

THE BIBLE

in a nutshell

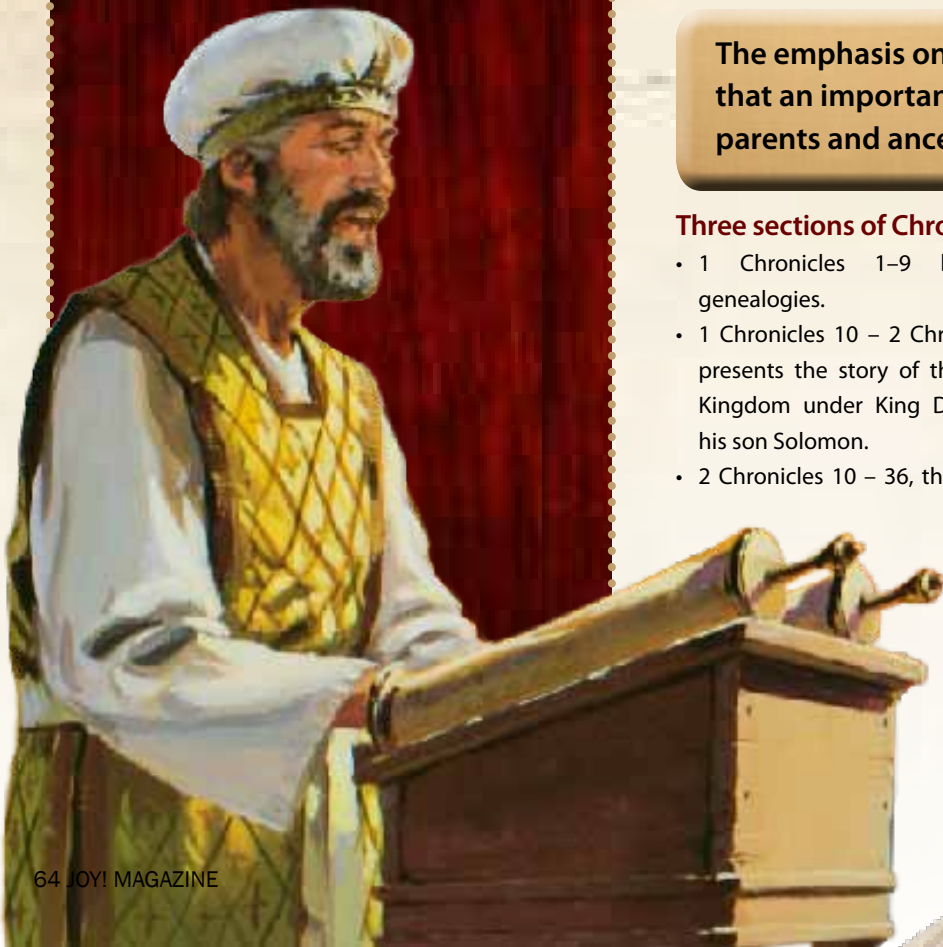
1 & 2 Chronicles

—by Peter Hammond



Who wrote Chronicles?

Ezra compiled and edited the books of 1 and 2 Chronicles, drawing from the official histories and archives: “The Chronicles of King David”; the Book of Samuel, the Book of Nathan, the Prophecy of Ahijah, the Book of the Kings of Israel, the Vision of Isaiah the Prophet, and other annals. Ezra had access to journals, diaries and public records, which are no longer available.



“Now set your heart and your soul to seek the Lord your God.” 1 Chronicles 22:19

What is the difference between Kings and Chronicles?

1 and 2 Kings give a parallel account of both the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah, Chronicles focuses primarily on the southern kingdom.

Judah in the time of the divided kingdom.

Why so much attention to genealogies?

Under the old Covenant, land was apportioned to families and could not

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Three sections of Chronicles

- 1 Chronicles 1–9 lists the genealogies.
- 1 Chronicles 10 – 2 Chronicles 9, presents the story of the United Kingdom under King David and his son Solomon.
- 2 Chronicles 10 – 36, the story of

be sold in perpetuity. It was to remain within the family. The priesthood was also hereditary, according to families. Similarly, the kingly line was to come from the ancestry of David.

The emphasis on genealogies in the Bible shows that an important part of our identity is who our parents and ancestors are. Who we marry will affect future generations, for eternity.

Who are the main characters?

The central character of 1 Chronicles is King David. The central characters

Jesus in Chronicles

Jesus Christ is the son of David, Messiah, King of kings and Lord of lords. He has a greater Kingdom than that of Solomon, Christ has greater wisdom, He is greater than the Temple. He is a greater High Priest. He is the Eternal Judge.

"O give thanks to the Lord! Call upon His Name; make known His deeds among the peoples! Sing to Him, sing Psalms to Him; talk of all His wondrous works! Glory in His Holy Name; let the hearts of those rejoice who seek the Lord! Seek the Lord and His strength; seek His face evermore! Remember His marvellous works which He has done, His wonders and the judgements of His mouth."

Psalm 105:1-5



in 2 Chronicles are: King Solomon, King Asa, King Jehoshaphat, King Joash, King Hezekiah and King Josiah.

The Temple

The Ark of the Covenant, the Tabernacle, the Temple, and the worship of the Lord

themselves, and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from Heaven and forgive their sin and heal their land." 2 Chron 7:13-14.

National repentance

When any natural or man-made disaster

Chronicles makes clear that God always gives His people warning before He brings judgement upon them for what they know is wrong. Everything has consequences.

are central in Chronicles. David's capture of Jerusalem, transporting the Ark to Jerusalem, the preparation for building of the Temple, and the dedication of the magnificent Temple in Jerusalem, are given much attention in Chronicles.

Seeking God's face

After the dedication of the Temple, the Lord appeared to Solomon and instructed him: *"When I shut up Heaven and there is no rain, or command the locusts to devour the land, or send pestilence among My people, if My people, who are called by My Name will humble*

occurs, then God's instruction to His people is to humble ourselves, to pray, to seek His face, and to turn from our wicked ways. Only then does He promise to hear our prayer, to forgive our sin and to heal our land.

Sin is serious

Chronicles makes clear that God always gives His people warning before He brings judgement upon them for what they know is wrong. Sin is serious. Everything has consequences. Jerusalem fell and the Temple was destroyed because of persistent immorality and idolatry. ■

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Reformations and revivals

There are five great periods of Reformation and spiritual Revival recorded in 2 Chronicles. King Asa (Chapter 15), Jehoshaphat (Chapter 17), Joash (Chapter 23), Hezekiah (Chapter 29 - 31), and Josiah (Chapter 34 - 35).

In each of these times of Reformation, there was a return to studying and applying the Law of God to every area of life. Idols were destroyed, immorality repented of, prostitutes banished from the land, pornographic Asherah poles demolished, Baal alters (where babies had been sacrificed) destroyed. Decisive action was taken to confront sin in both hearts and society. These times of earnestly seeking God's face were followed with spiritual revival.