



# Note

## Chronicles – Part 1 of 1

Era	Characters	Chapters
In the beginning	God created the world.	<a href="#">Genesis 1</a>
Before 4000 BC	Adam & Eve	<a href="#">Gen 1~5</a>
Before 3000 BC	Cain Abel Seth	<a href="#">Gen 4~5</a>
Before 2500 BC	Noah	<a href="#">Gen 5~10</a>
About 2000 BC <b>Era of Patriarchs</b>	Abraham Isaac & Ishmael Jacob & Esau Joseph	<a href="#">Gen 11~50</a>
About 1500 BC~ 1000 BC <b>Era of prophets</b>	Moses Aaron Joshua	<a href="#">Exo Lev Num Deu</a>
	Joshua	<a href="#">Joshua</a>
	Judges(Othniel Ehud Shamgar Deborah Gideon Tola Jair Jephthah Ibzan Elon Abdon Samson) Abimelech	<a href="#">Judges</a>
	Ruth Boaz Naomi	<a href="#">Ruth</a>
	Eli Samuel Saul David	<a href="#">1 Samuel</a>
About 1000 BC ~ 500 BC <b>Era of princes</b>	Saul Jonathan David Absalom Solomon	<a href="#">1 Samuel</a> <a href="#">2 Samuel</a>
	Solomon Jeroboam Rehoboam Ahab Elijah Elisha Jehu	<a href="#">1 kings</a>
	Ahab Hezekiah Manasseh Josiah Elisha Jehu Elijah	<a href="#">2 kings</a>
	Saul David Solomon	<a href="#">1 Chronicles</a> 
	Solomon Rehoboam Asa Jehoshaphat Jehoram Joash Hezekiah Josiah	<a href="#">2 Chronicles</a> 

# Summary

## **Chronicles - Part 1 of 1 .....3**

1 and 2 Chronicles are written by Ezra for the Jews returning from exile to show God's faithfulness.

In 1 Chronicles, Ezra reminded the Jews of their roots. By listing their illustrious genealogy, he encouraged them that God would not forget them to give them confidence for the future. Chapters 22 to 29 are dedicated to the temple – which reflects our worship of God. God wants us to look up to Him alone and worship Him.

2 Chronicles focuses on the six good kings, in addition to David and Solomon, who built God's temple and fixed worship in Judah that had become pagan. What is important is our worship – to remember how God has blessed us and to glorify Him.

# Transcript

## Chronicles – Part 1 of 1

Today we begin, or rather, we will complete the two books of Chronicles, First Chronicles, and Second Chronicles.

It sounds like a lot-65 long chapters but let me tell you, I listened to it in less than five hours-the entire two books, and then had enough time to sit down, think through it, prepare this lesson, and then record it. So if you want to go through these two books, you can do it because I did it.

The book of Chronicles is one book that most Christians would say, I've read it, but I really don't know why the book is there. It's full of genealogies which don't mean anything to me and it's also full of repetition. I read this already in Samuel, I read this in Kings and now I have to read the stories again, what is the purpose?

That's why we have this time together. I want you to see there's not only a purpose, there's a beautiful purpose why this book is in the Bible. In our English Bible, there's One and Two Samuel, One and Two Kings, and then One and Two Chronicles. In the Hebrew Bible, the Hebrew Old Testament, (they don't have a New Testament) the books Samuel and Kings are very far from Chronicles. In fact, Chronicles is just one book in Hebrew. But when you translate it, as I said earlier, it gets longer so it's split into two books. It's the last book of the Hebrew Bible. For us, it's somewhere in the middle of the Old Testament. I will tell you why it's put in a different place and why it is in the Bible.

Who wrote this book? It was written by Ezra. In fact, the next book after Chronicles is called Ezra, then Nehemiah. Now, Ezra wrote this book a long time after the exile -hundreds of years. You see the book of Samuel and Kings tell how the kings deteriorated and then went into exile. The books were written by Jeremiah, likely, to tell the Israelites who were in exile. They were puzzled If we are God's people, why are we in Babylonian exile? These books that Jeremiah wrote, Samuel and Kings, were used to explain to those in exile. So, the audience was very different. Ezra wrote this book after the exile was over.

The 70 year exile is over and many Jews had returned back to Jerusalem. His audience was a totally different audience and his purpose was different. When Jeremiah wrote the book it was to explain to them why they were in that horrible situation. When Ezra wrote the book, he was trying to explain to them why you are in this exile but not so much explain to them but tell them You have great hope in this exile. You see they have come back from the exile. Seventy years is over. We are now free. King Cyrus asked us to go back and rebuild. So, they went back to rebuild, expecting the prophecies that were given to them by Jeremiah and by Ezekiel. The prophecies of Jeremiah and Ezekiel were: "you will build a new temple and the Messianic King the Son of David will come into this temple and all the nations will come to this temple." They were anticipating this when they went back to Jerusalem and built the temple (it's not much of a temple, a pretty poor replica of the first one). But there's no Messianic King and nations were not coming in peace to Jerusalem, flocking to Jerusalem, nothing of that sort. What happened? Then Ezra writes and tells them, "There is another time, there is another going up to Jerusalem. This is not the final one, there's one more coming." It wasn't clear but he knew this was not it. This was just a type of the final temple, new Jerusalem, where Christ will come, and all the nations will come to the New Jerusalem in the new heaven and the new earth, but this was not it. Ezra writes to them and tells them I know you feel very discouraged, Where is this glorious Messianic kingdom? There's none, we're poor, and nobody's here. What happened? We're struggling to make a living. Where are the prophecies? Ezra wrote to tell them, there's hope for the future. Jeremiah wrote earlier to tell them, now you know why you're here -the Kings messed up. 2 different audiences-one audience was in exile, wondering; another had come out of exile and now thinking, where is the prophecy of the new temple and the Messianic King? Two different eras written a long time after

one other to two different audiences -one audience in captivity, one audience in Jerusalem, wondering, where is the Messianic King?

Later I'll tell you why the books are placed separately and why Chronicles is the last book of the Jewish Bible. First, let's just look very quickly at the differences between Samuel, Kings which you have read, and Chronicles - what's the difference between these two? Samuel and Kings covered that period of the Kings-that's it. Starting with Saul to the last king who went to exile period - roughly 500 years.

2000BC	patriarchs	Abraham, etc.
1500BC	prophets	Moses, etc.
1000BC	Princes/ kings	Saul, David, etc.
500BC	exile	

Samuel and Kings were written at that period which covers that 500-year period where Saul started as the first king and then to the last king when he went into exile.

Chronicles covers a far bigger time range starting with Adam. It doesn't end in the exile. It ends in the hope for some amazing eternal future. It begins with Adam to an eternal future - the span is eternal. Samuel and Kings - what do you have there? Northern Kings and Southern Kings side by side, one after the other, very confusing. Chronicles only includes the southern kings, only the line of Judah. It is not so confusing because they have fewer kings. Samuel and Kings are political, what they conquered, what war they won. Chronicles very different -what religious things they did, not political. Samuel and Kings-immoral acts, adultery, murder, etc. ; Chronicles - religious ritual acts, temple, worship etc. Samuel and Kings - all the negative things they did that's why they went into exile and the kings messing up; Chronicles tell of positive things-their kings are a royal line of David. God's promise will be fulfilled but not yet. Samuel and Kings - you know why you are in exile; Chronicles - you have a bright future ahead.

Samuel and Kings show man's failures. Chronicles show God's faithfulness. I hope you see the difference in the style. When you read a lot of stories, they seem to be repetitive, but if you understand the focus, they are very different.

In Samuel and Kings, it's from the Prophets' point of view, warning them Don't do that. Chronicles is from the Priests' point of view-You built the temple. You arranged the Levites. How to work in the temple. You arranged the choir for the temple. You see, the priests are concerned about the tabernacle the temple.

The prophets are concerned about their behaviour. Though the events recorded may be the same, the focus is quite different. I hope you see the contrast in style,in the focus between Samuel and Kings, and Chronicles.

Let's now get into the book itself. First Chronicles can be divided quite easily into two parts. The first nine chapters are all genealogies with all Hebrew names. Who in the world are these people? But this was not written for us primarily. It was written for the Jews, the religious Jews who went back from exile to Jerusalem. They all knew their history. These were names that ring a bell. Basically, these genealogies, all these names, are actually a summary of all that has happened in Hebrew history. But there's no need to give details because the Jew, when you mentioned the name, they know this guy did this, that guy did that. In other words, Ezra was just basically helping them to realize their roots. They came from a long line from Adam, the family of Abraham, the royal line of Judah, the priestly line of the Levites.

Actually you see the genealogy which traces all the way from Adam, and then goes to two main lines, the royal line of Judah, which is all the Jews that came back from Judah. Remember the Ten lost tribes, they are all gone already. All those who came back from the exile were from Judah, so they have a royal line. Others who came back in this group were the Levites, the priest. The priests were not allocated land. The Levites were scattered

everywhere, but many came back and so all those who came back were either royal line of Judah, or the priestly line of Levites.

This genealogy actually traces two main lines, royal line and the priestly line. Basically, Ezra is just telling them, just like a grandfather telling his grandson, You remember your grandfather such and such, your great grandfather such and such, your great grandfather was what and what - anybody not in the line is going to say, who are those guys? Never heard of them. But if you are in the family, you say, you don't have to tell me the history about my great grandfather, you've told me many times before. Thanks for reminding me. Basically, that was what these genealogies are all about- to summarize the history of the Hebrew nation by just throwing names, names, names. It was summarizing history by naming characters. That's basically what it is.

It was very important for them to understand their roots, because now they were nobodies after they came back from exile. They were literally poor, didn't have any status, nothing - and in their minds thinking Who are we, we are nobody. No, no, Ezra said, you are the royal line, you are the priestly line. But for you and me reading it is like reading the genealogy of another family.

But when you read the genealogy of your own family, you say, I know. I know. That's why people write the history of their own family. In a sense, this is also our roots, because we come from Christ. Christ was not a rootless person, dropped on the earth. Christ had earthly human roots in David, in Abraham. If we belong to Christ's family, in a sense, this is our genealogy, except we're not familiar with the names. Don't think it was written for a very special people who forgot their illustrious ancestry. We're now reminded you are royal blood, priestly blood. Something good is going to happen. You're not nobody to be forgotten by history. That's first Chronicles 1-9. (I just listen to this and listen to their names.) First Chronicles second part is all about David. Saul is not even mentioned because the royal line comes from David, not Benjamin.

The second part of first Chronicles parallels Second Samuel about David. You're going to say Why repeat the stories. It's from a different angle. It's like the Gospels-four books about Jesus, same person. Why four books,

four angles on him-For the Jews, for the Gentile, show Christ as King, show Christ as servant.

This book, Chronicles, shows David's royal ancestry, which shows him as the type, as the ancestor of the coming Messianic King. Some parts are removed. It's not exactly like second Samuel. For example, He is anointed by prophet Samuel in second Samuel but not mentioned at all here, because as far as priests are concerned, it was God who chose him, not Samuel. From God's viewpoint, Samuel was not relevant, Samuel was just the hand that poured on the oil. Saul's persecution of David takes a huge chunk of second Samuel. Here, not a word about Saul's persecution. I mean, we are talking about a King, so why are you showing him running around like a criminal. No need. When you write the king's history you won't write the bad things about the king, right? Thirdly, nothing about his sin with Bathsheba was mentioned, nothing about the rebellion of his son Absalom, not a word. I hope you'll begin to see that this history is not exactly the same. A lot of it is overlapped in Second Samuel, but not all, because the angle is showing him as this glorious king, who is a type of the Messianic King. Those parts are removed, not to hide, but showing you a different angle.

The Jews knew the prophecy of Jeremiah 30:9 that they will come back to a land and they will serve the God their God, and David, that king forever, but David was dead long ago already, 500 years ago. What it means is son of David, the Messianic King. In Ezekiel, they were anticipating another David, which was Jeremiah 39. Ezekiel 37:25 says same thing. You will come into this land and God will raise up David your king. David was dead long ago; no, no, Messianic David, the son of David. You know, when Ezra wrote this, he was trying to help them tie up. We came back to the land. Where is the Messianic David? Maybe it's over, story's over. God forgot. No, no God didn't forget. You remember? He wrote this history to say how glorious David is. How wonderful David is, you know, and God won't forget him. Don't worry, and you are part of the line of David and God won't forget you.



That is the reason why he wrote the good part about David to encourage them that there is a hope for the future because we come from the line of this glorious King David.

First Chronicles 22 to 29 is almost entirely not found in second Samuel. It's about the preparation of the temple. It tells us in Chronicles how they prepare the materials, how he got all the Levites organized and put them in proper shifts, so to speak, in the temple, how he even got the choir organized and make sure everybody knows when to sing and what to sing or what musical instruments to play. Eight chapters on David's preparation for worship in the temple. You see here David is compared to Moses.

In Exodus 25, it says, Moses was shown the pattern of the tabernacle by God at Mount Sinai. In first Chronicles 28:19 it says that David received in writing the pattern for the temple. Moses received the blueprint for the tabernacle. David received the blueprint from God for the temple. In other words, Ezra is trying to show that David not only as this amazing King, but also as equivalent to Moses. It encouraged the Jews who came back from exile thinking We are not nobody. We are somebody, we have a royal ancestry, our ancestor is like Moses, illustrious ancestry. When you know you have illustrious roots, you have huge confidence in your future. When eight chapters are dedicated to the temple, you understand the character of God. What is God concerned about? How you behave every day, God is concerned about our worship. The temple speaks of God's presence and man's worship.

So looking at this book what you understand.? What does God want from us? Perfect life? A brilliant life? No, looking up to him and him alone and worshipping Him. In fact, the word Jew comes from Judah. What does to Judah mean? Praise, it means praise. All the tribes are gone, but Judah is left-to praise God. I hope you understand a little bit of why David is lifted up in Chronicles, rather than showing Bathsheba, or Absalom or running like a fugitive from Saul.

We come to the end of Chronicles. You can listen to that about two hours. First Chronicles, Second Chronicles-all 36 chapters are about the kings. Remember, in First Kings and Second Kings, we see all the kings-Northern King, Southern King, Northern King, Southern-40 Kings. Here, only the southern kings and not all, actually only six are really mentioned, not counting Solomon and David. The bad ones were dropped, six good ones are mentioned and when I say good, I want to show you what that means in God's eyes. Is it good in character? Is it good in conquest, doing great projects, we'll see what it is.

The bad kings are basically forgotten the good kings are mentioned. What is good in God's eyes? Six kings, beside David and Solomon, who spent almost all the time building the temple, which is in God's eyes, Worship. Asa the first one -he removed idols from the land. He threw his mother out of the palace because she was a secret worshiper of idols. That's very unusual. It's not easy to do it in any culture. Second King mentioned - Jehoshaphat. What did Jehoshaphat do? He sent Levites out to teach the law in every city -has never been done before. He instructed them to teach them people how to worship God, how to do sacrifice, what you're supposed to do.

The third one mentioned is Jehoram. That's a little bit unusual. Jehoram was a bad king. He married the daughter of Ahab and his wife's name is Athaliah. When he died, his wife, Athaliah tried to kill all the seed of David. In other words, all the royal princes but she missed out one guy, Jehoash. If she had succeeded the royal line of David will be gone from history. She killed everyone except Jehoash. Jehoram was put in justice to show how God actually protected the Royal line so that prophecy would come true.

The fourth one mentioned is Jehoash, the guy who survived. What did he do? He restored the temple, because at the time of his step-mom all the idols had come into the temple, but he restored it. The next one is Hezekiah. What did Hezekiah do? He repaired the temple. It was in disrepair.

The last one mentioned is Josiah. What did he do? He reformed the worship. Five of the Kings were mentioned not because they conquered vast lands, built fortified cities but because they focused on fixing the worship of God that had gone totally pagan.

What is important? Again, Worship. What is worship? Is it singing on Sunday? No, no, no. Everything you do, whatsoever we do, remember how God blessed us, and desire to glorify this God who has blessed us

I hope you see the whole of Second Chronicles is about these few kings and basically what they did for worship. The most interesting part in this book again is the ending. Let me read that last verse in second Chronicles- 'Thus says Cyrus, King of Persia, all the kingdoms of the earth have the Lord God of heaven given me and he had charged me to build him an house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Who is there among you of all his people? The Lord his God be with him and let him go up.' What kind of ending is this?

In Hebrew, apparently the sentence looks as if it's incomplete. What in the world? There's no more after this in the Hebrew Bible. It's like a story in search of an ending; You see that's exactly where the Jews are today. He says, if God leads you, go up. To do what? Now the last book of our Old Testament is Malachi. Let me read to you the ending of Malachi. Then you see the beauty of this Bible you're holding in your hand. The ending of Malachi is very different.

Last two verses of Malachi -"Behold, I send you Elijah, the prophet, before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse." That's the last book of the Old Testament. The last book of the Old Testament ends with a curse. It started with And it was very good in Genesis, and now it ends with a curse. But you see, for us the story is not over because the New Testament begins with Jesus the Messiah. Without Him -Curse, no hope. After Malachi -400 years of silence. Imagine, curse; but then Jesus comes.

For you and me, the non-Jews, the story has a beautiful ending. The curse is taken by Christ. For the Jews, the last book of the Hebrew Bible is Chronicles -and we go up. Why? Romans 11:25-35 tells us that blindness in part is happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in. The Jews did not believe that Jesus is the Messiah. They missed that completely. They cannot accept Jesus as the Messiah, so they're still in limbo. The Jewish nation is still in limbo. Where are we? What's our hope? But one day, the Bible tells us, when the fullness of the Gentiles is come, when God has saved the Gentiles, the Jews will come back to Him to a new Jerusalem, a new temple. When the fullness of the Gentiles is come, till then, they are partially blind. Their mind now is on the Old Testament- it's incomplete. What is our future? I don't know, maybe the land of Israel, I don't know. How are we going to build a real temple? I don't know.

I hope you see that. For the Jews, the last book ends with a story with no ending. For us, the last book of the Old Testament ends with the curse, but we have a beautiful happy ending, because the curse is taken on Christ. He spared us. Let's say we don't have the New Testament. What is the Old Testament to you and me? It's nothing more than a book of unexplained ceremonies. What's all this killing of the lamb? What does it mean? What's all these altar, what's all this laver, what's all this holy of holies. The whole Tabernacle has no meaning until we see Christ. Unexplained religious ceremonies, that's what the Old Testament is all about. But once in the New Testament all those can be explained. Unfulfilled prophecies-that's what the Old Testament is without the New Testament.

David, who is this David? His throne forever? How come? I thought they ended the exile already. Prophecies in Christ, not unfulfilled, fulfilled. Without the New Testament, the Old Testament is a book of unsatisfied longings. God, God, God -but I cannot reach him. Where is he? Thank God we have a complete, beautiful book.

I hope you love this book. I hope you see today Chronicles is not just genealogies, not just a repeat story. No, there is a purpose if you understand. Chronicles was to be the end for the Hebrew Bible but put in

the middle for us. Malachi was put at the end. Perfect Bible for you and me. Perfect Old Testament for the Jews if they have the Messiah, if the new heaven and new earth comes. May God bless, as you look at this Bible and don't say, "I don't know why I have to read Chronicles." Listen to it for five hours and you'll get everything. We are not here for details. We are to see the beauty of the entire Bible. God bless you