.C. and addressed it to the returned Remnant.

Theme: Chronicles traces Israel's lineage back to the dawn of the human race and forward to the end of the Babylonian captivity to reveal God's faithfulness and continuing purpose for His people. Chronicles emphasizes the role of the Law, the priesthood, and the temple.

Key Word: Davidic Covenant

Key Verses: **1 Chron 17:11-14-** *And it shall be, when your days are fulfilled, when you must go to be with your fathers, that I will set up your seed after you, who will be of your sons; and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build Me a house, and I will establish his throne forever. I will be his Father, and he shall be My son; and I will not take My mercy away from him, as I took it from him who was before you. And I will establish him in My house and in My kingdom forever; and his throne shall be established forever." **1 Chron 29:11-** *Yours, O LORD, is the greatness, the power and the glory, the victory and the majesty; for all that is in heaven and in earth is Yours; Yours is the kingdom, O LORD, and You are exalted as head over all.**

Christ in Chronicles: The tribe of Judah is placed first in the national genealogy in First Chronicles because the monarchy, temple, and Messiah (Gen. 49:10) will come from this tribe. Since the books of Chronicles are the last books of the Hebrew Bible, the genealogies in chapters 1—9 are a preamble to the genealogy of Christ in the first book of the New Testament.

Review & Comparison

Samuel & Kings

- Israel's history from the united kingdom to the two captivities.
- Political history
- Prophetic ministry & moral concerns.
- Message of judgment
- Man's failings
- Emphasizes kings & prophets

Chronicles

- Focuses on the Southern Kingdom & the Davidic line.
- Religious history
- Priestly ministry & spiritual concerns.
- Message of hope
- God's faithfulness
- Emphasizes the temple & the priests.

Outline: **Royal line of David (Chapters 1—9)**
Reign of David (Chapters 10—29)¹

¹ Bruce Wilkinson & Kenneth Boa, Talk Thru The Bible, pg. 99-102

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Introduction & Chapters 1 – 9

Chapter 1- Genealogy from Adam to Abraham

(v1-4) Genealogy from Adam to Noah

(v5-27) Genealogy from Noah to Abraham

- Sons of Japheth (v5-7)
- Sons of Ham (v8-16)
- Sons of Shem (v17-27)

(v28-34) Genealogy from Abraham to Issac

(v35-54) Genealogy from Isaac to Jacob

Chapter 2- The Genealogy from Jacob to David

(v1-2) Genealogy of the Sons of Jacob

(v3-55) Genealogy of the Sons of Judah

Chapter 3- The Genealogy from David to the Captivity

(v1-9) Genealogy of the Sons of David

(v10-24) Genealogy of the Sons of Solomon

Chapter 4 through Chapter 8- The Genealogies of the Twelve Tribes

4:1-23- Genealogy of Judah

((v9-10) Prayer of Jabez – 5 keys: (1) Call on the GOD of Israel; (2) Ask for God's BLESSING; (3) Enlarge my TERRITORY (let's say my heart for the unsaved); (4) That Your HAND would be with me (to fulfill your WILL, to make DISCIPLES); (5) Keep me from EVIL, that I may not cause pain! (“*So God granted him what he requested.*”)

4:24-43- Genealogy of Simeon

5:1-10- Genealogy of Reuben

5:11-22- Genealogy of Gad

5:23-26- Genealogy of Manasseh

6:1-81- Genealogy of Levi

- (v1-15) The High Priestly Line
- (v16-30) The Levitical Line
- (v31-48) The Musicians' Guild
- (v49-53) The Generations of Aaron
- (v54-81) Cities of the Priests and Levites

7:1-5- Genealogy of Issachar

7:6-12- Genealogy of Benjamin

7:13- Genealogy of Naphtali

7:14-19- Genealogy of Manasseh

7:20-29- Genealogy of Ephraim

7:30-40- Genealogy of Asher

8:1-40- Genealogy of Benjamin

Chapter 9- The Genealogy of the Remnant

(v1-9) Genealogy of the Twelve Tribes Who Returned

(v10-13) Genealogy of the Priests Who Returned

(v14-34) Genealogy of the Levites Who Returned

(v35-44) Genealogy of Saul