



Chronicles of Israel

A study on Israel, her kings, and truth versus consequence

High Meadow Ranch Men's Bible Study | Lesson #1 – September 6, 2022

The Roots of God's People (1 Chronicles 1:1 – 9:44)

My guess is we'd all have to admit reading through genealogies is not our favorite part of studying the Bible. However, I often remind myself that if someone was important enough for God to include their name in the Bible, I probably need to pay attention!

This week we're going to read the first nine chapters of 1 Chronicles. 1st and 2nd Chronicles were written by Ezra in the fifth century B.C., making it the last written book in the Old Testament. The fact the Chronicles were written last might be confusing to those who don't know the books of the Bible are not compiled in chronological order. Chronicles details how God selected a line of kings from among His people, how He provided a Temple for His people, and how men from among the tribe of Levi were called to administer the rites of the temple.

Provided in the table below is a high level overview of 1st and 2nd Chronicles. As we go through this series it will be useful to keep this overview in mind.

| Chapters | Content | Significance |
|----------------------|---|---|
| 1 Chronicles 1 – 9 | Genealogies, emphasis on tribes of Judah and Levi | Preparing the stage for the Kingdom of Judah and the priestly tribe |
| 1 Chronicles 10 | Reign of Saul | Transition to David's Kingdom; declaration that the throne belonged to the tribe of Judah |
| 1 Chronicles 11 – 29 | Reign of David | Phase 1 of the ideal Kingdom; detailed preparation for the Temple |
| 2 Chronicles 1 – 9 | Reign of Solomon | Phase 2 of the ideal Kingdom; construction and installation of the Temple |
| 2 Chronicles 10 – 26 | Kings of Judah | Succession of kings, all of whom were descended from David; implemented the standards of David and Solomon to varying degrees |

Questions

1. The first chapter of 1 Chronicles provides historical records from Adam to Abraham. Identify five (5) names from among the many that are listed that are familiar and be prepared to discuss what you know about them.



2. From 1 Chronicles 2, list the 12 sons of Israel (Jacob). From these men came the nations of Israel and Judah.

3. 1 Chronicles 3 is focused on the family and line of David. In reading verse 4 how long did David reign in Hebron and how long was he in Jerusalem?

4. One of the most powerful aspects in reading through a genealogy is realizing that God is sovereign and able to ensure that the right people are born at the right time. In what ways have you seen and experienced God's sovereign activities in your life and the life of your family?

5. 1 Chronicles 4:10 records a prayer affectionately known as the Prayer of Jabez (some of you might have read the book, *The Prayer of Jabez*, by Bruce Wilkinson). This verse is copied below. This prayer is a great example for us in its simplicity, directness, and confidence in God's to answer his prayer. When has God answered prayers in your life and what impact did it have on your life?

Jabez cried out to the God of Israel, "Oh, that you would bless me and enlarge my territory! Let your hand be with me, and keep me from harm so that I will be free from pain." And God granted his request.

6. 1 Chronicles 9:1-2 provides an important piece of information concerning the timing of the writing of Chronicles, where Ezra recorded the words: *They were taken captive to Babylon because of their unfaithfulness*. God dealt with the sins of Judah by removing them their homeland for 70 years and then allowing them to return to Jerusalem. Why was it important that God permitted this to happen? How does knowing God had a specific plan for His people contribute to our faith in the sovereignty of God and His role in the affairs of mankind and our lives?

Next Meeting (Lesson #2, 9.20.22): In our next lesson we'll read 1 Chronicles 10:1-14 and discuss God's judgement on King Saul.