

# 1 & 2 CHRONICLES

## STUDY GUIDE

### AUTHOR

The text does not reveal who authored the book, though Jewish tradition and many scholars attribute the book to **Ezra**. The closing verses of 2 Chronicles are repeated as the opening verses of Ezra (2 Chron. 36:22-23; Ezra 1:1-3), which may indicate Ezra authored both, or that Ezra was a consecutive work to Chronicles. Similar themes in Chronicles and Ezra also point to the possibility of Ezra as the author. Ezra, as priest, scribe, and leader of a returning group of exiles would certainly have the knowledge of Old Testament scripture and the exile perspective to write such a work.

However, more recent scholarship has raised questions about Ezra as the author of both works. Genealogies within 1 Chronicles argue for a completion date of about 400 B.C., which if Ezra was in his forties upon returning to Jerusalem from exile (458 B.C.), that would make him nearly 100 years old when writing Chronicles. While not impossible, somewhat unlikely. For this and other reasons, most scholars agree that Chronicles (and possibly Ezra and Nehemiah) were written by an anonymous individual whom they refer to as "**The Chronicler**." What is certain is that the Chronicler, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, drew from multiple sources to write Chronicles and mentions them throughout the book, but pulls much information from Samuel and Kings.

### DATE

1 & 2 Chronicles really must be looked at as part of a larger work, since its original Hebrew form included 1 & 2 Chronicles, and some believe Ezra and Nehemiah as well. There are two main items mentioned within the text that help us narrow down the time of writing, though exact timing cannot be established with all certainty.

- The last event mentioned in 2 Chronicles is the decree by the Persian king, Cyrus, allowing Jews to return to Judah (2 Chron. 36:22-23). This event took place around 538 B.C., so the book would have been composed following that event.
- However, genealogies in 1 Chronicles include Anani, an 8<sup>th</sup> generation descendant of King Jehoiachin (1 Chron. 3:24). Assuming generations are measured as roughly 25 years, Anani would have been born somewhere between 425-400 B.C.

Therefore, we can assume Chronicles was completed somewhere around **400 B.C.**

### BASIC INFORMATION

It is easy to think of Chronicles as a duplication of information from Samuel and Kings. However, doing so causes one to miss key differences and minimize the importance of Chronicles to the fullness of God's Word. Chronicles is not a repeat of Samuel-Kings, but a supplement to and different perspective upon those similar events. One of the most important differences to note is that where Samuel and Kings were written to exiles in bondage to explain why they ended up there, Chronicles is written to those returning from exile for purposes of remembrance and encouragement – basically to remember the "good ol' days" while giving hope for the future through God's sovereignty and covenant promises.

© 2024 Global Outreach Foundation. All rights reserved.

Permission is granted to reproduce or download for personal and non-commercial educational and/or religious purposes.  
Any other use requires written permission.

In many ways, Chronicles offers the first commentary of Old Testament scripture, giving a priestly interpretation of Israel's history while offering pastoral hope that exile is not the end of the story.

**1 CHRONICLES** technically covers Israel's history from Adam to the death of David in 971 B.C. The genealogies play an important role of reminding Israel of their roots, especially the unity of Israel made up of its 12 tribes. The first 9 chapters also serve as an "historical shorthand" of sorts, reminding the Jews of important individuals and the stories surrounding their lives. Where we see a list of names, readers of that time would have seen mental triggers for stories of God's deliverance, their failings, and everything in between, with a special focus upon David and the hope for a messianic king like him who would restore the Temple.

The remainder of 1 Chronicles hones in on David, telling many of the stories featured in 2 Samuel. Yet, there are stark things missing in the Chronicles account. Be on the lookout for what has been omitted (1 Chron. 20) and what has been added (1 Chron. 15-16, 22-29) to the story of David. It will give insight to The Chronicler's perspective.

### **1 Chronicles – Line & Reign of David**

Part One: Royal Line of David (ch. 1-9)

*Interlude: Kingship of Saul to David (9:35-10:14)*

Part Two: Reign of David (ch. 10-29)

**2 CHRONICLES** begins with King Solomon's reign (around 971 B.C.) and covers to the end of the exile (around 538 B.C.). The emphasis of this portion of scripture is on Israel's spiritual heritage, namely Solomon, the temple, and the priesthood. Similar to 1 Chronicles, key elements are missing in the Chronicles account (see 1 Kings 11; 2 Chron. 7-9). Rather than Israel featured as a whole, the lens is now upon Judah, with most kings viewed positively and limited mentions of the northern kingdom.

### **2 Chronicles – Solomon and Selected Kings of Judah**

Part One: Reign of Solomon (ch. 1-9)

Part Two: Review of Selected Kings of Judah (ch. 10-36)

## HINTS FOR READING 1 & 2 CHRONICLES

- Focus on the bigger lessons to be learned from the stories and individual lives.
- Think about why The Chronicler portrays things the way he does. What is the purpose of not telling some things, adding new elements, or portraying Judah in a positive light? What purpose would that serve for the returning exiles and what would it teach them about God?

SAMUEL - KINGS	CHRONICLES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Prophetic Perspective</li><li>• Political History</li><li>• Wars Prominent</li><li>• Record of Both Nations</li><li>• Continuing History of Nation</li><li>• Man's Failure</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Priestly Perspective</li><li>▪ Religious History</li><li>▪ Temple Prominent</li><li>▪ Record of Judah</li><li>▪ Continuity of David's Line</li><li>▪ God's Faithfulness</li></ul>

## 1 CHRONICLES STUDY SHEET

### OBSERVATION WORDS

- God, Jesus, Holy Spirit
- All Israel
- Ark of the Lord
- Covenant
- Kingdom
- House/Temple of God/Lord

### SUMMARY QUESTIONS

- What did the **Lord teach YOU** through what you read?
- Where/how is **Jesus & the Holy Spirit** represented?
- What do you learn about the **character of God**?

- Several things are omitted in 1 Chronicles which are covered in 2 Samuel. Look up the following verses & identify these and other omissions you discover. Why do you think this is?
  - 2 Sam. 6:20-23
  
  - 2 Sam. 9
  
  - 2 Sam. 11
  
  - Other omissions –
  
- 1 Chronicles also has added events. Here are a few to look up & identify. Why add these?
  - 1 Chron. 12
  
  - 1 Chron. 22
  
  - 1 Chron. 29
  
  - Other additions –
  
- Look up the following verses and explain what you learn from them to apply to your own life.
  - 1 Chron. 5:20-22
  
  - 1 Chron. 9:1 (second half of verse); 10:13-14

- 1 Chron. 13:7-14; 15:11-15
  
- 1 Chron. 14:8-17
  
- 1 Chron. 28:7-10
  
- 1 Chron. 29:9, 14

**KEY WORD** – How would you summarize what you’ve read into one word or very short phrase? Why did you choose that?

**KEY VERSE(S) & CHAPTER** – May reflect something which stood out to you or helps summarize the book. So, what are they and why?

## **2 CHRONICLES STUDY SHEET**

- This book covers from the time of Solomon – the end of the Exile (971-538 B.C.)
- The book was written to exiles who had returned to Jerusalem.
- 2 Chronicles emphasizes the spiritual heritage of the temple, Solomon, and the priesthood.

### **OBSERVATION WORDS**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| ▪ <b>God, Jesus, Holy Spirit</b>       | ▪ <b>Humble yourselves / Return</b>       |
| ▪ <b>Temple</b>                        | ▪ <b>Pray / Cry out / Sought the Lord</b> |
| ▪ <b>Ark of the Lord</b>               | ▪ <b>Hear (as in the Lord hearing)</b>    |
| ▪ <b>Covenant</b>                      | ▪ <b>Evil / Good in the Lord’s sight</b>  |
| ▪ <b>Inquire / Ask / Seek the Lord</b> |   |

© 2024 Global Outreach Foundation. All rights reserved.

Permission is granted to reproduce or download for personal and non-commercial educational and/or religious purposes.  
Any other use requires written permission.

## SUMMARY QUESTIONS

- What did the **Lord teach YOU** through this book & how will you apply it in your life?
  
- Where/how is **Jesus** & the **Holy Spirit** represented?
  
- What do you learn about the **character of God**?
  
- What do you notice about how the book begins and how it ends? (Hint: the temple)
  
- How does 2 Chronicles differ in the portrayal of the following individuals?
  - King Solomon
  
  
  - King Manasseh
  
- Look up the following passages and identify what resulted in God's glory, favor, and blessing drawing closer.
  - 1:7-12
  
  
  - 6:12-42
  
  
  - 8:11-16
  
  
  - 15:1-19
  
  
  - 34:19-28

- For what reasons does God withdraw His glory, favor, and blessing?
  - 16:1-10
  
  - 22:1-4
  
  - 24:15-22
  
  - 26:16-23
  
  - 33:1-10

**KEY WORD** – How would you summarize what you’ve read into one word or very short phrase? Why did you choose that?

**KEY VERSE(S) & CHAPTER** – May reflect something which stood out to you or helps summarize the book. So, what are they and why?