

1 Chronicles: Heights

Introduction

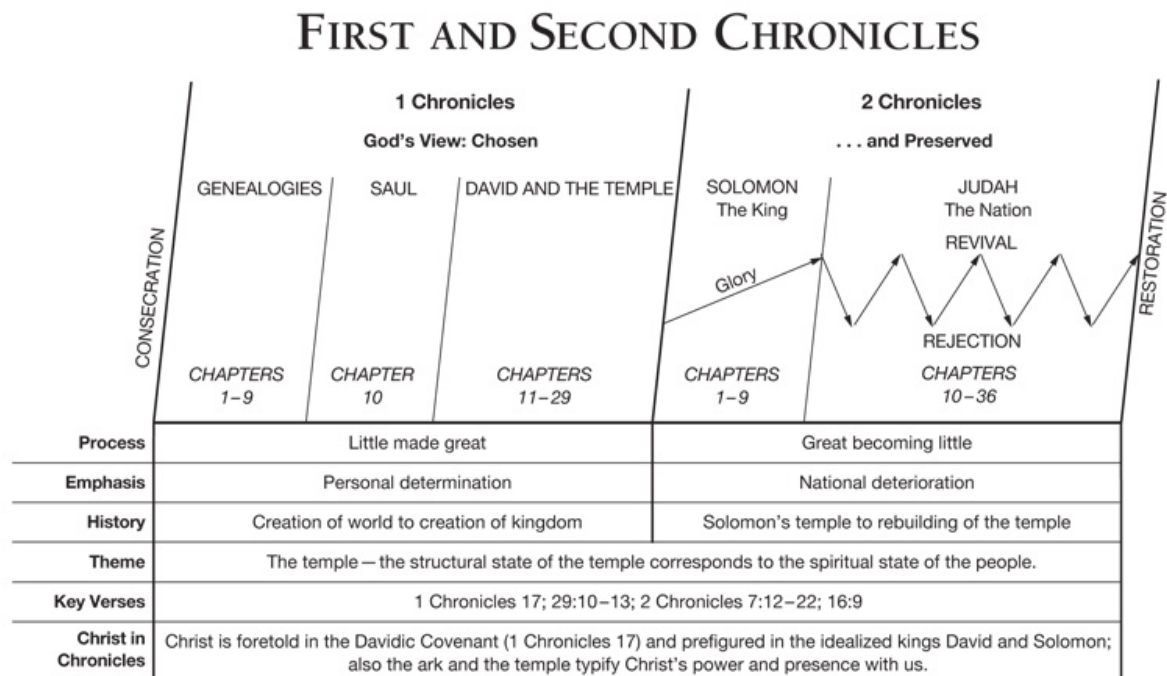
Title in the Hebrew Bible was “words of the days” / “account of the days,” or “daily matters.” The early Greek translation of the OT titles Chronicles *Paraleipomenon* (“matters omitted” or “things left out” It leaves out the story of the N. Kingdom and many other details).

I. The Author—Chronicles is anonymous, but Jewish tradition in the Talmud ascribes authorship to Ezra the scribe.

II. The Audience—The returned remnant from the Babylonian exile.

III. The Aim—To encourage the returned remnant to maintain racial purity, reestablish their nation in the promised land, and reestablish temple worship according to the Mosaic Law.

IV. The Arrangement



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Apart from the genealogy in 1 Chronicles 1—9, the events in 1 and 2 Chronicles span the time from the death of Saul in 1011 BC to the decree of Cyrus in 538 BC for the Jews to return from Babylon (473 years). First Chronicles 9 refers to the return of the remnant in 537 BC, so the book must have been written after that time.

Outline

Genealogy: From Creation to the End of the Babylonian Exile (1 Chronicles 1—9)

Reign of David (1 Chronicles 10—29)

Reign of Solomon (2 Chronicles 1—9)

Reign of the Kings of Judah during the Divided Kingdom (2 Chronicles 10—36)

Contrasts Between Chronicles and Samuel and Kings

In contrast to Samuel and Kings, Chronicles presents David's dynasty in a very positive light. Here are some examples of the contrast:

1. Chronicles only devotes one chapter to Saul (1 Chronicles 10)
2. Chronicles never mentions David's sin with Bathsheba.
3. Chronicles omits 1 Kings 1:1—3:3
4. Chronicles omits the account of David's 7-year reign in Hebron.
5. Chronicles ignores the Northern Kingdom and concentrates on Judah.

V. Analysis

VI. The Application

God is Sovereign—11:9; 12:18; 14:10; 17:8; 18:6, 13; 28:19, 10-16

God is Central

VII. Assignment