



1 CHRONICLES

DECEMBER 2019

Read on your own or with others,
which ever you prefer.

This leaflet is just a brief overview of the 'big picture' of this book. If you have been reading the Bible for some time you will be aware there is much more to them than you'll find here.

If you are new to reading the Bible don't worry too much if there are details you do not quite get at the moment - focus on the 'big picture'.

1 CHRONICLES – INTRODUCTION

1 & 2 Chronicles tell the history of God’s people from Adam up to the point where the people of Judah returned from exile in 538BC. These two books go together, so don’t be surprised if you feel like you’ve only read half the story when you get to the end of 1 Chronicles.

The books of 1 & 2 Chronicles were written after the people of Judah returned from exile. They reminded the people of their place as God’s people and of the lessons from their failed past while, at the same time, pointing them forward to the Messiah who would come.

OUTLINE

CONNECTIONS TO THE PAST : 1 CHRONICLES 1-10

These chapters contain a lot of names and can be hard reading at times. Some of the names may be familiar, although not all. Although it can be tempting to skip these lists, it is worth spending a bit of time to get the big picture of what is being said here.

- **Chapters 1-3:** Here we see the line of descent from Adam to Abraham, Abraham to Jacob (Israel), Israel to Judah and then to David – the king God chose. These lists of names would have reminded the returning exiles of their place as God’s covenant people. Yet, they go beyond that. At the end of chapter 3 we read of David’s line to the exile and beyond. We know from Matthew 1 that this line of descent continues to the Lord Jesus Christ.
- **Chapters 4-7:** Our attention is now turned towards the other tribes of Israel. The longest section here is devoted to the tribe of Levi. The Levites were the tribe in charge of serving in the temple and in teaching God’s word throughout the nation. As the people return to Jerusalem we see the importance of the worship of God in the life of God’s people.
- **Chapters 8-10:** The genealogies end with Saul, Israel’s first king. We don’t read much about Saul here as the focus quickly moves to David, God’s covenant king.

GOD'S KING : 1 CHRONICLES 11-21

The central section of the book concentrates on King David. If you compare the accounts here to those in 1 & 2 Samuel you'll notice that a lot has been left out. That's because the emphasis here is not so much on David the man, but on David as God's king.

As we read through there are three particular points that stand out:

- **The Ark of God:** The Ark was the symbol of God's presence with his people. Central to this section is the account of the Ark being brought to Jerusalem.
- **A promised king:** God promises David that he will raise up a king from his line who will reign forever (1 Chronicles 17:11-12). In part this points to Solomon, David's son, but it clearly goes beyond Solomon to David's greater son, the Lord Jesus Christ.
- **Where are the mistakes?** In 1 & 2 Samuel we read about many of the mistakes that David made. These aren't recorded for us here. This is not a 'white wash', but again a reminder that the focus is on David as God's king, not on David, the man.

Note, though, that the section ends with an account of David's sinful pride. This story is important because it ends with the purchase of a piece of land on which the temple would be built (2 Chronicles 3:1).

HANDING ON THE BATON : 1 CHRONICLES 22-29

The final section of the book deals with the preparations as David hands over the kingship to his son Solomon. Notice the emphasis is not on the administration of the country or the skills that Solomon would need as king. Instead, the focus is on the work of the Levites and the preparations for building the temple.

As the exiles return, they are reminded of what it is that makes Israel/Judah special. It is not primarily the land, the victories or the person on the throne. It is the presence of God with his people.

ASKING THE QUESTIONS THE BIBLE WANTS YOU TO ASK

What does this book teach you about Jesus? (Luke 24:45-47)

What does this book teach you about yourself? (James 1:23 & 2 Tim 3:16-17)

How were you encouraged? (2 Tim 3:16-17)

How were you corrected? (Romans 15:4)

What difference do the truths of this book make in your life (Matthew 7:24-27)