

Chapter 11 Notes

From

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Chapter 11
"Tour of 1st & 2nd Chronicles"

INTRODUCTION

1) Preview of 1st & 2nd Chronicles:

These two books, 1st and 2nd Chronicles cover the same time period as that of 2nd Samuel through 2nd Kings. The thing that differentiates them is that 2nd Samuel and 1st and 2nd Kings are concerned with the political history of Israel and Judah, but 1st and 2nd Chronicles are concerned with religious history of Judah. Also, 1st and 2nd Samuel and 1st and 2nd Kings are devoted to the ministries of the prophets, but 1st and 2nd Chronicles are devoted to the ministry of the priests and the temple.

2) Introduction to 1st & 2nd Chronicles:

a) **Author:** According to the Talmud, Ezra the scribe was the author to 1st and 2nd Chronicles. The two books were originally a single book which was divided by translators, as was 1st and 2nd Samuel and 1st and 2nd Kings.

b) **Date of Writing:** Since Ezra returned to Judah during the reign of Artaxerxes I (464 B.C - 423 B.C.), it is suggested that the writings of Chronicles may have taken place around 450 B.C.

c) **Theme:** The theme of the Books of 1st and 2nd Chronicles is "A Commentary on Judah". They focus on the kings of the Southern Kingdom which reigned after King David. Also, attention is given to the role of the temple in the life of the nation since it was located in Jerusalem. Below is a chart which summarizes the differences between 1st and 2nd Samuel plus 1st and 2nd Kings, and 1st and 2nd Chronicles:

Samuel and Kings Verses Chronicles

Samuel and Kings	Chronicles
Focus equally on North and South All Kings are of Interest	Focus on Southern Kingdom Davidic Kings are of Interest

Attention to Prophetic Ministry
Little Emphasis on the Temple

Attention to Priestly Ministry
Much Emphasis on the Temple

d) **Purpose:** There are two purposes to the books of 1st and 2nd Chronicles:

1) **The First Purpose:** The first purpose of the Books of 1st and 2nd Chronicles was to trace the fortunes of the nation of Judah from their "glory days" under King David and King Solomon to their decline into idolatry due to their unfaithfulness to God. They tell of the construction of and loss of the Temple.

2) **The Second Purpose:** The second purpose of the Books of 1st and 2nd Chronicles was to help the nation of Judah rediscover their spiritual heritage while at the same time avoiding the idolatry of the past. It placed their tragic loss into a theological perspective.

e) **History and Archaeology:** In the temple of Karnak in Luxor, Egypt inscriptions mention the invasion of Shishak recorded in 2 Chronicles 12: 2 - 16. The discovery of the Ben-Hadad pillar in 1940 confirmed the account of 2 Chron. 16: 1 - 10.

f) **Geography:** The Books of 1st and 2nd Chronicles begin in Judah and end in Babylon after the last of the Davidic kings, Zedekiah, is conquered by Nebuchadnezzar in 586 B.C. and the survivors of the nation are taken into captivity. They began their return in 536 B.C. when Persia conquered Babylon.

CHAPTER OUTLINE

1) Outline of 1st Chronicles:

- a) Genealogies from Adam to Saul (1 Chron. 1 - 10)
- b) The Reign of David (1 Chron. 11 - 29)

2) Overview of 1st Chronicles:

a) **Genealogies from Adam to Saul** (1 Chron. 1 - 10) When the Hebrews returned from Babylon, they would have found the extensive genealogical section important for three reasons:

1) **First:** It established the family trees of the returning exiles, especially the priests and Levites. This qualified them for temple service.

2) **Second:** It demonstrated God's faithfulness in maintaining the

Davidic line, and therefore keeping the Messianic hope.

3) **Third:** I showed how those who kept their faith in God were blessed above all other peoples.

b) **The Reign of David** (1 Chron. 11 - 29) The Book of 1st Chronicles tell how David made Jerusalem his capital, and how he tried to make it the spiritual as well as political capital of Judah. He accomplished this in two ways:

1) **First:** By bringing the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem

2) **Second:** By coming up with the idea of building the Temple of the Lord.

God Promised David that one of his descendents would retain the right to reign, but the honor of building the Temple would go to his son (Solomon).

The Book of 1st Chronicles goes on to tell of David's battle victories. Next it tells of the preparations David made for the building of the Temple in obtaining the land and the materials for the construction. The last chapter contains his last address to his son Solomon and to the nation.

3) **Outline of 2nd Chronicles:**

a) The reign of Solomon (2 Chron. 1 - 9)

b) The Succeeding Kings of Judah (2 Chron. 10 - 16)

4) **Overview of 2nd Chronicles:**

a) **The Reign of Solomon** (2 Chron. 1 - 9) When Solomon took over as king, Israel entered her golden age. The nation's wealth increased and its peace went uninterrupted. The nation's glory was found in the construction of the Temple. Two-thirds of the first nine chapters describe the building of the Temple. It was constructed to symbolize the presence of God among His people.

b) **The Succeeding Kings of Judah** (2 Chron. 10 - 16) After Solomon died, a revolt split the country. The northern tribes, totaling ten, revolted and left the Davidic kings with only Judah. Most of them were ungodly men who did not follow in David's footsteps. It is shown that the fortunes of each of the succeeding kings is tied directly to that king's walk with God and his respect for the Temple. But things got so bad that God sent Babylon against Judah to conquer it. The book ends with Persia defeating Babylon and the Hebrew people being allowed to return to their land once again.

5) Theological Highlights:

a) **God's Blessing:** The Books of 1st and 2nd Chronicles illustrates the fact that "God honors those who honor Him." God is looking for better men even today. When He finds a person whose heart is surrendered to Him, He can do great things through them.

b) **God's Worship:** The construction of and attention given to the Temple shows that worship is to be central to the well being of God's people. The Lord Jesus Christ said that God seeks those who worship Him "in spirit and in truth".

CONCLUSION

1) Key Verses:

a) **1 Chron. 17: 11 - 12** "And it shall be, when your days are fulfilled, when you must go to be with your fathers, that I will set up your seed after you, who will be of your sons, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build Me a house, and I will establish his throne forever."

b) **2 Chron. 7: 14** "If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land."

c) **2 Chron. 16: 9** "For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him."

2) Key Chapters:

a) 1 Chronicles 17: God's Promise to David

b) 2 Chronicles 6 - 9: The Construction of the Temple

3) **Message of 1st & 2nd Chronicles:** The Books of 1st and 2nd Chronicles ends on a promising note suggesting a lesson full of hope. God's purposes will not fail. His plan for and through his people will be realized. He was able to keep alive two things :

1) **A Remnant of Israel**

2) **The Line of David**

And, god will continue to advance His plan to establish His Kingdom.

