

2 Chronicles

The Key Again	When Chronicles was written is just as important as the contents. It was written <u>after</u> Babylonian captivity when Israel was back in the Promised Land. Just as the movement of 1 Chronicles was motivational and designed to get the people of God thinking about doing the things that would bring about the coming of the Messiah (i.e., building the temple), 2 Chronicles is equally motivational, focusing <u>almost</u> entirely on the Southern Kingdom of Judah, the kingdom of the promise (the scepter shall not depart). The chronicler is essentially saying “there is hope for us because of what God has promised.”
Time Period of 2 Chronicles	The narratorial section of 1 Chronicles covers the life of David. 2 Chronicles starts with the reign of Solomon and concludes with the Babylonian Exile. So the pattern looks like this: Solomon → Divided Kingdom (focusing mostly on Judah) → End of Judah to Babylonian Captivity (but the Promise still remains).
What the Chronicler Emphasizes	One of the most notable features of 2 Chronicles is what the Chronicler (assumedly Ezra) chooses to put in and leave out concerning the kings of Judah. Emphasis is given to Judah’s spiritual reformers who zealously sought to turn the people back to God. Not much is said about the bad kings of Judah because doing so would defeat the Chronicler’s purpose for writing (there is hope for us because of what God has promised). Equally, when the Chronicler examines the good kings of Judea, he doesn’t emphasize the failures of the good kings. Only the good aspects are stressed.
What About the Northern Kingdom?	The Northern Kingdom of Israel is rarely mentioned because of her false worship (Construction of High Places) and her refusal to acknowledge the Temple of Jerusalem. The Chronicler doesn’t spend much time speaking about the Northern Kingdom because found no hope for the people of God through such actions.
Foreshadowing(s)	In 2 Chronicles, there is a focus on Solomon’s Temple and the Kings of Judah. The great temple of Solomon was not designed to last forever. Just 150 after it was built, it needed repair from decay and defacing by the people of God who had turned back to idolatry. There must be a new, better, and more permanent temple. Jesus is that temple (destroy this temple and I will rebuild it in three days), and so are you (your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit). Similarly, we see in the kings a reflection of the true King of Kings. Only Jesus – the rightful heir of David, can fulfill what the best of Judah’s kings could only dream of.
The Main Objective	2 Chronicles is an invitation. One biblical commentator says this about 2 Chronicles: <i>“History itself is a call to worship and an invitation to hope. If the struggling community of Jews in Judah will put God first as did godly generations of the past and show their commitment by a similar zeal for worship, the Lord will surely show His faithfulness to them. The line of David will yet again take Zion’s throne and the kingdom of God will be established over all the earth”</i> (Larry Richards, The Bible Reader’s Companion)
Outline	Just as 1 Chronicles uses the life of David to chronicle the Messianic ideal, 2 Chronicles does this with the kings who succeeded David. But it adds another component 1 Chronicles does not: the Temple. Consequently, it will help us to examine the movement from Solomon to the Babylonian Captivity in 2 Chronicles through the lens of what the kings of Judah <u>and</u> the temple say about Jesus, the Messiah.

1. Solomon Asked for Wisdom to Rule as a Wise King. Jesus is the Essence of Wisdom and Kingship Combined (2Ch. 1:8-12)

⁸ Solomon answered God, “You have shown great kindness to David my father and have made me king in his place. ⁹ Now, Lord God, let your promise to my father David be confirmed, for you have made me king over a people who are as numerous as the dust of the earth. ¹⁰ Give me wisdom and knowledge, that I may lead this people, for who is able to govern this great people of yours?” ¹¹ God said to Solomon, “Since this is your heart’s desire and you have not asked for wealth, possessions or honor, nor for the death of your enemies, and since you have not asked for a long life but for wisdom and knowledge to govern my people over whom I have made you king, ¹² therefore wisdom and knowledge will be given you. And I will also give you wealth, possessions and honor, such as no king who was before you ever had and none after you will have.”

2. Solomon Prepared for the Construction of the Temple that Were Initiated by His Father, David. Jesus Prepared for the Destruction, Initiated By His Father in Heaven (2Ch 2:3, 5-7)

³ Solomon sent this message to Hiram^[b] king of Tyre...⁵ “The temple I am going to build will be great, because our God is greater than all other gods. ⁶ But who is able to build a temple for him, since the heavens, even the highest heavens, cannot contain him? Who then am I to build a temple for him, except as a place to burn sacrifices before him? ⁷ “Send me, therefore, a man skilled to work in gold and silver, bronze and iron, and in purple, crimson and blue yarn, and experienced in the art of engraving, to work in Judah and Jerusalem with my skilled workers, whom my father David provided.

3. Solomon Built the Temple. Jesus' Temple – His Body – Rose from the Dead (2 Ch 5:1)

When all the work Solomon had done for the temple of the Lord was finished, he brought in the things his father David had dedicated—the silver and gold and all the furnishings—and he placed them in the treasuries of God's temple.

4. Solomon Brought the Ark Inside the Temple After It Was Completed. The Ark of the Covenant – the Holy Spirit – Lives Inside of Us, God's Temple (2Ch 5:13-14)

¹³The trumpeters and musicians joined in unison to give praise and thanks to the Lord. Accompanied by trumpets, cymbals and other instruments, the singers raised their voices in praise to the Lord and sang: "He is good; his love endures forever." Then the temple of the Lord was filled with the cloud, ¹⁴and the priests could not perform their service because of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord filled the temple of God.

5. Solomon Prayed a Prayer of Dedication for the Temple. Jesus Prayed the High Priestly Prayer of Dedication for Us in John 17 (2Ch 6:18-20)

¹⁸"But will God really dwell on earth with humans? The heavens, even the highest heavens, cannot contain you. How much less this temple I have built! ¹⁹Yet, Lord my God, give attention to your servant's prayer and his plea for mercy. Hear the cry and the prayer that your servant is praying in your presence. ²⁰May your eyes be open toward this temple day and night, this place of which you said you would put your Name there. May you hear the prayer your servant prays toward this place.

6. The Gentile Queen of Sheba Visited Solomon Bearing Gifts and Goes Back to Her Land Speaking of the God of Israel. Three Magi Bring Gifts in the NT. Because of Jesus, We Can Now Take the Message of the King of Israel Into All the World (2Ch 9:5-8)

⁵She said to the king, "The report I heard in my own country about your achievements and your wisdom is true. ⁶But I did not believe what they said until I came and saw with my own eyes. Indeed, not even half the greatness of your wisdom was told me; you have far exceeded the report I heard.⁷How happy your people must be! How happy your officials, who continually stand before you and hear your wisdom! ⁸Praise be to the Lord your God, who has delighted in you and placed you on his throne as king to rule for the Lord your God. Because of the love of your God for Israel and his desire to uphold them forever, he has made you king over them, to maintain justice and righteousness."

7. When the Kingdom Divided, Rehoboam Continued to Rule Over All of God's People Living in the Towns of Judah. Jesus Reigns Forever and Ever (2Ch 10:16-17)

So all the Israelites went home. ¹⁷But as for the Israelites who were living in the towns of Judah, Rehoboam still ruled over them.

8. Rehoboam Humbles Himself and Isn't Completely Destroyed from an Attack. Jerusalem Was Saved. Because of Jesus, We Have the Privilege to Repent in Order to Not Be Consumed (2Ch 12:12)

¹²Because Rehoboam humbled himself, the Lord's anger turned from him, and he was not totally destroyed. Indeed, there was some good in Judah.

9. Abijah Wins a Battle With an Army Half the Size of Jeroboam's. No Weapon Formed Against Us Shall Prosper Either Because the Line of Judah Protects Us (13:2-3)

There was war between Abijah and Jeroboam. ³Abijah went into battle with an army of four hundred thousand able fighting men, and Jeroboam drew up a battle line against him with eight hundred thousand able troops.

10. Asa Destroyed Idols in the Land and Led Judah Back to the Lord. Jesus Destroys Our Idols When We Repent and Brings Us Into Fellowship with God (14:2-4)

²Asa did what was good and right in the eyes of the Lord his God. ³He removed the foreign altars and the high places, smashed the sacred stones and cut down the Asherah poles.^[b] ⁴He commanded Judah to seek the Lord, the God of their ancestors, and to obey his laws and commands.

11. Jehoshaphat Appointed Judges. Jesus Appointed the Apostles (2Ch 19:6-7)

⁶He told them, "Consider carefully what you do, because you are not judging for mere mortals but for the Lord, who is with you whenever you give a verdict. ⁷Now let the fear of the Lord be on you. Judge carefully, for with the Lord our God there is no injustice or partiality or bribery."

12. Hezekiah Purifies the Temple. Jesus Cleaned It (2Ch 29:3-5)

³ In the first month of the first year of his reign, he opened the doors of the temple of the Lord and repaired them. ⁴ He brought in the priests and the Levites, assembled them in the square on the east side ⁵ and said: "Listen to me, Levites! Consecrate yourselves now and consecrate the temple of the Lord, the God of your ancestors. Remove all defilement from the sanctuary.

13. Hezekiah Celebrated Passover After Purifying the Temple. Jesus Celebrated Passover With the Disciples After Cleansing It (2Ch 30:13-15)

¹³ A very large crowd of people assembled in Jerusalem to celebrate the Festival of Unleavened Bread in the second month. ¹⁴ They removed the altars in Jerusalem and cleared away the incense altars and threw them into the Kidron Valley. ¹⁵ They slaughtered the Passover lamb on the fourteenth day of the second month. The priests and the Levites were ashamed and consecrated themselves and brought burnt offerings to the temple of the Lord.

14. Sennacherib, the Assyrian, Marched Against Jerusalem But, Unlike Samaria in the North, He Was Unsuccessful In Over Taking It Because Hezekiah and Isaiah Prayed. We Face a Real Enemy Who Inflicts Real Damage. But God is Our Protector. We Can Cry Out to Him (2Ch 32:20-22)

²⁰ King Hezekiah and the prophet Isaiah son of Amoz cried out in prayer to heaven about this. ²¹ And the Lord sent an angel, who annihilated all the fighting men and the commanders and officers in the camp of the Assyrian king. So he withdrew to his own land in disgrace. And when he went into the temple of his god, some of his sons, his own flesh and blood, cut him down with the sword. ²² So the Lord saved Hezekiah and the people of Jerusalem from the hand of Sennacherib king of Assyria and from the hand of all others. He took care of them^[a] on every side.

15. Josiah Found the Book of the Law in the Temple and Instituted Reforms. Jesus Wrote the Law on Our Hearts to Reform it (2Ch 34:21)

²¹ "Go and inquire of the Lord for me and for the remnant in Israel and Judah about what is written in this book that has been found. Great is the Lord's anger that is poured out on us because those who have gone before us have not kept the word of the Lord; they have not acted in accordance with all that is written in this book."

16. Jerusalem Fell, the Temple Was Destroyed, But God Was Not Done With Judah Because of the Promise He Made to David. Jesus Is a Better, More Permanent, Temple. We Are Too. Consequently, He's Not Done With Us (36:20-21)

²⁰ He carried into exile to Babylon the remnant, who escaped from the sword, and they became servants to him and his successors until the kingdom of Persia came to power. ²¹ The land enjoyed its sabbath rests; all the time of its desolation it rested, until the seventy years were completed in fulfillment of the word of the Lord spoken by Jeremiah.

17. Cyrus the Great Permitted God's People to Return And Re-Build the Temple. Jesus Will Return. When He Does, He Will Take Us, His Temples, Back With Him to Glory (36:22-23)

²² In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, in order to fulfill the word of the Lord spoken by Jeremiah, the Lord moved the heart of Cyrus king of Persia to make a proclamation throughout his realm and also to put it in writing: ²³ "This is what Cyrus king of Persia says: "The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth and he has appointed me to build a temple for him at Jerusalem in Judah. Any of his people among you may go up, and may the Lord their God be with them."