

Bible Book of Whenever (B-BOW)

1 & 2 Chronicles

Hello, Friends, and Welcome!

Here's the reading plan for 1 & 2 Chronicles:

1 Chronicles has 29 chapters.

2 Chronicles has 36 chapters.

If you read a chapter a day, you will be able to read through these books in a month.

If you read two chapters a day, you will be able to read both books in a month (with a little extra reading).

Here's the Swedish Marking System:

- ? Something I don't understand, or would like to know more about, etc.
- ★ Something I think is really good, helpful, inspiring, etc.
- ➔ Something I need to think about, work on, etc.

In the Hebrew Bible, 1 and 2 Chronicles were the conclusion to the Old Testament. So when you read in the gospels "from Abel to Zechariah" (**Matthew 23:35; Luke 11:51**) it is like saying, "From Genesis to Malachi," or the whole Old Testament history.

These books were written after the captivity in Babylon was over. Israel had her glory days, followed by her gradual corruption, fall, and captivity. Now they were coming back to their homeland. Many scholars think that placing these books at this time period helped to be a reminder to the people of all that had happened, and to see that God's hand had been in all that had happened.

1 and 2 Chronicles cover the same period of history as recorded in 2 Samuel and 1 and 2 Kings, but from a little different standpoint. For example, in Chronicles, the focus is almost entirely on the Southern Kingdom of Judah and her kings. The Northern Kingdom, Israel, is only mentioned here and there. This may be because more of the southern kings had a heart for God.

2 Chronicles also has a lot more written about the temple than Kings does.

Outline

1 Chronicles: From Nothing to Great

After the genealogies in chapters 1-9, 1 Chronicles tells about the reign of David, the greatest King. The nation becomes great under him. This book is the partner of 2 Samuel, but Chronicles leaves out some of the harder stories, like the Bathsheba incident, or the problems with David's sons Ammon (who molested his sister) and Absalom (who led a revolt against his father).

You will find here a lot about David's plans for the temple. Although he wasn't allowed to build the temple, David designed the plans, gathered materials, got the site ready and set up workers for it.

Of particular interest might be his arrangements for music and singing. David had a love of music, and it comes out here.

2 Chronicles: From Great to Nothing

2 Chronicles starts with the story of King Solomon, and covers the same historical period as 1 and 2 Kings, but it focuses mainly on the Southern Kingdom of Judah. You will find here some great revivals and interventions of God in the life of the nation.

Kings ends with Judah being deported to Babylon, and Chronicles ends with the Jews being released from Persia to return to Jerusalem.

Research

One interesting side study might be Israel and World powers. During the period covered by the Old Testament, Israel came into conflict with 4 world powers:

Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, and Persia.

Egypt, of course, involves the stories of Joseph, the Jews, Moses and the Exodus.

Assyria took the Northern Kingdom into captivity and scattered them (this is the background for what people call “The Ten Lost Tribes of Israel.”)

Babylon took the Southern Kingdom into captivity, and involves the stories of Daniel and his friends.

Persia overthrew Babylon. Remember the story of Esther, which took place in Persia?

You might consult a Bible Dictionary or Encyclopedia for information about these countries.

Memory Verses

One of the Oaks Family’s favorite verses is:

“We do not know what to do, but our eyes are upon you.” — **2 Chronicles 20:12**

A powerful prayer anytime you are in a situation like this (you don’t know what to do). If you are interested, Tommy has a sermon based on this story called “**Three Skills.**” Another of Tommy’s sermons is taken from **1 Chronicles 26: 17-18**. It is called “**Parbar.**” If you’d like either of these sermons, let us know.

A famous revival verse is **2 Chronicles 7:14**

“If my people who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.”

The prayer of Jabez (remember the Bruce Wilkinson book based on this prayer?) is found in **1 Chronicles 4:10**

“...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.”

May the Lord be with you, as He was with Phinehas (**1 Chronicles 9:20**)