

1 & 2 Chronicles

Breakdown

- The name comes from the type of literature: *chronicle* means a historical record.
- Just like 1 & 2 Samuel and 1 & 2 Kings, 1 & 2 Chronicles were also one book in the original Hebrew manuscripts, but the book of Chronicles also included the books of Ezra and Nehemiah. We can tell this is true because 2 Chronicles ends with an unfinished sentence which is finished at the beginning of the book of Ezra.
- No author is specified in the books, but Jewish tradition believes it to be Ezra who wrote the books around 400 B.C. after the time of the captivity in Babylon.

Main Points

- Chronicles is kind of like the *Reader's Digest* of the Old Testament. The author reflects on previous Biblical writings to record Israel's history. The people who returned from captivity in Babylon needed to know their history so they could learn lessons from the past. If they were to build new God-pleasing lives, they would have to know the tragedies that their fathers' idolatry brought and the blessings of faithfulness to God.
- While remembering the mistakes and consequences of the past, Chronicles also rekindles hope, pointing readers toward the future and the hope of God's promise. King David shows us a glimpse of a future king who would be the one true King of Kings, saving His people, establishing the kingdom of God, and reigning in authority for eternity.

Did you know?

- Chronicles talks about a group of warriors called David's Mighty Men who served the important roles of protecting the king and fighting for the freedom of Israel. What were some of the heroic feats these men were known for?
- In the middle of a battle against the Philistines, David was craving some water from the well at Bethlehem, so three of his mighty men broke through enemy lines to draw water for him. What happened when they brought it back?
- God gave King Jehoshaphat instructions for a battle against the Moabites and Ammonites. Judah's victory was so great that it took 3 days to gather all the spoil. How did they win?
- King Ahaziah's mother, Athaliah, killed all the men in the family so she could take over the throne, but the king's daughter hid young Joash in the temple for 6 years. How did Joash become king and what happened to Athaliah?
- While repairs were being made on the temple, Hilkiah, the priest, found the Book of the Law that God had given Moses which had been abandoned and lost for many years. What did King Josiah do when the book was brought to him?

Further Thought

- Chronicles begins with nine chapters of genealogies. Genealogies may seem boring to us, but they are actually very important. What do the genealogies reveal to us?
- Chronicles focuses a lot on the preparation, construction, and dedication of the temple. Why was the temple so important to the Israelites and what does that mean for us?
- Some of the kings of Judah started out great but allowed pride to turn them away from God. What can we learn from their examples?