

THE BOOKS OF I AND II CHRONICLES

Having gone through the Books of Samuel and Kings the study of Chronicles needs only be an overview. These two Books are a "Chronicle" (an account of events arranged in order) which takes us from Adam to Nehemiah. They give us the main genealogies of the nation of Israel and the main events of the Davidic Kingdom to the time of the Babylonian captivity.

The Central Message of Both Chronicles: The Temple (House) of The Lord

1. These Books deal with matters of the Temple that are not dealt with in Samuel or Kings. I Chronicles 11 to the end gives the reign of David and his preparation for building the Temple.
2. II Chronicles 2-9 gives the account of the reign of Solomon and the building of the Temple.
3. The Books deal solely with Judah and Jerusalem (often called Zion) because that is the kingdom and the city where the Temple was built.
4. The Temple was:
 - a. A symbol of unity of the nation.
 - b. A reminder of the nation's high calling.
 - c. A sign that Jehovah was still with His chosen people.

The Relationship of Chronicles to Samuel and Kings

1. Where Samuel and Kings are more biographical, Chronicles is more of a statistical account. Samuel and Kings are more personal while Chronicles is more official.
Samuel and Kings give history of both Israel and Judah after the division of the kingdom. Chronicles gives only the history of Judah after the division of the kingdom.
2. Samuel and Kings emphasize the throne while Chronicles emphasizes the Temple.
4. Chronicles offers a review of the history of the people so that we may apply a lesson for them and for us: A nation's response to God is the decisive factor in its history.

Relation to Ezra and Nehemiah

1. It is thought that the Books of Chronicles, Ezra and Nehemiah originally a single great history. Perhaps we can see this from the end of the Book of Chronicles, which seems to leave a thought open, that finds its conclusion in Ezra 1:3.
2. These three Books form a group that may be arranged this way:
 - a. Chronicles - Retrospection.
 - b. Ezra - Restoration.
 - c. Nehemiah - Reconstruction.

The Structure of The Books

	I Chronicles	
	The People of the Lord	- Chapters 1-9
	The Anointed of the Lord	- Chapters 10-12
David's Reign	The Ark of the Lord	- Chapters 13-16
	The Covenant of the Lord	- Chapters 17-21
	The Temple of the Lord	- Chapters 22-29
	II Chronicles	
	SOLOMON'S FORTY YEAR REIGN	- CHAPTERS 1-9
	Solomon's Prayer for Wisdom	- Chapter 1
	Solomon Builds the Temple	- Chapters 2-7
	Solomon in All His Glory	- Chapters 8-9
JUDAH'S HISTORY TO THE CAPTIVITY		- CHAPTERS 10-36
	The Division of the Kingdom	- Chapter 10

The Twenty Kings of Judah - Chapters 11-36
 Deportation to Babylon - Chapter 36:15-21
 (Edict of Cyrus - Chapter 36:22-23)

A Brief Overview of the Structure Detailed Above:

1. The People of the Lord - Chapters 1-9
 This is a genealogy, but more than that, it is a family tree of a certain people: The People of the Lord God. Beginning with Adam, God chooses the youngest son. This continues with Japheth, Ham and Shem; Shem being the youngest. Abram was the youngest son of Terah - Isaac was chosen over Ishmael; Jacob chosen over Esau. In Chapter 2 we find Jacob - Judah - Jesse - David. In Chapter 3 the line of David continues down to Judah's last kings.
 In Chapters 4-8 we review the genealogy of the tribes of Israel and their allotment in the Land of Canaan.
2. The Anointed of the Lord - Chapters 10:11
 Here begins the reign of David, the "Anointed" of the Lord and how he made Jerusalem the capital when he was made king. He was the king of "Divine" choice whereas Saul was the king of "human" choice.
3. The Ark of the Lord - Chapters 13-16
 The first notable act of David was to bring the Ark of the Lord to Jerusalem. The presence of the Ark meant the presence of Jehovah. God blesses David.
4. The Covenant of the Lord - Chapters 17-21
 It pleased God to choose out of the race one nation: Israel. Then out of the one nation, one tribe (Judah), then out of one tribe, one family (the house of David), and to make with David a wonderful covenant.
5. The Temple of the Lord - Chapters 22-29
 David was not allowed to build the Temple, but he prepared for it:
 Materials - Chapter 22
 Levites - Chapter 23
 Priests - Chapter 24
 Singers, porters, etc. - Chapters 25-27
 Charge to Solomon and the Nation - Chapters 28-29
 Central message of this section is found in 17:10.

II Chronicles shows us a glorious beginning and a terrible ending.

THE FORTY YEAR REIGN OF SOLOMON - CHAPTERS 1-9

Here we see the national and moral significance of Solomon's reign. He was promised, "wisdom", "wealth" and "power" and he received them. He was also promised "length of days" if he would walk with God. He forfeited this and died at 59.

JUDAH'S HISTORY TO THE CAPTIVITY - CHAPTERS 10-36

In the preceding chapters of both Chronicles there has risen up a THRONE founded in a Divine Covenant and a TEMPLE founded by Divine guidance. They upheld each other until apostasy developed and the Throne became the worst enemy of the TEMPLE. One had to go and it was the THRONE.

There were 20 kings over Judah from Rehoboam to Zedekiah, but the Throne of David was suspended by exile to Babylon, and the Temple allowed to be burned.

In the two Books of Chronicles we have a full view of the Davidic monarchy. We see the "high calling", "great blessing", "sin doing" and "bad ending". When a king and a people honored God there was peace and prosperity, but when they were unfaithful to God, there was only adversity.

FOR NEXT WEEK:
 READ EZRA AND NEHEMIAH