

**OLD TESTAMENT SURVEY
LESSON SERIES**

**Old Testament Survey - Unit III
The Book of
1 & 2 Chronicles**

for

**CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE
CHRISTIAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY
www.cistonline.org**

**COMPILED BY
EDWIN M. GREGORIO**

**Contact: Academic Dean
e-mail: emgregorio@yahoo.com**

Reference from:

**Hearing of Faith Bible Institute
P.O. Box 372
Axtell, Texas 76624**

THE BOOKS OF I AND II CHRONICLES

INTRODUCTION

Are the Chronicles a duplication of Kings? Although they cover the same ground from Saul to Zedekiah, they are not duplications. The Greek translators gave Chronicles the title of "Things Omitted" - there is more here which does not occur in the other historical books. Thus a supplement to I and II Samuel and I and II Kings. Here we find another instance of the law of recurrence or recapitulation, seen previously in Genesis 2 and Deuteronomy, by which God goes over ground which has already been covered in order to add details and to emphasize that which He considers important. This is exactly the case in Chronicles.

For instance, the additions concern mainly the Temple and its services and such incidents as stressed the religious aspects of the nation, in contrast with the civil. These omissions shows primary interest in what is know as "two divine institutions": The Temple worship and ritual, and the Davidic line of kings.

Thus I and II Chronicles omits Saul, except incidental reference to his death, and omits David's troubles, including the Bathsheba episode, Absalom's rebellion, Adonijah's attempted usurpation of the throne, and other sins related to the house of David. And the same may be said for his treatment of the reigns of Soloman and the subsequent kings of Judah during the period of the Divided Kingdom.

That is to say, most of the sins and weaknesses of David and Soloman, and sometimes those of the later kings of Judah are omitted. A notable addition Chronicles makes to the story of the Kings, is the stress placed on the Temple worship and ritual during Josiah's reign, and the relative lack of attention he gives to his reforms.

The books of the Kings records the political history; Chronicles records the religious history. The Chronicles gives us God's viewpoint while Kings gives man's viewpoint . For this reason I and II Chronicles should be read in conjunction with the books of Samuel and Kings; otherwise, Chronicles would give an unbalanced view of the history of the Hebrew nation.

The authorship of the books of Chronicles according to Jewish tradition is Ezra. There is a striking resemblance in style and language to the books of Ezra and Nehemiah. Evidently Chronicles was written during the Babylonian Captivity. It could have been a compilation of diaries and journals of the priests and prophets, assembled by Ezra.

These two books of Chronicles not only constituted one book in the original, but apparently also included Ezra and supports the Jewish tradition. Scholars have noted a similarity in the Hebrew of all four books.

THE CONTENTS OF I AND II CHRONICLES

The contents of I and II Chronicles fall historically into three main divisions, as follows:

1. Hebrew Genealogies, I Chronicles, Chapters 1-9;
2. David and Solomon, I Chronicles 10-29 to II Chronicles 9;

3. Divided Kingdom; History of Judah, II Chronicles 10-36.

A. HEBREW GENEALOGIES, I CHRONICLES, CHAPTERS 1-9

- Without heading or introduction I Chronicles begins with a series of genealogies.
- These are taken with a few unimportant variations, directly from chapters 5, 10, 16, 21, 25, 36, of Genesis.
- One group refers to peoples, another to locations, and a third and much larger group refers to families, which are genealogies in the strict sense.
- This last group became extremely important after the exile when descent from Aaron was faithfully required as a condition for the priesthood, and when strong efforts were made to prevent intermarriage with foreigners and to maintain the purity of the Jewish race.
- Genealogies are important to God. We must be sons of God before we can do the work of God. "Ye must be born again" John 3:7. These help explain the two genealogies of Christ in Matthew and Luke. (cf. I Chronicles 3:5 with Luke 3:31).

B. THE HISTORY OF DAVID AND SOLOMON

- **DAVID'S REIGN**, I Chronicles, chapters 11-29
Briefly: The death of Saul; David made King, first of Judah, and then of all Israel; David's wars, victories, and triumphs; the Ark of the Lord brought to Jerusalem; a Psalm of thanksgiving; David's further victories against the Philistines; his purpose to build a House of the Lord, its plans and specifications; David's farewell, and death.
- **SOLOMON'S REIGN**, II Chronicles, chapters 1-9
Briefly: Solomon anointed king; Solomon, not David, builds the great Temple, The house of the Lord; the dedication of the new Temple; Solomon consolidates his kingdom and extends its borders until "he ruled over all the kings from the Euphrates to the land of the Philistines, and to the border of Egypt"; the visit of the Queen of Sheba; the declaration of Solomon's riches and wisdom.
 - And then closes Solomon's history abruptly and refers the reader to other sources for "the rest of the acts of Solomon." No mention is made of Solomon's great defection in the second half of his reign, such as that recorded in the eleventh chapter of I Kings.
 - Building the Temple is Solomon's most important accomplishment.

C. DIVIDED KINGDOM: THE HISTORY OF JUDAH, II CHRON 10-36

- REFORMATIONS GIVEN PROMINENCE:
 - Asa's, chapters 14-16
 - Jehoshaphat's, chapters 17-20
 - Joash's, chapters 23-24
 - Hezekiah's, chapters 29-32
 - Josiah's, chapters 34 -35

END of Lesson

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