

1 & 2 Chronicles

What about the name?!

The Hebrew title is “the events of the days”.

The LXX title is paralipomenon (book of things left out).

Jerome called it Chronicles – that seems to have stuck.

Who wrote them?

Longstanding Jewish tradition attributes the books to the prophet Jeremiah, but this is not stated anywhere in Scripture.

We can be confident, however that “the author or authors were deeply influenced by the book of Deuteronomy and sought to provide Israel with an explanation of its past in terms of the theological program outlined in that book.” (ESV Study Bible). The identity of this person or persons remains a mystery, though they were most likely connected to the temple and may well have been priests or Levites.

Who was it for?

In their current form the books have been compiled for the people of Israel in exile in Babylon. They show these people that God has kept his promises, both of blessing and judgment, just as he said he would. This, in turn, gives them hope when they hear the prophets promises of the end of exile and future blessing from the Lord.

When does the action take place?

The books starts with Adam and finishes with Cyrus King of Persia – around 530BC!

We get gradually more detail from the sons of Jacob onwards (1 Chron 2) and greater detail again from the time of Saul onwards (1 Chron 8).

How do the books fit together?

Why two books? We don't really know!

The books divide into six major sections:

1 Chron 1-3 From Adam to today

- 1 Chron 4-7 The Twelve tribes
- 1 Chron 8-9 Throne and temple
- 1 Chron 9-29 David
- 2 Chron 1-9 Solomon
- 2 Chron 10-26 The Kings of Judah

Where did it happen?

Most of the book takes place within the boundaries of Israel, though there are significant references to the time of the exile in Babylon:



Getting into the Story

Not most people's favourite!

It's *genre*.

A heads up on the history!

1 Chronicles 1-3 From Adam to today

A) A family tree where some branches are not developed

B) A family tree that focuses on the royal line

1 Chronicles 4-7 The Twelve Tribes

Disproportionate space, e.g. Judah and Levi

Repetition, e.g. Judah and Benjamin

1 Chronicles 8-9 Throne and temple

The first royal line

The temple servants post exile

Three key themes:

Royalty

Southern tribes

Temple

1 Chronicles 9-29 David

A. The first King's line and failure (9:35-10:14)

- B. The new King in Jerusalem (11:1-16:43)
- C. The promises to David (17:1-27)
- D. The victories in battle (18-20)
- E. The plague and the place for the temple (21:1-22:1)
- F. The preparations for the temple (22:2-29:20, and army organisation, 27)
- G. Solomon is king and David is dead (29:21-30)

2 Chronicles 1-9 Solomon

- A. The glorious wise king (1)
- B. The temple (2-8)
 - I. the materials are collected
 - II. the temple is built
 - III. the furnishings are added
 - IV. the ark is brought
 - V. the dedication is made
 - VI. the deal is made
- C. The glorious wise King (9)

2 Chronicles 10-36 The kings of Judah

Reheboam and Abijah, the kingdom divided (10-13)

Asa, concerned for worship, obedient to prophets, living for peace (14-16)

Jehoshaphat, the mixed bag, who allied with Ahab (17-21)

Joram and Ahaziah, two bad kings (22)

Joash, Amaziah and Uzziah, kings who start well but end badly (23-26)

Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah, the bad king sandwich (27-32)

Manasseh and Amon, two bad kings (33)

Josiah, the reforming king (34-35)

The final kings, exile remnant and return (36)

What do we make of the books of Chronicles?

Emphases

- I. Genealogies
- II. In the reigns of David and Saul
- III. In the reigns of the later kings

Omissions:

- I. Difficult handovers of power (Saul to David, David to Solomon)
- II. The sinfulness of David and Saul

III. The northern kingdom

Main themes:

- I. Kingdom
- II. Temple

Therefore the applications to the readers:

- I. God's people have been preserved from Adam to now
 1. through choice
 2. despite sinfulness
 3. through a remnant

- II. Israel's past demonstrates what they need now
 1. The King ruling the kingdom
 2. The temple offering the sacrifices