

## 13 – 1 Chronicles: The History of Judah Retold

- Most speculate that the **writer** of these books (1 and 2 Chronicles) is probably **Ezra**. Most likely written during Babylonian captivity. Originally one book, may have included Ezra and Nehemiah.
- These books are not just a duplication of what is in the books of Samuel and Kings. Greek translators gave Chronicles the title of “**Things Omitted.**” There is more that does not occur in the other books.
- **David** is the subject of 1 Chronicles; the **house of David** is prominent in 2 Chronicles. Chronicles gives the history of Judah while practically ignoring the northern kingdom of Israel. Chronicles does not record David’s sins — when God forgives, He forgets.
- The **temple and Jerusalem** are prominent in Chronicles. In Kings, the history of the nation is given from the **throne**; in Chronicles, it is given from the **altar**. The palace is the center in Kings; the temple is the center in Chronicles. Kings records the political history; Chronicles records the religious history. Chronicles is an *interpretation* of Kings— hence the constant reference in Kings to Chronicles. Kings gives us man’s viewpoint; **Chronicles gives us God’s viewpoint.**



### Highlights

- The emphasis of 1 and 2 Chronicles is on Judah, and the **preservation of the Davidic line**. First Chronicles parallels 2 Samuel very closely, and 2 Chronicles parallels the books of Kings. The first 9 chapters of 1 Chronicles is a very meticulous genealogy from Adam to Jacob, Jacob to David, and David to Zedekiah, the last king before the exile. The genealogy begins at the beginning, with Adam, well before God called Abraham out of Ur of the Chaldees. In many respects, this genealogy indicates that the plan of God is about ALL people, not just the Jews. The Jews are chosen people through which God illustrated His plan very visually, but the plan of redemption is for all people.
- In the middle of a long list of genealogies we find two verses that are now world famous and known commonly as the **Prayer of Jabez**. Apparently a man named Jabez, from the tribe of Judah was worth noting here. *“Now Jabez was more honorable than his brothers, and his mother called his name Jabez, saying, “Because I bore him in pain.” And Jabez called on the God of Israel saying, “Oh, that You would bless me indeed, and enlarge my territory, that Your hand would be with me, and that You would keep me from evil, that I may not cause pain!” So God granted him what he requested.”* (1 Chronicles 4:9-10) Occasionally we find little tidbits like this in scripture, but most of the time we skip right over them. Bruce Wilkinson has made this passage of scripture perhaps the most well-known of our time with a very tiny little book that has spread like wildfire. Why is this book so popular? Mr. Wilkinson has suggested that this prayer is a model that can be prayed by anyone who wishes to increase his or her “territory.” It was an obscure and little known passage until this little book was published. A word of caution: this prayer has been included for us to know and even perhaps to pray ourselves, we must use discretion and pray it with the right heart. It is not a magic potion or a formula for instant success. We must desire this enhanced “territory” for the right reasons – God’s reasons. The popularity of this book suggests that many people see this as an easy fix for problems, and a magic formula for increased wealth or envisioned success. Our best prayer is to remain in God’s will, fulfilling His purpose for us, whatever that is. **Don’t look for easy prayers and stock requests – look for the heart of God.**
- Notice the history presented in this book is more about David’s heart before God, his plans to build the Temple, and his preparation. It does not contain his battles and victories, or any military conquests. It does not contain the drama of his latter life and family problems. This is the same history, but presented from God’s perspective of what is important to Him. **David’s heart for God, and the Temple, are the focal points of this book.**

<b>GENEALOGIES 1-9:</b> Begins with genealogy of Adam through David, tribes of Israel (focus on Levi) through captivity. Main purpose is to trace the Davidic Dynasty, and entire line of Christ.	
1	Adam to Noah, Noah's family, Shem to Abraham, Abraham, Ishmael, Keturah, Esau and Edom, Isaac
2	Genealogy from Israel through Judah, Jesse to David, descendents of Caleb traced to offspring for whom cities of Bethlehem, Beth-gader and Kirjathjearim are named.
3	Line of David traced through sons, then Solomon's line (royal family) through captivity, also family of Jeconiah (blood curse by God)
4	Posterity of Judah through Caleb and Shelah, tribe of Simeon
5	Tribe of Reuben (Reuben lost birthright, given to Joseph, not Judah, Judah prevailed, ruler [Messiah] came from Judah); tribes of Gad, Manasseh (east). Reason for captivity given (v 25-26): <i>"And they were unfaithful to the God of their fathers, and played the harlot after the gods of the peoples of the land, whom God had destroyed before them."</i>
6	Tribe of Levi, Levite musicians, other Levites served in the house of the LORD
7	Tribes of Issachar, Benjamin, Naphtali, Manasseh (west), Ephraim and Asher (Assyrian captivity)
8	Tribe of Benjamin, with emphasis on King Saul's line
9	Tribe of Levi when it was scattered among the other tribes in various cities, families of Levites, priests, Saul's family
<b>SAUL'S REIGN 10:</b> From God's perspective Saul's reign was not important, his death and reason are recorded, but nothing else of his reign.	
<b>DAVID'S REIGN 11-29:</b> Remainder of this first book of Chronicles is devoted to reign of David	
11	David's army and mighty men, Israel accepts David as king over united kingdom; City of David
12	Growth of David's army, mighty men of war (testimony to faithful, loyal to David)
13	David tries to move the ark of Jerusalem, fails, takes to Kirjath Jearim
14	David is established at Jerusalem, material blessings, Philistines defeated
15	Ark finally brought to Jerusalem successfully, Michal dismissed as mother of royal line
16	Ark is put into Tabernacle, David organizes a choir, writes a song of praise, organizes priests into 24 courses
17	David wants to build house for God, Nathan the prophet brings word of the covenant with David regarding the royal throne of Israel (2 Samuel 7), but David will not build the house (Temple)
18	David subdues Philistines and other enemies, expands kingdom ( <i>but even then, at height of kingdom, they only occupied 30,000 square miles of the 300,000 square miles God had given. When will the promised borders be realized???</i> ) David's administration
19	Ammon insults David, Joab leads war against Ammon and Syria, wins
20	Ammon, Rabbah again defeated, David stays home (this was when he had the little incident with Bathsheba, though it is not recorded here. This is God's perspective, and He does not remember our sins when we are truly repentant.) Philistine giants killed (including Goliath's brothers)
21	David sins and numbers Israel (census), chooses his own punishment
<b>DAVID'S PREPARATION FOR THE TEMPLE 22-29</b>	
22	David gathers materials (gold, silver, bronze, cedar, etc.), reason David could not build, charge to Solomon
23	David makes Solomon king, organizes Levites to serve and sing in temple
24	Organization and divisions of the priests and other Levites
25	Musicians are organized for temple worship
26	Gatekeepers and Treasury-keepers are organized among Levites
27	Military divisions, leaders over the tribes, organized
28	David gathers people, encourages building of Temple, Solomon to be king, gives Solomon plans for Temple
29	David calls for offering for the Temple, people give willingly, David's song of praise and encouragement, "Now bless the LORD your God," people worship, Solomon made king, David dies