

## Introduction to Chronicles / 1 Chronicles

<b>Our Bible vs Jewish Bible</b>	In our English Bibles, the books of the Chronicles come right after the books of Samuel and Kings. Since Chronicles repeats much of the material contained in these books, a lot of people quit reading Chronicles because the material repeats. On the other hand, in the Jewish Bible, the books of the Chronicles are <u>the very last books</u> in the OT. That's intentional because 1 and 2 Chronicles is a summary of the OT Scriptures. The first word in Chronicles is "Adam." The books start with Adam and end in the last paragraph of 2 Chronicles announcing the return of Israel from exile. That purpose is difficult to see in light of where it is placed in our Bibles.
<b>Why 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles?</b>	Samuel, Kings, and Chronicles come to us in pairs in our Bibles. All three, however, have one coherent story. Both 1 and 2 Samuel paint the picture of the Monarchy, particularly focusing on David and his line. 1 and 2 Kings focus on the end of the Monarchy and the Divided Monarchy, paying close attention to the relationship between the kings and the prophets. 1 and 2 Chronicles covers the entirety of God's revelation in the OT. As a result, like Samuel and Kings, 1 and 2 Chronicles was only later divided <u>due to scroll length</u> .
<b>When It Was Written Is as Important as the Contents</b>	1 and 2 Kings was written while Israel was in exile in Babylon. The writer assumes the question: "why did we get kicked out of the Promised Land" as he compiled the material. 1 and 2 Chronicles, however, was compiled, most likely by <u>Ezra</u> , after the exile when God's people were back in the land. The writer assumes the question: "What now that we are back?" The answer to that question is unexpected. It's not doing better to obey the covenant Moses laid out in Deuteronomy. It's hope in the Messiah to come. Unfortunately, Israel rejects the Messiah in the NT and is kicked out again.
<b>Why 1 and 2 Chronicles Were Written</b>	Even though Israel was back in their land, things were not going as planned. The great hope among the people was that the walls, the city, and the temple would be rebuilt. If this happened, God would come alive among his people, literally. The King would come, all the nations of the earth would come together under his peaceful rule. But none of this had happened...not yet anyway. As a result, the author of the Chronicles pens the ancient stories, focusing specifically on David in 1 Chronicles and starting with Solomon in 2 Chronicles in order to provide a message of Messianic Hope for the future.
<b>The Two Major Themes</b>	The books were designed to emphasize two themes: the <u>hope of a coming messianic king</u> and the <u>hope for a new temple</u> . Perhaps this will help you see why 1 and 2 Chronicles is last in the Jewish Scriptures. Both of these themes are fulfilled. The first with Jesus. The second in two layers: (a) Herod's Temple (built at the end of the Intertestamental Period); (b) The NT Temple: that's you and me.
<b>The Books I Use to Witness to Jews</b>	I use the story of David presented in 1 Chronicles to witness to Jews about Jesus because of the Messianic foreshadowing. There is no doubt the materials point to Jesus, particularly 1 Chronicles 10-29.
<b>Outline</b>	Chapters 1-9 of 1 Chronicles are all in genealogical format. While boring, these chapters are important because much of the genealogical material focuses on the line of Judah, to whom the messianic promise was given. 1 Chronicles 10-29 focus specifically on David. But here the information about David is pointing towards the <u>messianic ideal</u> (thus the reason the story of David and Bathsheba is left out). The entirety of 2 Chronicles focuses on Judah's Kings and their <u>unfinished story</u> . It will help us as we go through the material to ask: "what picture of Jesus, the Christ, is presented?" That's what the books are getting at, after all. We'll save the unfinished story of the Judean kings in 2 Chronicles for next week.

### Hail, Hail Line of Judah (1 Chronicles 1-9)

#### 1. There's a lesson about the hope the Christ brings from Jabez.

<sup>7</sup> *The sons of Helah: Zereth, Zohar, Ethnan, <sup>8</sup> and Koz, who was the father of Anub and Hazzobebah and of the clans of Aharhel son of Harum.*

<sup>9</sup> *Jabez was more honorable than his brothers. His mother had named him Jabez, saying, "I gave birth to him in pain."<sup>10</sup> Jabez cried out to the God of Israel, "Oh, that you would bless me and enlarge my territory! Let your hand be with me, and keep me from harm so that I will be free from pain." And God granted his request. <sup>11</sup> *Kelub, Shuhah's brother, was the father of Mehir.... (4:7-11)**

#### 2. There's a lesson about what they were expecting near the end of the genealogy.

*All Israel was listed in the genealogies recorded in the book of the kings of Israel and Judah. They were taken captive to Babylon because of their unfaithfulness. <sup>2</sup> Now the first to resettle on their own property in their own towns were some Israelites, priests, Levites and temple servants. (9:1-2)*

## The Messianic Idea Presented Through the Life of David (10-29)

### 1. Why Do We Need a Messiah in the First Place?

<sup>13</sup> Saul died because he was unfaithful to the Lord; he did not keep the word of the Lord and even consulted a medium for guidance, <sup>14</sup> and did not inquire of the Lord. So the Lord put him to death and turned the kingdom over to David son of Jesse. (10:13-14)

### 2. Like David, Jesus is Our Shepherd Who Cuts a Covenant with Us. But Unlike David, the Covenant He Makes With Us Isn't in Hebron. It Was in Jerusalem — the City of David — on a Cross.

All Israel came together to David at Hebron and said, "We are your own flesh and blood." <sup>2</sup> In the past, even while Saul was king, you were the one who led Israel on their military campaigns. And the Lord your God said to you, "You will shepherd my people Israel, and you will become their ruler." <sup>3</sup> When all the elders of Israel had come to King David at Hebron, he made a covenant with them at Hebron before the Lord, and they anointed David king over Israel, as the Lord had promised through Samuel. (11:1-3)

### 3. David Conquered the Jebusites in Jerusalem, Riding in Triumphantly with His Mighty Warriors. Jesus Rode in Triumphantly on a Colt to Conquer the Human Heart.

<sup>4</sup> David and all the Israelites marched to Jerusalem (that is, Jebus). The Jebusites who lived there <sup>5</sup> said to David, "You will not get in here." Nevertheless, David captured the fortress of Zion—which is the City of David. (11:4-5)

### 4. David Brought Back the Ark of the Covenant from the Philistines. Jesus is the Ark of the Covenant, who Rescued Us from the Dominion of Darkness.

David conferred with each of his officers, the commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds. <sup>2</sup> He then said to the whole assembly of Israel, "If it seems good to you and if it is the will of the Lord our God, let us send word far and wide to the rest of our people throughout the territories of Israel, and also to the priests and Levites who are with them in their towns and pasturelands, to come and join us. <sup>3</sup> Let us bring the ark of our God back to us, for we did not inquire of the Lord during the reign of Saul." <sup>4</sup> The whole assembly agreed to do this, because it seemed right to all the people. (13:1-4)

### 5. David Finally Defeats Israel Most Problematic Neighbor: The Philistines. Jesus Defeats Ours Too on the Cross. It's Called Sin.

<sup>8</sup> When the Philistines heard that David had been anointed king over all Israel, they went up in full force to search for him, but David heard about it and went out to meet them. <sup>9</sup> Now the Philistines had come and raided the Valley of Rephaim; <sup>10</sup> so David inquired of God: "Shall I go and attack the Philistines? Will you deliver them into my hands?" The Lord answered him, "Go, I will deliver them into your hands." (14:8-10)

### 6. David Brought the Ark to Jerusalem So His Presence Could Reside There in that Eternal City. Jesus, the Ark of the Covenant, Resides in a Different Jerusalem: You...And the Devil Doesn't Like It.

<sup>29</sup> As the ark of the covenant of the Lord was entering the City of David, Michal daughter of Saul watched from a window. And when she saw King David dancing and celebrating, she despised him in her heart. (15:29)

### 7. David Wanted to Build a Permanent Dwelling Place. But Jesus Did!

"I declare to you that the Lord will build a house for you: <sup>11</sup> When your days are over and you go to be with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, one of your own sons, and I will establish his kingdom. <sup>12</sup> He is the one who will build a house for me, and I will establish his throne forever. <sup>13</sup> I will be his father, and he will be my son. I will never take my love away from him, as I took it away from your predecessor. <sup>14</sup> I will set him over my house and my kingdom forever; his throne will be established forever." (17:10-14)

### 8. David Won Victory Over Israel's Enemies. Christ is the Victory that Overcomes the World and Makes Us More Than Conquerors.

In the course of time, David defeated the Philistines and subdued them, and he took Gath and its surrounding villages from the control of the Philistines. <sup>2</sup> David also defeated the Moabites, and they became subject to him and brought him tribute.... <sup>13</sup> He put garrisons in Edom, and all the Edomites became subject to David. The Lord gave David victory wherever he went. (18:1-2; 13)

### 9. The Threshing Floor David Buys Becomes the Location of the Temple Mount, That Jesus, Like David, Had to Cleanse Before Building an Altar.

<sup>20</sup> While Araunah was threshing wheat, he turned and saw the angel; his four sons who were with him hid themselves. <sup>21</sup> Then David approached, and when Araunah looked and saw him, he left the threshing floor and bowed down before David with his face to the ground. <sup>22</sup> David said to him, "Let me have the site of your threshing floor so I can build an altar to the Lord, that the plague on the people may be stopped. Sell it to me at the full price." <sup>23</sup> Araunah said to David, "Take it! Let my lord the king do whatever pleases him. Look, I will give the oxen for the burnt offerings, the threshing sledges for the wood, and the wheat for the grain offering. I will give all this." (21:20-23)

**10. David's Preparations for the Temple Also Included a Plan for Gentiles. Jesus' Gospel is for the Jew and the Gentile.**

<sup>2</sup> So David gave orders to assemble the foreigners residing in Israel, and from among them he appointed stonecutters to prepare dressed stone for building the house of God. (22:2)

**11. David transfers power to His son before His death. The Holy Spirit comes upon the disciples after Jesus' death and ascension.**

When David was old and full of years, he made his son Solomon king over Israel. (23:1)

**12. David Sets Apart People for Service in the Temple (Yet to Be Built). Jesus Sets the Disciples Apart.**

David, together with the commanders of the army, set apart some of the sons of Asaph, Heman and Jeduthun for the ministry of prophesying, accompanied by harps, lyres and cymbals. Here is the list of the men who performed this service: (25:1)

**13. David Sets Apart Gatekeepers. The Apostles are the Gatekeepers in the NT.**

<sup>12</sup> These divisions of the gatekeepers, through their leaders, had duties for ministering in the temple of the Lord, just as their relatives had. <sup>13</sup> Lots were cast for each gate, according to their families, young and old alike. (26:12-13)

**14. David Assembles an Army in Anticipation of Warfare in the Future. We Are the Army of the Lord. Our Faith is Our Shield and Sword.**

This is the list of the Israelites—heads of families, commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds, and their officers, who served the king in all that concerned the army divisions that were on duty month by month throughout the year. Each division consisted of 24,000 men. (27:1)

**15. David Entrusts the Building of the Temple to Solomon. Jesus Entrusts the Building of the Kingdom to Us.**

<sup>20</sup> David also said to Solomon his son, "Be strong and courageous, and do the work. Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord God, my God, is with you. He will not fail you or forsake you until all the work for the service of the temple of the Lord is finished. <sup>21</sup> The divisions of the priests and Levites are ready for all the work on the temple of God, and every willing person skilled in any craft will help you in all the work. The officials and all the people will obey your every command." (28:20-21)

**16. David Prays for the Lord to Bless His Building and His People. Jesus' Does the Same Thing in His High Priestly Prayer in John 17**

<sup>15</sup> We are foreigners and strangers in your sight, as were all our ancestors. Our days on earth are like a shadow, without hope. <sup>16</sup> Lord our God, all this abundance that we have provided for building you a temple for your Holy Name comes from your hand, and all of it belongs to you. <sup>17</sup> I know, my God, that you test the heart and are pleased with integrity. All these things I have given willingly and with honest intent. And now I have seen with joy how willingly your people who are here have given to you. <sup>18</sup> Lord, the God of our fathers Abraham, Isaac and Israel, keep these desires and thoughts in the hearts of your people forever, and keep their hearts loyal to you. <sup>19</sup> And give my son Solomon the wholehearted devotion to keep your commands, statutes and decrees and to do everything to build the palatial structure for which I have provided." (29:15-19)

**17. David Died. Jesus Died. Rose Again. And Lives!**

<sup>26</sup> David son of Jesse was king over all Israel. <sup>27</sup> He ruled over Israel forty years—seven in Hebron and thirty-three in Jerusalem. <sup>28</sup> He died at a good old age, having enjoyed long life, wealth and honor. His son Solomon succeeded him as king. (29:26-28)