

- I. 1 and 2 Chronicles
- a. Purpose: We will look at the authorship, purpose, structure and a closer look at the book of **1 and 2 Chronicles** so we would be more familiar with this part of the Bible and yearn to study it for ourselves.
  - b. Similar to what we saw earlier with **1 and 2 Kings** most scholars and books surveying the Old Testament group **1 and 2 Chronicles** together. We need to understand that the reason for this: It was supposed to be one book but for practical reason it is too big for one scroll so it is divided in half with 2 Chronicles being slightly larger.<sup>1</sup> Thus in this study we will look at both **1 and 2 Chronicles** together.
  - c. Authorship
    - i. The book of **1 and 2 Chronicles** does not explicitly say who the author is.
    - ii. According to Jewish Tradition that was recorded in the Talmud: ""Ezra wrote the book that bears his name [that is, Ezra and Nehemiah] and the genealogies of the Book of Chronicles up to his own time. . . . Who then finished it [the book of Chronicles]? Nehemiah the son of Hachaliah."" (Baba Bathra 15a)<sup>2</sup>→We see **1 and 2 Kings** being attributed to both Ezra and Nehemiah as the author.
  - d. Purpose
    - i. According to Keith Essex the purpose of **1 and 2 Chronicles** is the following: "In showing Yahweh's faithfulness to the house of David and the Temple in Israel's history, Israel was encouraged to hope that the Son of David will come and build His Temple."<sup>3</sup>
    - ii. According to Eugene Merrill the purpose of **1 and 2 Chronicles** is the following: "God, through a special covenant relationship with the Davidic dynasty, one exhibited by and centered on the temple and its cultus, will bless His elect people Israel when and as they live in obedience, and through them will extend his grace to all the world."<sup>4</sup>
    - iii. According to Richard Mayhue **1 Chronicles** is about "the Spiritual perspective of the genealogy and reign of David."<sup>5</sup>
    - iv. According to Richard Mayhue **2 Chronicles** is about a "spiritual perspective on the kings that followed David: Obedience brings blessings; disobedience brings wrath."<sup>6</sup>
    - v. In my own words: **1 and 2 Chronicles** encourages believers to have hope in God by summarizing God's faithfulness in Old Testament history beginning with His faithfulness with the genealogy from Adam to the

---

<sup>1</sup> Eugene Merrill, "The Books of 1 and 2 Chronicles" in *The World and the Word: An Introduction to the Old Testament* (Nashville, B&H Publishing), Kindle Locations 11814-11817.

<sup>2</sup> Source: [https://www.sefaria.org/Bava\\_Batra.15a.8?lang=bi](https://www.sefaria.org/Bava_Batra.15a.8?lang=bi).

<sup>3</sup> Keith Essex, *OLD TESTAMENT STUDIES I Syllabus* (Sun Valley, California: Self-Published Thesis for The Master's Seminary), 46.

<sup>4</sup> Eugene Merrill, "The Books of 1 and 2 Chronicles" in *The World and the Word: An Introduction to the Old Testament* (Nashville, B&H Publishing), Kindle Locations 12059-12062.

<sup>5</sup> Richard Mayhue, *Ordination Practicum Syllabus* (Sun Valley, California: Self-Published for The Master's Seminary), 65.

<sup>6</sup> Richard Mayhue, *Ordination Practicum Syllabus* (Sun Valley, California: Self-Published for The Master's Seminary), 66.

Davidic line, then with David being described as the ideal Type for the Messiah and His faithfulness to the institution of the Temple.

- e. Structure
  - i. There are different ways people have outlined the book.
  - ii. The most easiest to remember is probably a modification from Richard Mayhue's outline<sup>7</sup>
  - iii. **1 Chronicles**
    - 1. Royal Line of David (**1 Chronicles 1-9**)
      - a. From Adam (**1**)
      - b. To Azel (**9**)
    - 2. Righteous Reign of David (**1 Chronicles 10-29**)
  - iv. **2 Chronicles**
    - 1. Reign of Solomon (**2 Chronicles 1-9**)
      - a. Inauguration of Solomon as King (**1**)
      - b. Completion of Temple (**2-7**)
      - c. Glory of the reign of Solomon (**8-9**)
      - d. Death of Solomon (**9**)
    - 2. Righteous Reign of Judah's Kings (**2 Chronicles 10-36**)
- f. Closer look at **1 and 2 Chronicles**
  - i. The Genealogy of **1 Chronicles 1-9**
    - 1. There is a focus on David and His tribe of Judah
      - a. With the genealogies of the Patriarchs and all 12 tribes of Israel being recorded in nine chapters the author devotes two and a half to Judah in **1 Chronicles 2:3-4:23**.<sup>8</sup>
    - 2. There is a focus on the tribe of Levi
      - a. At the very center of the lists is Levi in **1 Chronicles 6**.<sup>9</sup>
      - b. This is not surprising given the focus of **1 and 2 Chronicles** on the Temple and the Levites are the ones who maintain the Temple.
    - 3. What is the purpose of this? Eugene Merrill states: Part of the book's focus on the faithfulness of God to the Davidic Covenant flowing from previous Covenants and promises of God and also God's faithfulness to the details of the institution of the Temple.
  - ii. The Righteous Reign of David (**1 Chronicles 10-29**)
    - 1. None of the flaws of David is mentioned here.
    - 2. The point is not that it is covering up David's sin as it is portraying to us what a future Messianic King would be like!<sup>10</sup>
  - iii. Both **1 and 2 Chronicles** focus on the Davidic royal line

---

<sup>7</sup> The following below is from Richard Mayhue, *Ordination Practicum Syllabus* (Sun Valley, California: Self-Published for The Master's Seminary), 65-66.

<sup>8</sup> Eugene Merrill, "The Books of 1 and 2 Chronicles" in *The World and the Word: An Introduction to the Old Testament* (Nashville, B&H Publishing), Kindle Location 12069.

<sup>9</sup> Eugene Merrill, "The Books of 1 and 2 Chronicles" in *The World and the Word: An Introduction to the Old Testament* (Nashville, B&H Publishing), Kindle Location 11873.

<sup>10</sup> See

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HR7xaHv3Ias&list=PLH0Szn1yYNeeVFodkI9J\\_WEATHQCwRZ0u&index=41](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HR7xaHv3Ias&list=PLH0Szn1yYNeeVFodkI9J_WEATHQCwRZ0u&index=41).

1. **1 Chronicles** is on David himself.
2. In **2 Chronicles** four kings of David's descendants make up more than half of 2 Chronicles (19 out of 36 chaps.).<sup>11</sup> These kings are:
  - a. Solomon (**2 Chronicles 1-9**)
  - b. Jehoshaphat (**2 Chronicles 17-20**)
  - c. Hezekiah (**2 Chronicles 29-32**)
  - d. Josiah (**2 Chronicles 34-35**)
3. What is the purpose of this? Eugene Merrill states: "Clearly the intent is to draw attention to the Davidic covenant (1 Chronicles 17) and God's faithfulness in extending its benefits to David's royal descendants."<sup>12</sup>
- iv. Both **1 and 2 Chronicles** has a heavy focus on the Temple
  1. Even before Solomon built the Temple 1 Chronicles describe David's preparation for the construction of the Temple<sup>13</sup>
    - a. David purchased the site for the future Temple (**1 Chronicles 21:26-30**)
    - b. David provided materials (**1 Chronicles 22:2-5, 14-16; 29:1-9**)
    - c. David encouraged Solomon to undertake the project (**1 Chronicles 22:6-13; 28:9-10, 20-21**)
    - d. David gave Solomon a divinely revealed blueprint (**1 Chronicles 28:11-19**).
  2. Even with the kings after Solomon there is a focus on Temple.
    - a. In **2 Chronicles 29:3** Hezekiah's first act was reopening and repairing the Temple.<sup>14</sup>
    - b. In **2 Chronicles 34:8-13** Hezekiah repairs the Temple.<sup>15</sup>
  3. More about the Temple would be mentioned below.
- g. Place of this book in the Canon
  - i. The relationship between **1-2 Chronicles** and **1-2 Kings**
    1. Is **1-2 Chronicles** a repetition of **1-2 Kings**? Eugene Merrill has this to say: "Though Chronicles includes material missing in Samuel– Kings, it also omits other material found in the latter and repeats much more from those works. Therefore to see Chronicles as only supplemental to Samuel– Kings (a common misunderstanding to this day in some circles) is to fail to appreciate it as a significant and unique creation in its own right,

---

<sup>11</sup> Eugene Merrill, "The Books of 1 and 2 Chronicles" in *The World and the Word: An Introduction to the Old Testament* (Nashville, B&H Publishing), Kindle Locations 11826-11829.

<sup>12</sup> Eugene Merrill, "The Books of 1 and 2 Chronicles" in *The World and the Word: An Introduction to the Old Testament* (Nashville, B&H Publishing), Kindle Locations 11826-11829.

<sup>13</sup> Eugene Merrill, "The Books of 1 and 2 Chronicles" in *The World and the Word: An Introduction to the Old Testament* (Nashville, B&H Publishing), Kindle Locations 12092-12093.

<sup>14</sup> Eugene Merrill, "The Books of 1 and 2 Chronicles" in *The World and the Word: An Introduction to the Old Testament* (Nashville, B&H Publishing), Kindle Locations 11836-11837.

<sup>15</sup> Eugene Merrill, "The Books of 1 and 2 Chronicles" in *The World and the Word: An Introduction to the Old Testament* (Nashville, B&H Publishing), Kindle Locations 11840-11841.

one composed with clear historical and theological objectives in view.”<sup>16</sup>

2. Understand the ways **1-2 Chronicles** is different than **1-2 Kings** allows us to understand more of **1-2 Chronicles**.
  - a. **1-2 Chronicles** compared with **1-2 Kings** contain relatively few prophetic narratives such as those of Elijah and Elisha.<sup>17</sup> Thus the purpose of **1-2 Chronicles** are focused on the monarchy and that, of Judah with Israel acting more of a foil to Judah.<sup>18</sup>
  - b. **1-2 Chronicles** compared with **1-2 Kings** focuses a lot more on the details concerning the Temple. According to Eugene Merrill: “The temple itself was the subject of much interest in Kings, with its emphasis on Solomon's building exploits (**1 Kings 6-7**), but Kings has virtually nothing to say about priests, Levites, and the services of the temple. Chronicles, on the other hand, speaks extensively of David's preparations for building the temple (**1 Chronicles 22, 28-29**), his appointment of the various priestly and Levitical offices (**chaps. 23-27**), and Solomon's actual construction of the temple complex (**2 Chronicles 2-4**). In addition, the chronicler goes to great length to describe the service of dedication that followed the completion of the work (**chaps. 5-7**). Thus fully two-thirds of the account of Solomon's reign is given over to matters of the temple and its services and officiants.”<sup>19</sup> Thus the temple is central to **1-2 Chronicles**.
- ii. **1-2 Chronicles** focus on the Temple is better appreciated in the context of previous revelation. Recall that after being freed from the Egyptians the Song of Moses end with this hope for the future: “*You will bring them and plant them in the mountain of Your inheritance, The place, O Lord, which You have made for Your dwelling, The sanctuary, O Lord, which Your hands have established. 18 “The Lord shall reign forever and ever.”*” (**Exodus 15:17-18**)
  - a. Where is this mountain where Gods’ dwelling will be at?  
The Temple in Jerusalem!
  - b. All these time would make Solomon’s generation be amaze at God’s faithfulness!
- iii. **1-2 Chronicles** also shows us David is like a new Moses with building a place for God’s presence. See God’s Divine Blueprint for David in **1**

---

<sup>16</sup> Eugene Merrill, “The Books of 1 and 2 Chronicles” in *The World and the Word: An Introduction to the Old Testament* (Nashville, B&H Publishing), Kindle Locations 11822-11825.

<sup>17</sup> Eugene Merrill, “The Books of 1 and 2 Chronicles” in *The World and the Word: An Introduction to the Old Testament* (Nashville, B&H Publishing), Kindle Locations 11802-11805.

<sup>18</sup> Eugene Merrill, “The Books of 1 and 2 Chronicles” in *The World and the Word: An Introduction to the Old Testament* (Nashville, B&H Publishing), Kindle Locations 11802-11805.

<sup>19</sup> Eugene Merrill, “The Books of 1 and 2 Chronicles” in *The World and the Word: An Introduction to the Old Testament* (Nashville, B&H Publishing), Kindle Locations 11830-11835.

**Chronicles 28:11-19** in comparison with what God gave Moses in **Exodus 25:9**.

iv. The Temple and the Messiah

1. The Temple was eventually destroyed due to the sins of Israel including the priests who maintain the Temple by the Babylonians as recorded in **2 Chronicles 28:11-19**. This is devastating in light of the focus on the Temple.
2. But there is a ray of hope that God is still faithful in restoring the Temple in **2 Chronicles 36:22-23**: *“Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia—in order to fulfill the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah—the Lord stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he sent a proclamation throughout his kingdom, and also put it in writing, saying, 23 “Thus says Cyrus king of Persia, ‘The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, and He has appointed me to build Him a house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all His people, may the Lord his God be with him, and let him go up!’””*
  - a. This followed after 70 years in exile (v.21)
  - b. This was during the reign of another Empire: The Persians.
  - c. The Persians under king Cyrus allowed the Jews to rebuild the Temple of God in Jerusalem!
3. Yet if God is faithful to restoring the Temple, how much more faithful will He be in bringing about the Messianic Davidic King!
4. Jesus is the Messianic Davidic King who will one day bring about a New Jerusalem according to **Revelation 21:10-27** after His Second Coming.
5. Will there be a Temple in this New Jerusalem? Revelation 21:22 states *“I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.”*→Jesus is the Temple!