

Cover to Cover: From Genesis to Maps
Sermon # 14 – “1 & 2 Chronicles”
August 12, 2007

Reading the historical books of 1 & 2 Chronicles is something like a déjà vu experience. The reader feels that he has been there before.

- 1 Chronicles roughly parallels 1 & 2 Samuel
- 2 Chronicles roughly parallels 1 & 2 Kings

With so much similarity to these earlier books, why are 1 & 2 Chronicles included in the Bible? To offer us a different perspective.

Distinctive Features

| <i>1 & 2 Samuel/ 1 & 2 Kings</i> | <i>1 & 2 Chronicles</i> |
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| Begins with a united Israel, Continues with the kingdom <u>divided</u> | Focuses on the Southern Kingdom (Judah) & the <u>Davidic</u> line |
| Offers a <u>prophetic</u> point of view (Elijah, Elisha) | Offers a <u>priestly</u> point of view (Worship, The Temple) |
| Ends with the fall of Jerusalem and the people carried into <u>exile</u> by the Babylonians in 586 BC | Written much later; Mentions the decree of King Cyrus of Persia that allowed the exiles to <u>return home</u> in 538 BC |
| Often deals with only the “ <u>what</u> ” | Also addresses the “ <u>why</u> ” |
| <i>2 Samuel 6</i> – Uzzah is struck dead while transporting the Ark of the Covenant | <i>1 Chronicles 15</i> –Uzzah was struck dead because the Ark was not being transported in the prescribed way |
| <i>2 Samuel 24</i> – David sins by conducting a census | <i>1 Chronicles 21</i> – Satan instigated David to number the people |
| <i>2 Kings 25</i> – Judah is taken into captivity | <i>2 Chronicles 36</i> – Judah was taken captive for violating God’s Sabbath-rest principle for the land |

The books of 1 & 2 Chronicles are far more benevolent than the books of 1 & 2 Samuel and 1 & 2 Kings. The Chronicles do not mention David’s great sin, his family problems, or Solomon’s foreign wives. But they do go to great lengths to tell of Manasseh’s repentance.

Outline of 1 & 2 Chronicles

1 Chronicles – The Preparation for the Temple

- Chapters 1-10 – Genealogies leading up to Saul
- Chapters 11-22 – David’s Preparation for the Construction of the Temple
- Chapters 23-29 – David’s Preparation for the Operation of the Temple

2 Chronicles – The Rise and Fall of the Temple

- Chapters 1-9 – Construction, Dedication & Majesty of the Temple (under Solomon)
- Chapters 10-36 – Deterioration, Renewal & Destruction of the Temple (after Solomon)
 - Chapters 10-11 – Apostasy of the Northern Kingdom from the Temple
 - Chapters 12-36 – Loyalty of the Southern Kingdom to the Temple

Title – “Chronicles” means “the diary of the days”. **Writer** – Ezra ?

Audience – The remnant that returned after 70 years of captivity to rebuild Jerusalem under the spiritual leadership of Ezra, the architectural guidance of Nehemiah, and the moral exhortations of Malachi.

Tone/ Purpose – Written in a spirit of brokenness, looking back on the nation’s glorious past through the filter of heartache and defeat. Written to encourage the faithful remnant, reminding them of their godly heritage and of God’s steadfast love & provision.

Key Themes –

- Praise. 1 Chronicles 16:23-36
- Proper Perspective. 1 Chronicles 29
- Prayer.
 - The prayer of Jabez. 1 Chronicles 3:9-10
 - The prayer of Solomon. 2 Chronicles 6-7
 - The promise of God. 2 Chronicles 7:14