

FIRST BAPTIST POWELL, 2-19-12 PM NOTES
1 & 2 CHRONICLES
#15 in Series, "The Glory of God in the Old Testament"

Samuel and Kings are biographical and personal. Chronicles is statistical and official. Samuel and Kings are written from the viewpoint of a prophet; Chronicles is written from the viewpoint of a priest. Samuel and Kings were written to give the history of the northern and southern kingdoms; Chronicles focuses only on the southern kingdom, Judah. The focus of Samuel and Kings is on the throne; the focus of Chronicles is on the temple. Samuel and Kings is a simple record of what happened; Chronicles is selective in that it focuses on the temple and shows us that the nation's welfare is determined by their response to God.

"While much contained in the book of Kings is repeated or restated in the Chronicles, much is omitted because [it is] foreign to the author's purpose. But whatever bears on the *temple*, its preservation and restoration, the purity of its worship, the regularity and orderliness of its services; whatever makes idolatrous rites or relics hateful, or lifts God to His true throne in the hearts of the people, is here emphasized."
—A. T. Pierson

I. 1 Chronicles: The Preparation for the Temple (1 Chronicles 1-29)

A. The Predecessors of the Temple (Chapter 1-10)

"...this veritable Sahara Desert of names in which the best intentions of so many readers eager to read the Bible straight through have perished."
—Mark Dever

B. The Preparations for the Temple (Chapter 11-29)

1. David's Preparation for the Construction of the Temple (Chapter 11-22)

a. He Conquered Jerusalem (Chapter 11)

b. The Ark of the Covenant Was Brought to Jerusalem (Chapter 13,15)

c. The Property Was Acquired for the Temple (Chapter 21)

Ephesians 6:16b (NKJV) "...the fiery darts of the wicked one."

2 Corinthians 10:5 (NKJV) "casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ."

d. The Materials Were Acquired for the Temple (Chapter 22)

2. David's Preparation for the Operation of the Temple (Chapter 23-29)

"Why is Jerusalem central in the Old Testament and particularly here in 1 Chronicles? Jerusalem is central because the temple is located in Jerusalem. Why is the temple central? The temple is central because the Ark is located in the temple. Why is the Ark central? The Ark is central because it symbolizes the presence of God. And God is at the center of everything. In short, the Ark and the temple are central to 1 Chronicles because God is central."
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- II. 2 Chronicles: The Destruction of the Temple (Chapter 1-36)
 - A. The Majesty of the Temple Under Solomon (Chapter 1-9)
 - B. The History of the Temple After Solomon (Chapter 10-36)

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2 Chronicles 7:14 (NKJV) “if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.”

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1 & 2 CHRONICLES
#15 in Series, “The Glory of God in the Old Testament”

These two books were originally one in the Hebrew Bible. It was divided into two books when it was translated into Greek a little over one hundred years before the birth of Christ. Since Greek is more specific than Hebrew and thus required more words, the Greek translation was too long to fit on one scroll (as was Samuel and Kings) so it was divided into 1 & 2 Chronicles. The word “Chronicles” is from the Latin “Chronicorum” and means “continuous record of events”. The books of 1 and 2 Chronicles cover roughly the same time period as does 2 Samuel, 1 and 2 Kings. The books are very different in their approach and in what they give emphasis to. The reason they are so different is that Chronicles approaches Jewish history from a totally different perspective. Let me give you some general statements that show the difference. Samuel and Kings are biographical and personal. Chronicles is statistical and official. Samuel and Kings are written from the viewpoint of a prophet; Chronicles is written from the viewpoint of a priest. Samuel and Kings were written to give the history of the northern and southern kingdoms; Chronicles focuses only on the southern kingdom, Judah. The focus of Samuel and Kings is on the throne; the focus of Chronicles is on the temple. Samuel and Kings is a simple record of what happened; Chronicles is selective in that it focuses on the temple and shows us that the nation’s welfare is determined by their response to God. A. T. Pierson, a great Pastor and Bible scholar of about 100 years ago summarized Chronicles like this: “While much contained in the book of Kings is repeated or restated in the Chronicles, much is omitted because [it is] foreign to the author’s purpose. But whatever bears on the *temple*, its preservation and restoration, the purity of its worship, the regularity and orderliness of its services; whatever makes idolatrous rites or relics hateful, or lifts God to His true throne in the hearts of the people, is here emphasized” [Quoted in J. Sidlow Baxter, *Explore the Book*, Page 166].

I. 1 Chronicles: The Preparation for the Temple (1 Chronicles 1-29)

A. The Predecessors of the Temple (Chapter 1-10)

This section is not bedside reading. Mark Dever says of these chapters “...this veritable Sahara Desert of names in which the best intentions of so many readers eager to read the bible straight through have perished” [Mark Dever, *The Message of the Old Testament*, Page 340]. As we glance through the names in these chapters, we see some that we recognize. There is Adam, Seth (1:1), Noah (1:4), Abraham (1:27), Boaz (2:12), and David (2:15) and others. But there is also some we’ve never heard of. How about Segub (2:22), Mibsam (4:25), Bukki and his son Uzzi (6:5), and Bezer (7:37)? Why does God include this genealogy? There are several reasons we know and probably several reasons we don’t know. First, this genealogy reminds us that Chronicles is a book of history. This book is not some fictional work. It is the record of God’s chosen people and God knows His people by name. These were all real, historical people who were born, grew up, had a family and then died. A second reason that God includes this list is that it helps us understand God’s purpose in Chronicles. God not only carries out His purposes through the Jewish nation, it is through certain people in the nation. After mentioning Adam, He focuses in on Adam’s son Seth, not Cain. We then come to Noah’s sons Shem, Ham, and Japheth. It gives a few generations of Ham and Japheth, but the focus is on Shem. One of the descendents of Shem is Abraham. Abraham had Ishmael and Isaac. The author of Chronicles gives a few generation of Ishmael, but he focuses on Isaac. When we get to Isaac’s son Jacob, the focus turns on his sons Judah and Levi. From the tribe of Judah, we see David and then Solomon and from Levi, we see the priests. Why is it arranged this way? It is because the writer of Chronicles is focusing on the temple and the two characters responsible for building the temple was David and Solomon his son and the ones who led temple worship were the priests of the tribe of Levi. David and Solomon were traced all the way back to Adam and the priests were traced all the way back to Aaron, the brother of Moses. Whereas Samuel and Kings gave a lot of attention to Saul, Israel’s first king, the writer of Chronicles gives him very little space because Saul was not in the line that produced the temple or the priests. We see another reason Saul was given so little space in 1

Chronicles 10:13-14 [Read]. The purpose of Chronicles is not to give an exhaustive history, but to show us the importance of the temple and true worship and to show why the nation ended up being dispersed to Assyria (northern kingdom) and Babylon (southern kingdom). Chronicles answers the question, “What happened?” The problem was not the lack of natural resources, the lack of opportunity, or the lack of godly examples. The problem centered on the temple and the worship of the one true God. The nation was defeated and dispersed because they forgot God and His word. Many Bible scholars believe that the human author of Chronicles was Ezra. He was one of the priests that went back to the land along with many others after the 70 years in exile. He wanted them to understand why the nation fell and to see the seriousness of idolatry and refusing to give God the worship and love that He is so worthy of.

B. The Preparations for the Temple (Chapter 11-29)

The focus of this section of Chronicles is on King David, but it is a different focus than in 2 Samuel and Kings. The writer of Chronicles doesn't mention David's sin with Bathsheba or so many other incidents in his life. It is not because he is trying to gloss over David's failures. It is because he is showing David's part in the building of the temple. You may respond, “But I thought that Solomon built the temple”. That is correct, but in reality David did more to see that the temple was built than did his son Solomon.

1. David's Preparation for the Construction of the Temple (Chapter 11-22)

Let me go over some of the things that David did to prepare for the temple.

a. He Conquered Jerusalem (Chapter 11)

[Read 11:4-5] It was in the plan of God that the temple would be built in Jerusalem. It may be that David also had the temple in mind when he took the city. It may be that the motive was simply a centralized location for the capitol city and the vision for the temple came later. Nevertheless, God knew what He was going to do and so He gave the city to David.

b. The Ark of the Covenant Was Brought to Jerusalem (Chapter 13, 15)

After the Philistines defeated Israel under Saul's kingship, they captured the Ark of the Covenant. Because of the judgment of God upon them the Philistines sent the ark back to Israel and it was kept in Kirjath Jearim at the house of Abinadab. David didn't move it correctly according to the instructions that God gave to Moses. God had said that it was to be carried on the shoulders of the Levites with poles through the rings attached to the ark. David had it moved on an ox pulled cart. When the oxen stumbled, a man who was guiding the oxen reached out and touched the ark to steady it. When that happened, God struck the man dead. God had given specific instructions that the ark was not to be touched and whoever touched it would die (Exodus 25:12-14; Numbers 4:15). David is distraught and had the ark taken to another house to be kept. After thinking it over David realized that he was at fault and three months later he brought the Ark to Jerusalem in accordance with the instructions God had given to Moses. The ark was the visible symbol of God's presence on earth. To ignore the ark or to treat it lightly was to ignore or treat God lightly. We see David's esteem for the Lord in the celebration and worship when the Ark of the Covenant is brought into Jerusalem.

c. The Property Is Acquired for the Temple (Chapter 21)

In this chapter, David commits a grievous sin [Read 21:1-2, 7, 14, 18, 21-25]. This property was the very ground where the temple would be built. Let's spend a little time here. Why was the taking of this census a sin? The likely reason is that it showed that David was trusting in the numbers rather than trusting in God. He had forgotten how in the time of the Judges God defeated the whole Midianite army with just 300 men. This census was an act of pride that brought God's judgment. What I want you to see is the instigation of this sin. Notice that verse one says that Satan moved David to number Israel. This is how our enemy works. He can implant thoughts into our mind and having inroad through what the Bible calls “the power of sin” or just “sin”, Satan puts thoughts (called in **Ephesians 6:16 (NKJV)** “...the fiery darts of the wicked one.”) into our mind. That is why we must know God's truth to recognize the enemies lies and then obey **2 Corinthians 10:5 (NKJV)** “casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ”. In this incident we also see the providential working of God. God used even David's sin to accomplish His purpose of acquiring the property to build the temple.

d. The Materials Were Acquired for the Temple (Chapter 22)

[Read 22:2-5; 14-16]

2. David's Preparation for the Operation of the Temple (Chapter 23-29)

We are told in 2 Chronicles 29:25 that all of the preparations for the temple that David made were according to plans given to him by God. The work David accomplished for the preparation of building the temple was massive. He organized the 38,000 Levites to supervise work in the temple, lead the music, guarding the treasuries and storerooms and to minister as Judges and teachers of the law. David provided the instruments for the musicians and many of the songs they were to sing (we call them the Psalms of David). David called together the princes of the people and charged them with the managerial functions in the temple. David then gave a challenge or charge to his son Solomon in 28:20-21 [Read].

In chapter 29, we see David encouraging the people of Israel to give for the building of the temple and he sets the example with his own generous giving [Read 29:3-5]. The leaders of the nation then respond with generous gifts [Read 29:6]. Then the rest of the people gave [Read 29:9]. David then breaks out in praise in 29:10-15 and there are so many great stewardship principles given in these verses we must come back to them another time when we have more time.

The book of 1 Chronicles ends with Solomon being anointed king and then David's death is recounted [Read 29:28]. Let me conclude 1 Chronicles with a summary from Mark Dever. "Why is Jerusalem central in the Old Testament and particularly here in 1 Chronicles? Jerusalem is central because the temple is located in Jerusalem. Why is the temple central? The temple is central because the ark is located in the temple. Why is the Ark central? The ark is central because it symbolizes the presence of God. And God is at the center of everything. In short, the ark and the temple are central to 1 Chronicles because God is central" [Mark Dever, *The Message of the Old Testament*, page 348].

II. 2 Chronicles: The Destruction of the Temple (Chapter 1-36)

The purpose for writing both 1 & 2 Chronicles is to explain to a group of Israelites born in captivity why the exile happened and to give those who are being allowed to go back to Jerusalem principles on how to rebuild on the right foundation. The focus is on Judah (the southern kingdom) since they are the ones coming back from Babylon to resettle. The writer of 2 Chronicles (probably Ezra) focuses primarily on the temple and idolatry, since this was the primary sin that caused God's judgment to fall on the people of Judah. The book of 2 Chronicles naturally divides into two parts.

A. The Majesty of the Temple under Solomon (Chapter 1-9)

The years of Solomon's reign were the golden years of Israel. Not only were the boundaries the largest in the nation's history, the wealth was almost beyond comprehension. In these first nine chapters we see Solomon building and dedicating the temple that David had planned and provided the materials for. The temple was completed in the 11th year of Solomon's reign (about 960 BC) [Read 5:1].

The dedication of the temple is recorded in 5:2-7:11. What a dedication it was! This was undoubtedly the greatest celebration in Israel's history. Solomon gave a short speech and a long prayer at the dedication. Remember that Solomon was probably still in his twenties. His prayer indicates that at this time in his life, he was walking with God. The dedication prayer focused on God and His glory [Read 6:18]. After the prayer, look at what happens [Read 7:1-3]. This was a sign from God that His manifest presence would indeed dwell in this place and that the temple would be the accepted place of sacrifice. After the dedication, God appears again to Solomon and makes the promise that is the best known verse in 2 Chronicles [Read 7:14].

In chapter 8 we see the beginning of Solomon's downfall as he begins marrying foreign women and worshipping their gods. The wealth of Solomon was legendary. We see a description of the wealth in Israel in 9:27 [Read].

B. The History of the Temple after Solomon (Chapter 10-36)

In these chapters, we have an account of the twenty kings of Judah following Solomon after the nation was divided. In chapters 10 and 11 we are told about the division that we covered in depth as we went through 2 Kings in the last study. Since the temple was in the southern kingdom and the kings of the

northern kingdom set up rival worship involving a golden calf, the book of 2 Chronicles puts its focus on the southern kingdom (Judah). We looked at several of the kings of Judah last week and we will only be able to look at a couple in this study. What we see is five periods of revival after the nation had fallen into idolatry and sin.

The first king I want to look at is Jehoshaphat. Even though he had several lapses, Jehoshaphat was a good king [Read 17:3]. We see that he also hated idolatry [Read 17:6]. Jehoshaphat also sent teachers throughout Judah to teach the people the Word of the Lord. There is one incident in Jehoshaphat's life that shows us why God mostly approved of his reign [Read 20:1-2]. Three nations have banded together against Judah and they are a vastly superior force to Judah and they are only about 15 hours away. We see Jehoshaphat's trust in God in how he responded. He Sought the Lord in Prayer and Fasting [Read 20:3]

Jehoshaphat's prayer is interesting. He starts by focusing not on the coming enemy, but on the person and power of God [Read 6-9]. After he has set the focus on God, he mentions the problem. The problem looks much smaller now that they have lifted up and magnified the Lord. Next, Jehoshaphat humbles himself and looks to God alone as the hope of the nation [Read 20:12]. After the prayer, God sent a prophet with a word from God. The word from God was that this battle was the Lord's [Read 20:15] God next gave instructions that surely must have sounded strange. The singers led the Army! [Read 20:18-21]. Look at what God did [Read 20:22-25]. What an amazing event.

Even though Jehoshaphat started well, he didn't end so well. He made an alliance with wicked King Ahaziah of Israel and even though early in his reign he tore down the high places, later he allowed other high places to continue.

Perhaps the greatest revival in Judah came under the leadership of Hezekiah. Hezekiah's father Ahaz was a wicked king [Read 28:22-25]. When Ahaz died, his son Hezekiah became king [Read 29:1-3]. Revival began when the doors of the temple were opened. Next, there was a cleansing of the temple and a call to the leaders to repent. The leaders repented and worship began to flow from God's temple once again.

Even though there were some other times of revival, the trend of the nation was down and away from God. Finally the judgment of God came. We find these sad words in 2 Chronicles 36:15-20 [Read]. Is God through with the Jews? No, the book ends with hope! The Persians king Cyrus allowed a remnant to go back to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple. God was not through with the Jews and the most important descendent of David was yet to be born.

CONCLUSION

Let me close by making application to the church today. Listen to this quote from Warren Weirsbe: "The church today must beware of the same kind of spiritual decay. Are we worshipping the gods of the enemy? Are we proud of our buildings and budgets and statistics? Is there evidence of true holiness and a fear of God in our worship? Are we dependent on the spiritual leaders God gives us? Are we experiencing success because the Lord is with us or because we cooperate with the world? Do we think that because we have the Bible and church buildings and 'successful ministries' that God will overlook our sins and stay His hand of discipline?" [Warren Weirsbe, *Weirsbe's Expository Outlines of the Old Testament*, Page 374]. I leave you with the promise of God to Judah that I believe is offered to us today: **2 Chronicles 7:14 (NKJV)** "if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land." (3149)