



# 2 CHRONICLES

**MAY 2020**

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'.

## **2 CHRONICLES – INTRODUCTION**

1 & 2 Chronicles summarise the history of the Old Testament. They begin with Adam and go through the point when the people of Judah begin to return from exile to Jerusalem, around 538BC. These two books go together so as you read from the beginning of 2 Chronicles it may feel like you are jumping in half-way through the story.

In 2 Chronicles we read about Solomon and the kings of Judah that followed him. There is an overlap here with the accounts of the kings in 1 and 2 Kings. Yet, they are also quite different. Chronicles only deals with the kings of Judah (the southern kingdom), while Kings also deals with the kings of Israel (the northern kingdom).

### **OUTLINE**

#### **SOLOMON : 2 CHRONICLES 1-9**

The book starts with an account of the reign of Solomon. In 1 Kings we are told that Solomon was a good king, yet he had clear failings. In 2 Chronicles we don't read about these failings. This is not a whitewash of Solomon, remember 1 Kings is part of the Bible, it is because the purpose of 2 Chronicles is different. The emphasis here, as it was with David in 1 Chronicles, is on Solomon as God's covenant king rather than Solomon the man.

In chapter 1 Solomon asks God for the wisdom to reign. From chapter 2 through to chapter 7 we see Solomon building and dedicating the temple to the Lord. Chapter 8 is a summary of other events in his life and chapter 9 focuses on his splendour.

#### **REHOBAM : 2 CHRONICLES 10-12**

After Solomon died, his son Rehoboam becomes king. Rehoboam was not a wise king and as a result the nation is split into two.

The Northern tribes reject Rehoboam as king and become known as the nation of Israel. Judah and Benjamin as well as the Levites in the South follow Rehoboam and are called the nation of Judah.

Because the book of 2 Chronicles focuses on the line of David, it is fairly silent on the kings of Israel. You can read about them in 1 and 2 Kings.

### **THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY : 2 CHRONICLES 13-35**

The rest of the book outlines the reigns of the kings of Judah from Abijah to Josiah. As each king is introduced to us, we are told two key pieces of information. First, that they were the son of the previous king, they continue the line of David. Second, we are told whether they did what was right in God's eyes or evil in God's eyes.

Among the kings of Judah there are some key godly kings, Asa, Jehoshaphat, Hezekiah and Josiah. Their reigns are a distinct contrast to the times when the kings didn't walk in the ways of the LORD.

Whether positively or negatively, these kings are all shadows of the true king to come, the ultimate 'Son of David'. The king who will deal with the problem of sin and disobedience and restore God's kingdom, that is, Jesus Christ.

### **THE CONCLUSION : 2 CHRONICLES 36**

Josiah is the last godly king of Judah. He dies at the end of chapter 35 and with that the nation heads towards the judgment of exile. The next four kings disobey God, refuse to listen to God's prophets and all have to pay tribute to foreign kings (Egypt & Babylon) in order to maintain a semblance of rule. The glory of Israel seems a thing of the past.

As Judah reject God and his prophets, God brings the armies of Babylon against them and Jerusalem is destroyed. Yet, the book doesn't end there. We are reminded of God's promise given through Jeremiah to bring his people back to the land. (Jeremiah 29:10) This is fulfilled when Cyrus, king of Persia, sends the people of Judah back to Jerusalem to build the temple again (538 BC).

## **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)