

The Book of Chronicles

The Author, Title, and Date of Chronicles

1. Author: Unknown. Tradition holds that Ezra the priest wrote it.
2. Title: Chronicles (One book in the Hebrew.)
 - a. Hebrew: *The Affairs of the Days*.
 - b. LXX: *Things Omitted*. i.e. Things not included in Samuel and Kings. This title was inaccurate.
3. Date: c. 450-425.

The Background and Setting of Chronicles.

1. Background
 - a. Both books chronicle the same information as Samuel and Kings, but from a different perspective and with about 55% new material.
 - b. 1 Chronicles covers the material of 2 Samuel, beginning with Adam and ending with the death of David.
 - c. 2 Chronicles covers the material of 1 & 2 Kings, beginning with Solomon and ending with the decree of Cyrus. However, *only* the Southern Kingdom of Judah is chronicled. The Northern Kingdom is omitted.
 - d. The book is written for those returning to the Land of Promise after the Babylonian Captivity in 538 B.C.
 - e. Prophets: Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi
2. Historical Setting
 - a. The exiles return from Babylon
 - b. They return to a bleak setting.
 - 1) No King - Governors
 - 2) No security - no walls (Nehemiah)
 - 3) No Temple - no place of worship (Ezra)
 - 4) No control over the land (Ezra 4, Nehemiah 4)
 - 5) No real blessings - Family land
 - 6) No wealth
 - 7) No "presence of God" - Shekinah glory had left (Ezekiel 8-11)
 - c. A bittersweet setting - Back in the land, but the glory has departed.
3. Note the main three failings of the Kings: Personal sin, Idolatry, Trusting in ability of man, instead of God.

The Purpose of Chronicles

1. Chronicles reviews the history of Israel in light of God's *covenant promises*, for the purpose of *encouraging the returned remnant to remember God's promises and intentions concerning*:
 - a. the Land
 - b. the Nation
 - c. the Davidic King (Messiah)
 - d. the Priesthood
 - e. the Temple
 - f. True Worship

2. Therefore, the author records the history of this time, **from God’s perspective: The Promises and Covenants**.
 - a. God’s promises and purpose in the Abrahamic Covenant are *still in force!* Again, this is not a mere narrative, but a *theological* narrative. **God’s purpose and plan is the entire point.**
 - b. The focus is on the Abrahamic covenant, especially in the Davidic covenant, and especially the Messianic line. (Thus, only the Southern Kingdom is in view). Note *1 Chronicles 17.11-14* (2 Samuel).
 - c. Emphasis is on the legitimacy and importance of two things: the Davidic line, and the Temple worship.
 - d. Note: God does repeat a chronicling of David’s sin in numbering the people (2 Sa 24), but does *not* repeat a chronicling of David’s sin with Bathsheba.
3. Contrast between Samuel/Kings and Chronicles

Samuel/Kings	Chronicles
History of the nation - Perspective of the Throne	History of the nation - Perspective of the Altar
Focus: the Palace	Focus: the Temple
Political History	Divine History
Focus on Events: “What happened?”	Focus on Interpretation: “Why did it happen?”
Man’s viewpoint	God’s viewpoint

The Message of Chronicles

1. *God is faithful* to His covenant promises and people.
2. True blessing from God comes *only* from *following God*.
3. Therefore, Worship, follow, and be faithful to God.

The Structure of 1-2 Chronicles

1. 1 Chronicles
 - a. 1.1-9.44 – Genealogies.
 - b. 10.1-14 – Reign of Saul.
 - c. 11.1-29.30 – Reign of David.
2. 2 Chronicles
 - d. 1.1-9.31 - Reign of Solomon
 - e. 10.1-36.23 – Reigns of Southern Kings of Judah
3. Key Verses:

The Themes of Chronicles

1. 1 Chronicles: The Davidic Covenant (Abrahamic Covenant)
 - a. God’s promises in the Covenants stand.
2. 2 Chronicles: The Revival and Reformation of True Worship
 - a. Jehoshaphat - 17-20
 - b. Joash 23-24
 - c. Uzziah 26
 - d. Josiah 34-35
 - e. Cyrus’s decree to rebuild temple 36.15-23