

1 CHRONICLES

Authorship

Though not specified by name in the book, **Ezra has traditionally been assumed to be the author.**

Unquestionably, whoever he was, he used sources in compiling the book, including prophetic records by Samuel (1 Chron. 29:29), Isaiah (2 Chron. 32:32), and others (2 Chron. 9:2-9; 12:15; 20:34; 33:19); but particularly a source called " the book of the Kings of Judah and Israel" (2 Chronograph. 16:11; 25:26).

However, this is not the canonical 1 and 2 Kings, but likely some earlier record.

Etymology on the name Ezra: [Help](#)

TITLE

**Originally one book with 2 Chronicles-
(until 180 B.C.).**

The book's Hebrew title means: "the words (affairs) of the days," i.e. the annals of Israel from Adam to the Babylonian captivity and Cyrus's decree allowing the exiled Jews to return.

In a sense it is a "miniature Old Testament," tracing in capsule form the flow of Old Testament history.

Purpose

Those familiar with the Gospel of Matthew may recognize that Matthew starts off the New Testament in much the same way that 1 Chronicles starts off this history of God's work in Israel; with a genealogy.

Luke's Gospel does something similar: Luke 3:23-38 takes the genealogy in reverse, starting with Jesus and working all the way back to Adam.

But why is such a genealogy important, and why ‘Chronicle’ this and include it as Scripture?

This list of people is important because it takes us on a journey through God’s work in humanity, gives us an overview of how God consistently leads his people to a redemptive end, and ultimately points us to Christ.

“The genealogies in 1 Chronicles give attention to each of the tribes of Israel, but clearly focus on two tribes: Judah (1 Chron. 2:3–4:23 [110 verses]) and Levi (1 Chron. 6:1–81).

They focus on the tribes of Judah and Levi to identify the royal and priestly lines of Israel, searching for a rightful king and priest for God’s people.

The genealogies in Matthew (and Luke) find what Chronicles was searching for: Jesus, the true King (Rom. 1:3; 2 Tim. 2:8; Rev. 19:16) and Priest (Heb. 4:14; 5:5–6; 8:1) for God’s people.”

What Can We Learn from 1 Chronicles Today?

A Past Pointing to Christ

1 Chronicles points us to Christ through the genealogy at the beginning of the book, and also through presenting King David as a forerunner of the Messiah.

The Davidic Covenant found in 1 Samuel 7 is found again in 1 Chronicles 7:11-14.

A Reason to Hope

1 and 2 Chronicles give us reason to hope.

These words were written to give the people of Israel the story of their past in order to give them hope for their future.

The books of 1 and 2 Kings provide accounts of many kings of both Israel in the north and Judah in the south, but 1 and 2 Chronicles focuses us specifically on the kingdom of Judah and the reign of David.

This provides us a distinct view of what the Jewish people could expect in anticipation of their Messiah and provides us a background of how God has been working out his redemptive plan all the way from Adam.

Even When We Don't See it, God Is at Work

The people who had returned from exile had hoped that when they returned, the new temple would be built in glorious splendor and the Messiah would appear to reign and restore all things.

Yet, that is not what has happened.

First and 2 Chronicles give hope to us as it did to them and gives reason to keep hoping.

This historical account reveals that God has been at work, is still at work, and will continue working among us.

The temple is gone, but the need to worship is not.

We may not see his finished plan in a generation, or even many generations, but his plan is indeed unfolding among us.