

#11. THE BOOKS OF CHRONICLES

1. **Chronicles is the story of events in Israel's monarchy.** In our English Bible, it is divided into two books, First and Second Chronicles. The account was considered one book in the earliest Hebrew manuscripts, but was divided into two books when the translation of the book into Greek occurred (200BC). The Latin Vulgate (400AD) is the source for the name *Chronicles*, which is the shortened version of *The Chronicles of Entire Sacred History*.
2. **The author, according to strong Jewish tradition, is Ezra** (Ezra 7:1-6).
3. **The Date:** Chronicles ends with events of 586BC. The compilation was probably written around 450BC, possible as late as 400BC.

4. Key Chapters

- 1 Chronicles
 - o Chapters 1:1-9:44 - is the genealogical record of Israel.
 - o Chapters 10:1-29:30 - is the story of King David.
- 2 Chronicles
 - o Chapters 1:1-9:31 - is the story of King Solomon.
 - o Chapters 10:1- 36:23 - is the history of the Southern Kingdom (Judah).

5. Key Verses

- **1 Chronicles 14:2 NASB** And David realized that the Lord had established him as king over Israel, *and* that his kingdom was highly exalted, for the sake of His people Israel.
- **1 Chronicles 17:9-15 NASB** I will appoint a place for My people Israel, and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and not be moved again; and the wicked will not waste them anymore as formerly, ¹⁰even from the day that I commanded judges *to be* over My people Israel. And I will subdue all your enemies. Moreover, I tell you that the

Lord will build a house for you. ¹¹When your days are fulfilled that you must go *to be* with your fathers, that I will set up *one of* your descendants after you, who will be of your sons; and I will establish his kingdom. ¹²He shall build for Me a house, and I will establish his throne forever. ¹³I will be his father and he shall be My son; and I will not take My loving kindness away from him, as I took it from him who was before you. ¹⁴But I will settle him in My house and in My kingdom forever, and his throne shall be established forever.””
¹⁵According to all these words and according to all this vision, so Nathan spoke to David.

- **2 Chronicles 7:1-3 NASB** Now when Solomon had finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and the glory of the Lord filled the house. ²The priests could not enter into the house of the Lord because the glory of the Lord filled the Lord’s house. ³All the sons of Israel, seeing the fire come down and the glory of the Lord upon the house, bowed down on the pavement with their faces to the ground, and they worshiped and gave praise to the Lord, *saying*, “Truly He is good, truly His lovingkindness is everlasting.”

- **2 Chronicles 7:12-18 NASB** Then the Lord appeared to Solomon at night and said to him, “I have heard your prayer and have chosen this place for Myself as a house of sacrifice. ¹³If I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or if I command the locust to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among My people, ¹⁴and My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin and will heal their land. ¹⁵Now My eyes will be open and My ears attentive to the prayer *offered* in this place. ¹⁶For now I have chosen and consecrated this house that My name may be there forever, and My eyes and My heart will be there perpetually. ¹⁷As for you, if you walk before Me as your father David walked, even to do according to all that I have commanded you, and will keep My statutes and My ordinances, ¹⁸then I will establish your royal throne as I covenanted with your father David, saying, ‘You shall not lack a man *to be* ruler in Israel.’

- **2 Chronicles 26:4, 5 NASB** He (Uzziah) did right in the sight of the Lord according to all that his father Amaziah had done. ⁵He continued to seek God in the days of Zechariah, who had understanding through the vision of God; and as long as he sought the Lord, God prospered him.

- **2 Chronicles 30:26, 27 NASB** So there was great joy in Jerusalem, because there was nothing like this in Jerusalem since the days of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel. ²⁷Then the Levitical priests arose and blessed the people; and their voice was heard and their prayer came to His holy dwelling place, to heaven.

- **2 Chronicles 34:31-33 NASB** Then the king stood in his place and made a covenant before the Lord to walk after the Lord, and to keep His commandments and His testimonies and His statutes with all his heart and with all his soul, to perform the words of the covenant written in this book. ³²Moreover, he made all who were present in Jerusalem and Benjamin to stand *with him*. So the inhabitants of Jerusalem did according to the covenant of God, the God of their fathers. ³³Josiah removed all the abominations from all the lands belonging

to the sons of Israel, and made all who were present in Israel to serve the Lord their God. Throughout his lifetime they did not turn from following the Lord God of their fathers.

6. Key People

- **David** - Israel's second King
- **Solomon** - son of David; third King of Israel
- **The Kings of Judah**

7. Key Places

- **Judah** - the tribes of Judah and part of Benjamin remained loyal to the House of David. They were known as the nation of Judah.
- **Jerusalem** - the capital city of Judah; the focal point in Jewish worship
- **Samaria** - the capital city of Israel
- **The Temple in Jerusalem**

8. Key Themes

- **Covenant** - special attention is paid to God's monarchical promises to David and Solomon. The ultimate fulfillment of this promise will be through the Return of Christ.
- **The Presence of God in the Temple** - Israel learned that Jehovah would represent Himself to them in a special way by the symbolism and His Presence associated with the Temple in Jerusalem.
- **Reformation** - though the heart of the people may wander, God always called them back to Himself in moments of repentance and revival. Some of the greatest revivals in history are recorded in the Chronicles account.

9. The Contents of Chronicles

- Selective Genealogical Records of Israel (1 Chronicles 1:9-34)
 - o From Adam to the days before David (1:1-2:55)
 - o From David to the Captivity of Judah (3:1-24)
 - o Information concerning the Twelve Tribes of Israel (4:1-9:1)
 - o Information concerning the families of Jerusalem (9:2-34)

- The Rise of David (1 Chronicles 9:35-12:40)
 - o Saul's family and death (9:35-10:14)
 - o David's selection as king (11:1-3)
 - o The conquest of Jerusalem (11:4-9)
 - o David's Warriors (11:10-12:40)

- The Reign of David (1 Chronicles 13:1-29:30)
 - o The Ark of the Covenant (13:1-16:43)
 - o The Covenant with David (17:1-27)
 - o Selected military campaigns (18:1-21:30)
 - o Preparations for the building of the Temple (22:1-29:20)
 - o The transfer of power to Solomon (29:21-30)

- The Reign of Solomon (2 Chronicles 1:1-9:31)
 - o The coronation of Solomon (1:1-17)

- o The building of The Temple (2:1-7:22)
- o Characteristics of Solomon's reign (8:1-9:28)
- o Solomon's death (9:29-31)
- The Reigns of the Kings of Judah (10:1-36:21)
 - o Rehoboam (10:1-12:16)
 - o Abijah (13:1-22)
 - o Asa (14:1-16:14)
 - o Jehoshaphat (17:1-21:3)
 - o Jehoram (21:4-20)
 - o Ahaziah (22:1-9)
 - o Queen Athaliah (22:10-23:21)
 - o Joash (24:1-27)
 - o Amaziah (25:1-28)
 - o Uzziah (26:1-23)
 - o Jotham (27:1-9)
 - o Ahaz (28:1-27)
 - o Hezekiah (29:1-32:33)
 - o Manasseh (33:1-20)

- o Amon (33:21-25)
- o Josiah (34:1-35:27)
- o Jehoahaz (36:1-4)
- o Jehoiakim (36:5-8)
- o Jehoiachin (36:9,10)
- o Zedekiah (36:11-21)
- Cyrus' Proclamation of Return (36:22,23)

Worth noting

- In Chronicles, we have the account of great revivals under Asa, Jehoshaphat, Joash, Hezekiah, and Josiah.

When reading Chronicles

- Remember the emphasis is on the southern kingdom of Judah.
- The Temple, revivals, and covenantal promises are featured.
- Remember the author is writing during a period of restoration and return from the Exile.