

1 & 2 Chronicles

"Remember, and Be Warned"

Background Information

In the Hebrew Bible, the original title of these books was "The annals of the days." In the Septuagint, the books had a wrong title: "The things omitted."

The Latin Vulgate had the full title "The Chronicles of the Entire Sacred History."

_____ has long been assumed to be the author.

It is interesting that, when the New Testament quotes about the kings, it never quotes directly from these books, but from the books of 1 Samuel-2 Kings.

The opening chapters (with the long list of names) indicates that the books were written after 450 BC as a way to remind the Jews of their whole history through the exile.

Time Covered and Outline

Since a genealogy opens 1-2 Chronicles, the books basically cover the entire history of the Old Testament, although the focus is clearly on the kingdom's rise and fall, starting with David as the major character.

Outline

- I. Selective Genealogy (1 Chronicles 1:1-9:34)
- II. David's Rise to Power (1 Chronicles 9:35-12:40)
- III. David's Reign (1 Chronicles 13-29)
- IV. Solomon's Reign (2 Chronicles 1-9)
- V. Judah's Kings (2 Chronicles 10:1-36:21)
- VI. The Return Proclamation of King Cyrus (2 Chronicles 36:22-23)

Major Themes

- God's blessing (when the kings obeyed)
- God's wrath (when disobedience occurred)
- Wisdom
- The covenant with David upheld, despite exile
- God's hand in history
 - through genealogies
 - through nationalistic concerns

First and Second Chronicles...recreate a miniature Old Testament history, with particular emphases on the Davidic covenant and temple worship... These two books were written to the recently returned Jewish exiles as a chronicle of God's intention of future blessing, in spite of the nation's past moral/spiritual failure for which the people paid dearly under God's wrath.

(John MacArthur)

God's Character in 1-2 Chronicles

Glorious (1 Chronicles 16:24)

Holy (1 Chronicles 16:10)

Merciful (1 Chronicles 16:34)

Powerful (1 Chronicles 29:11-12)

Faithful (1 Chronicles 17:23-26)

Providence (1 Chronicles 29:12)

Wise (1 Chronicles 28:9)

Greatness (2 Chronicles 2:5)

True (2 Chronicles 6:17)

Powerful (2 Chronicles 13:4)

Justice (2 Chronicles 19:7)

Goodness (2 Chronicles 30:18)

Patience (2 Chronicles 33:10-33)

Jesus in 1-2 Chronicles

God's promise with David (1 Chron. 17:11-13) continued the line to the Savior.

The temple built by Solomon reminds us of the temple of Christ's body (John 2:19).

Sources for Chronicles

The inspiration of the Bible should never be questioned, but God often let the human authors use other sources to "chronicle" information. 1-2 Chronicles lists some 19 sources used in compiling the information in these books.

Book of the Kings of Israel/Judah (1 Chron. 9:1-2, 2 Chron. 16:11; 20:34, etc.)

The Chronicles of David (1 Chron. 27:24)

Book of Samuel (1 Chron. 29:29)

Book of Nathan (1 Chron. 29:29)

Book of Gad (1 Chron. 29:29)

Prophecy of Ahijah (2 Chron. 9:29)

Visions of Iddo (2 Chron. 9:29)

Records of Shemaiah (2 Chron. 12:15)

Records of Iddo (2 Chron. 12:15)

Annals of Iddo (2 Chron. 13:22)

Annals of Jehu (2 Chron. 20:34)

Commentary on the Book of the Kings (2 Chron. 24:27)

Acts of Uzziah by Isaiah (2 Chron. 26:22)

Letters/Message of Sennacherib (2 Chron. 32:10-17)

Vision of Isaiah (2 Chron. 32:32)

Words of the Seers (2 Chron. 33:18)

Sayings of Hozai (2 Chron. 33:19)

Written instructions of David and Solomon (2 Chron. 35:4)

The Laments (2 Chron. 35:25)