

1 & 2 Chronicles

I. The Main Idea of 1 & 2 Chronicles

Although Israel was not consistently faithful to the Lord, their history is full of examples of people and times when Israel served the Lord, turned from false gods, and worshiped Him.

II. Outline of 1 & 2 Chronicles

1 Chronicles 1-9	Genealogies: From Adam to Zerubbabel
1 Chronicles 10-29	David's Reign: Preparation for the Temple
2 Chronicles 1-9	Solomon's Reign: Building the Temple
2 Chronicles 10-36	Judah's Kings: Apostasy and Decline

III. Interpretive Keys to 1 & 2 Chronicles

Genres:

- Genealogies: 1 Chronicles 1-9
- Historical Narrative: 1 Chronicles 10 - 2 Chronicles 36
- Poetry: 2 Chronicles 16

What is the difference between Samuel-Kings and Chronicles?

Why did God include two history books in the Bible that cover roughly the same time period?

- Samuel-Kings was written during the exile (2 Kgs. 25:27-30) and was intended to condemn Israel and explain why God's judgment was just.
 - Although it does include many stories where individuals and the nation as a whole were faithful to God, overall it tells the story of Israel's failure to follow Yahweh.
 - Covers history of the United Kingdom, and both the Northern and Southern Kingdoms.

- Focuses on God's judgement.
- Chronicles was written after the return from exile (2 Chr. 36:22-23) as an encouragement to the faithful remnant.
 - It tends to focus on events where Israel was faithful to the Lord and gloss over events where there was disobedience and God's judgment.
 - Covers history of the United Kingdom, and only the Southern Kingdom where the Davidic dynasty ruled and the Temple was located.
 - Focuses on Israel's worship.

	1-2 Kings	1-2 Chronicles
Theme	Covenant Failure	Covenant Continuity, Transformation, and Theological Stability
Focus	Doom	Hope
Emphases	Apostasy, Idolatry, and the Role of the Kings & Prophets	Retribution Theology (Blessings or Curses) and the Role of the Priests & Levites
Ending	Judgment and Captivity with Hint of Hope	Shift from Monarchy to Theocracy with Dominant Hope of Full Kingdom Restoration
Audience and Their Question	Exilic Community Questioning, "Why Did the Exile Happen?"	Post-exilic Community Questioning, "Will the Kingdom Be Restored?"
Recurrent Motifs	Sins of Jeroboam and Promises to David	The Davidic Dynasty and Yahweh's Kingship over All; Repentance and Reform as the Means to God's Favor

Todd Bolen, "1-2 Chronicles," in *What the Old Testament Authors Really Cared About: A Survey of Jesus' Bible*, ed. Jason S. DeRouchie (Grand Rapids: Kregel Academic, 2013), 445.

Examples:

- David's Adultery with Bathsheba
 - 2 Sam. 11-12 – Detailed account of adultery while Joab fought against Rabbah.
 - 1 Chr. 20:1-3 – No mention of David's adultery while Joab fought against Rabbah.
- David's Census
 - 2 Sam. 24:1 – God incited David to take a census.
 - 1 Chr. 21:1 – Satan incited David to take a census.
- David's Preparations for the Temple
 - 2 Sam. 24:18-25 – Purchase of Threshing Floor.
 - 1 Chr. 21:18-30 – Purchase of Threshing Floor, plus ...
 - 1 Chr. 22-26, 28-29 – Preparation of Materials, Preparation of Personnel, David's Charge to Solomon.

- Solomon Turning from the Lord
 - o 1 Kgs. 11 – Description of Solomon’s spiritual failures.
 - o 2 Chr. 9 – No mention of Solomon’s spiritual failures.
- Levites and Faithful Israelites Flee to Judah During Jeroboam’s Reforms
 - o 1 Kings – No mention of the event.
 - o 2 Chr. 11:13-17 – Levites and “those who had set their hearts to seek the Lord God of Israel” strengthen Rehoboam’s kingdom.
- Celebration of Passover During Reign of Hezekiah
 - o 2 Kings – No mention of the event.
 - o 2 Chr. 30 – “So there was great joy in Jerusalem, for since the time of Solomon the son of David king of Israel there had been nothing like this in Jerusalem.”
- Manasseh’s Repentance
 - o 2 Kings – No mention of the event.
 - o 2 Chr. 33:10-20 – Manasseh is humbled by God and repents.

V. Messianic Elements within 1 & 2 Chronicles

- *Prophecies:*
 - Davidic Covenant – 1 Chron. 17
- *Types of Christ:*
 - David