



PALMA CEIA
Presbyterian Church

The Temple & Worship in Chronicles (I & II Chronicles)

Gathering Together Around God's Word

*Sunday, April 24th 2022
10:05am in EM 307/308 & Zoom*

Background

I & II Chronicles are a singular work covering Israel's history from Adam all the way to the fall of Jerusalem (587/586 BC) and the return from Babylonian captivity (539 BC). Chronicles is the last book in the Hebrew Bible and is known as *Divrei Hayamim* or "The Events of the Days." Their placement in the Christian Old Testament comes from the Greek translation of the Hebrew Bible, the Septuagint. Though there are commonalities between Chronicles and Ezra-Nehemiah (*e.g.*, compare the beginning of Ezra [1:1-3a] with the end of Chronicles [36:22-23]), most scholars believe these books are separate compositions.

Chronicles was most likely written after the exile, sometime in the 4th century BC. The books begin with an extended list of genealogies that begin with Adam. Though Chronicles contains the entire Biblical history of Israel, the two books are primarily concerned with Israel's kings. The majority of the books' chapters are dedicated to the stories of David and Solomon. Chronicles borrows largely from Samuel and I & II Kings but doesn't adhere strictly to those books' narratives. To a lesser extent, Chronicles borrows from the Pentateuch, the Deuteronomistic History, Psalms, and the prophets.

Chronicles concentrates on this history of Judah, the Southern kingdom. When the Northern kingdom, Israel, is mentioned, it's usually regarding their failure to worship at the place of God's choosing. A primary theme of these two books is the temple and correct worship, especially in the David and Solomon sections. Chronicles points to the ways following God leads to success and prosperity whereas a lack of trust lead to failure, especially in the post-Solomon sections.

Other themes include the importance and role of the Levites as well as "the nations" and the overarching reality that they too are under the sovereignty of God. Chronicles was written with the explicit intention of providing the post-exile generation a sense of identity and connection with the past, as well as to give hope toward the restoration of life after the Babylonian exile.

Outline

- I Chronicles 1-9 *The Genealogies*
- I Chronicles 10-21 *The United Monarchy: The Story of David*
- I Chronicles 22-29 *The United Monarchy: David & Solomon*
- II Chronicles 1 – 9 *The United Monarchy: The Story of Solomon*
- II Chronicles 10 – 36 *The Divided Monarchy: The Davidic Dynasty*
 - Ch. 10 – 12 Rehoboam
 - Ch. 13 Ahijah's speech to Jeroboam & Israel
 - Ch. 14 – 16 Asa
 - Ch. 17 – 20 Jehoshaphat
 - Ch. 21 – 24 Jehoram, Ahaziah, & Joash
 - Ch. 25 – 28 Amaziah, Uzziah, Jotham, and Ahaz
 - Ch. 29 – 32 Hezekiah
 - Ch. 33 – 36 Manasseh, Josiah, & the Fall of Jerusalem

The Temple & Worship in Chronicles

The Genealogies

- Though all the tribes are listed, more emphasis is given to Judah (I Chronicles 2:3-4:23), Benjamin (7:6-12; 8:1-40), & Levi (6:1-81). These are the tribes associated with the Southern Kingdom, Judah, and the location of the temple and proper worship.
- Also, chapter 9 focuses on the list of Babylonian exiles who return, specifically focusing on the Levites and their priestly duties.

The Ark

- I Chronicles 13-16 tell the story of the ark being brought into Jerusalem.
 - I Chronicles 13:1-4 highlights the unity of "all Israel" at this point
 - I Chronicles 16:34 This particular verse serves as a refrain throughout Chronicles (cf., II Chronicles 5:13, 7:3)

Davidic Covenant

- I Chronicles 17:1-15 Emphasizes Solomon as the one who will build God's house

The Threshing Floor of Ornan the Jebusite

- I Chronicles 21:18-27 An angel of the Lord commands David to erect an altar on the threshing floor of Ornan. David purchases the threshing floor from Ornan.
- I Chronicles 21:28-22:1 David declares “Here shall be the house of the Lord God and here the altar of burnt offering for Israel.”

David Prepares for the Temple’s Construction

- I Chronicles 22:2-5 David gathers the people and makes plans for the construction of the Temple
- **I Chronicles 22:5-16** David addresses Solomon directly
 - I Chronicles 22:8 David indicates he’s not to build the temple because he has “*shed much blood and waged great wars...*”
 - I Chronicles 22:9 Unlike David, his son Solomon will be “*a man of peace.*”
- **I Chronicles 28:2-10** David delivers the above speech but to the officials of Israel
- **I Chronicles 29:1-5** David delivers another speech asking people to give as he has for the construction of the temple

The Levites

- I Chronicles 23-27 deals with David’s preparation of Levites for worship in temple
 - I Chronicles 23 discusses the various Levite families and their functions.
 - I Chronicles 24 details the divisions of the priest and includes a supplementary list of Levites.
 - I Chronicles 25 lists the temple musicians.
 - I Chronicles 26 lists the gatekeepers as well as the treasurers, officers, and judges.

The Temple under Solomon

- II Chronicles 2-7 Deals with building of the temple under Solomon, focusing on Solomon good deeds to point toward faithfulness to temple as the place of true worship. [Note how the author doesn’t include the faults of Solomon that are seen in I Kings.]
 - Note the twice-repeated theme from David’s psalm (I Chronicles 16:34) in II Chronicles 5:13 and 7:3, “*For he (the Lord) is good, for*

his steadfast love endures forever.” These words are sung as the ark is brought into the temple and when Solomon dedicates the temple.

- II Chronicles 7:12-22 God responds to Solomon’s prayer. Some commentators have noted how 7:13-16 seems especially directed toward the author of Chronicle’s readers (*i.e.*, the post-exilic community.)

The Divided Kingdom

- II Chronicles 10-36 covers the period after Solomon when the kingdom divides into Judah and Israel. The author is especially concerned with whether the kings are faithful or disobedient to the Lord.
 - II Chronicles 12:2-5 The prophet Shemaiah declares judgment against Rehoboam for abandoning the Lord
 - II Chronicles 13:4-12 Ahijah delivers a speech to Jeroboam and Israel, declaring the Lord gave kinship to David and his descendants and that true worship happens in Jerusalem.
 - II Chronicles 15 In response to the prophet Azariah, Asa removes idols from all of Judah, repairs the altar, and makes reforms regarding worship
 - II Chronicles 20:4-19 Jehoshaphat (who “*walked in the ways his father David had followed*”, II Chronicles 17:3-6) delivers a speech at the temple after defeating the Moabites and Ammonites.
 - II Chronicles 22:10-23:21 After the rule of two evil kings, Jehoram and Ahaziah, God rescues the Davidic dynasty
 - II Chronicles 24 Joash repairs the temple
 - II Chronicles 28:22-27 Ahaz commits apostasy, destroys the utensils in the temple, and “*shut up the doors of the house of the Lord.*”
 - II Chronicles 30:1-31:1 Hezekiah purifies the Temple and invites the North to join again in temple worship.
 - II Chronicles 34-35 Josiah comes into power, rediscovers the book of the law, and celebrates the Passover
 - II Chronicles 36:15-21 Jerusalem falls to Babylon because of Judah’s failure to follow the Lord
 - II Chronicles 36:22-23 The book ends with a glimmer of hope about Cyrus of Persia coming into power and declaring the Lord has charged him with building “*a house at Jerusalem.*”