

OVERVIEW OF THE BIBLE

January 10, 2018

2 Kings / 1 and 2 Chronicles

Answers to the Questions (Lesson 11):

Page 59 – Solomon requests a discerning heart (wisdom to govern the people of God and to distinguish between right and wrong). This was a wise choice since Solomon was only twenty years old. He needed the wisdom of God to govern the nation. God was so pleased with his request that God gave him riches and honor as well.

Page 60 – The secret of Israel's national unity and strength was grounded in their worship of the one true God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (and not in the monarchy). So the division of the kingdom was inevitable and the logical consequence of Solomon's idolatry.

Page 61 – Jeroboam sets up two golden calves (one in Bethel and one in Dan) so the Israelites did not have to travel to Jerusalem for their worship. He also appointed priests who were not from the tribe of Levi. There were two consequences for his disobedience: the death of his son and God uprooted Israel from their good land and scattered them beyond the river.

There were recorded 20 rulers from 9 different dynasties in the Northern Kingdom (210 years). There were recorded 20 rulers in the Southern Kingdom (345 years).

The word *promise* is used no less than 14 times.

Page 62 – God miraculously supplied the physical needs of those who trusted in him. He raised the dead back to life (the first recorded resurrection). He was in control over fire and rain. He revealed himself to Elijah in a still, small voice.



1 and 2 Kings is divided into three parts:

1 Kings 1-11 is focused on the kingdom of Solomon.

1 Kings 12-2 Kings 17 are narratives about the divided kingdom.

All the kings of Israel (Northern Kingdom) were judged by their failures.

Therefore the destruction of the north was inevitable.

But in Judah the promises of God for an enduring dynasty through David was preserved.

The kings of the south were judged by their piety.

Judah lasted a little longer than Israel but they were also set on a path of destruction.

2 Kings 18-25 is focused on the kingdom of Judah.

In 2 Kings the events of the past six to eight hundred years finally reach a climax. Israel has continually disobeyed God and has worshiped idols. God has been more than patient with Israel but now comes the time of judgment.

The land becomes unproductive.

There is a famine.

The size of Israel is reduced.

The Northern Kingdom is exiled to Assyria and only the tribe of Judah is left.

But then Judah is taken into exile by the Babylonians.

We know that sin leads to separation from God and now we see a physical punishment. In 2 Kings the people fall into the hands of their enemies and are removed from their land. These events were preventable. All they had to do was be obedient to God and serve him only.

Outline of 2 Kings

Chapter 1	Ahaziah turns to other gods and challenges the prophet, Elijah
Chapter 2	Elisha succeeds Elijah and demonstrates unique powers
Chapter 3	The prophecies of judgment are fulfilled
Chapters 4-8	We follow the ministry of Elisha that includes the conversion of Naaman
Chapters 9-16	The succession of kings
Chapter 17	The fall of Samaria
Chapters 18-25	The last days of Judah

Not only is God in control of disaster and judgment but God also distributes blessings and grace. God is the same God in the Old Testament as God is in the New Testament. All through the history of Israel God has been consistent (faithful, patient, and forgiving). Even in 2 Kings God's grace is extended over and over again.

Renewal of the Covenant

Under Josiah's leadership in Chapters 22 and 23, the Book of the Law is found.

The covenant is renewed and there is a short-lived revival.

Josiah serves the Lord with all his heart, soul and strength (2 Kings 23:25).

During his reign there is a period of reform.

But the persistent sins of the people eventually bring judgment upon them.

Not Reflected in 2 Kings

After the kingdom divides God begins to call prophets to proclaim his Word.

Jonah, Amos, and Hosea prophesy to the Northern Kingdom.

Obadiah, Isaiah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, and Jeremiah prophesy to Judah.

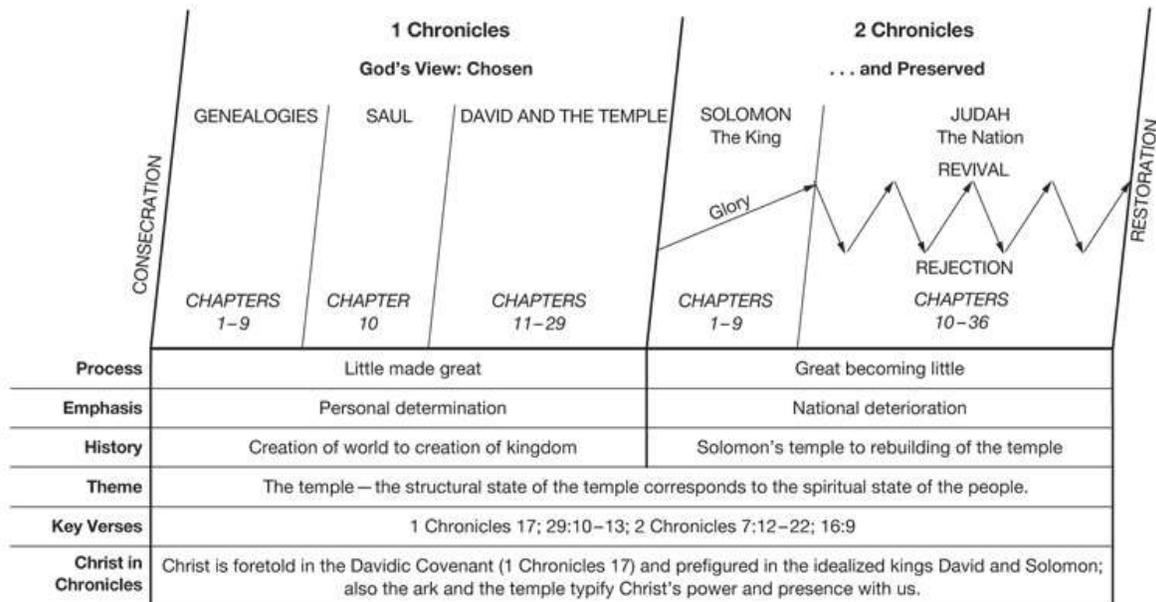
Ezekiel, Daniel, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi are prophets during and following the captivity.

The prophets condemn idolatry and immorality.

They warn of the coming judgment.

They focus on the promise of salvation through a coming Messiah from the house of David.

FIRST AND SECOND CHRONICLES



Copyright © 1979, 1996, 2009 by Charles R. Swindoll, Inc. All rights reserved worldwide.

1 and 2 Chronicles

These two books of the Bible are described as the *best-kept secret*.

One commentator described it as one of the most stimulating books in the Bible.

It is both courageous and practical.

It appears to have been written after Ezra-Nehemiah (it makes references to same events).

The two books emphasize the exile and restoration (as a historical fact and as a metaphor).

Half of the book is the account of the joint reigns of David and Solomon.

1 Chronicles 1-9:34 focuses on Israel.

1 Chronicles 9:35-2 Chronicles 9:31 focus on the reigns of David and Solomon.

2 Chronicles 10:1-28:27 centers on the divided kingdoms.

2 Chronicles 29-36 recounts the reunited kingdom.

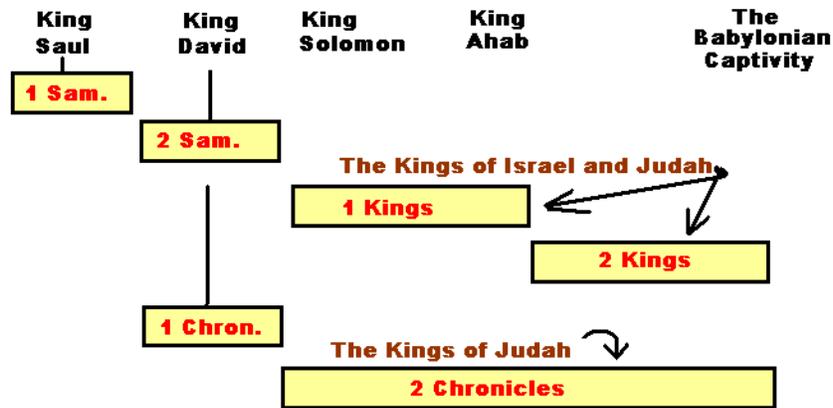
The author writes from the standpoint of a restored community (but without a king).

The people are asking questions:

What now?

Is God still interested in us?

Are his promises still valid?



1 and 2 Chronicles serve as a message of hope for the restored community –
 Hope in the promise of salvation for the remnant of Israel through the coming Messiah
 Hope of his continued care and concern for his people

- 1 and 2 Chronicles cover the same events as 2 Samuel and 1 and 2 Kings but from another angle.
 The focus of Chronicles is on the kingdom of Judah and the temple in Jerusalem.
 The sins and failings of David and Solomon are left out.
 The books show how the blessings of God require obedience.

Here are some of the differences which confirm that the promises of God are still in effect.

1. The temple receives greater attention in Chronicles. It is the central symbol of Israel's relationship with the Lord. It shows continuity with the past. It demonstrates that God is not finished with His people and the temple will be rebuilt.
2. The law and the prophets are more crucial to Israel's continued relationship with God than the presence or absence of a king. All the faithful kings honor the words of the prophets while the unfaithful kings disregard it to their own peril. It is not the king who ensures a continuing relationship with God but Israel's obedience to the law and the prophets. Even though they no longer have a king, they will still experience God's blessings and success by faithful obedience to God's law and the words of his prophets.
3. The author upholds Israel's hope for the promised Messiah by repeated references to God's promise to David. Neither David's sin nor Solomon's sin is recorded in 1 and 2 Chronicles. By recording only the good in their reign, the author offers them up as prime examples of the messianic ideal, foreshadowing the coming Messiah. The remembrance of these kings, who promoted covenant faithfulness, offers hope in the face of such discouragement in the restored community.
4. The author views the restored community as the remnant of all Israel, both the Northern and Southern Kingdoms, and makes frequent note of movement of godly people from the Northern Kingdom (Israel) to the Southern Kingdom (Judah).

5. The genealogy at the beginning of 1 Chronicles is significant. The author traces Israel's family line back to Adam, showing that God's love for them did not begin with David's reign or the conquest of Canaan, but with creation. It emphasizes that God's promise of salvation goes all the way back to Genesis.
-

Lessons from 1 and 2 Kings to be read on a Sunday morning in 2018

Lent comes early so it preempts the reading from 2 Kings 5:1-17
The Healing of Naaman

On July 29 we will read 2 Kings 4:42-44
Elisha Feeds One Hundred Men

Lutherans do not have 1 and 2 Chronicles in their lectionary readings

Assignment for January 17, 2018

Complete the Exercises on Pages 65-68

Skim over 1 and 2 Chronicles (since much of it is a repeat)
Read Ezra / Nehemiah