

2 CHRONICLES

| DATE | BOOK | KEY THOUGHT | CONTENT | KEY LESSONS | JESUS IN THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE |
|--------------|------------------------------------|--|---|--|--|
| | Old Testament | | | | |
| | Israel's History | | | | |
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| 450 - 430 BC | 2 Chronicles 36 Chapters | United kingdom divided – priestly view | Israel's history is repeated from the priestly perspective. Emphasis is given to Judah and the nation's deportation to Babylon. | Godliness is a choice of each person (it does not carry from generation to generation) | Jesus is the King who reigns eternally |

2 CHRONICLES

The first section discusses the reign of King Solomon (2 Chronicles 1—9).

Solomon is crowned king (2 Chronicles 1).

Chapters 2—7 provide the Bible's most detailed accounts of the building of the Jewish temple.

2 Chronicles 8—9 we read of Solomon's wealth and accomplishments, concluding with his death.

2 CHRONICLES

2 Chronicles 10—36 we read of the list of the kings of Judah between Rehoboam, son of Solomon, and the exile to Babylon under Zedekiah. Twenty separate kings of Judah are mentioned.

2 Chronicles 10—12 we read of the reign of Rehoboam.

2 Chronicles 17: 1—21: 3 we read of the reign of Jehoshaphat.

2 Chronicles 36: 1—4 we read of the reign of Jehoahaz.

2 Chronicles 36: 9—10 we read of the reign of Jehoiachin.

2 Chronicles 36: 17-21 we read of the exile into Babylon.

2 Chronicles 36: 22—23 we read of the proclamation of King Cyrus for the Jewish people to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple. These final words offer significant hope, confirming Old Testament prophecies regarding a return to the land after seventy years of exile.

2 CHRONICLES

In 2 Chronicles, Solomon prays to God for wisdom, instead of long life, power or money, so he is given all.

The Queen of Sheba visits Solomon.

King Cyrus of Persia, releasing Israel from the Great Exile in Babylon allows the Israelites to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the Temple.

2 CHRONICLES

2 Chron. 1: 11-12

11 God said to Solomon, “Because you had this in mind, and did not ask for riches, wealth or honor, or the life of those who hate you, nor have you even asked for long life, but you have asked for yourself wisdom and knowledge that you may rule My people over whom I have made you king,

12 wisdom and knowledge have been granted to you. And I will give you riches and wealth and honor, such as none of the kings who were before you has possessed nor those who will come after you.”

2 CHRONICLES

2 Chron. 7: 14

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

2 Chron. 13: 10

10 “But as for us, the Lord is our God, and we have not forsaken Him; and the sons of Aaron are ministering to the Lord as priests, and the Levites attend to their work.

2 CHRONICLES

This book continues with the history of the Hebrews and Solomon's receiving great wisdom from God.

The Temple construction on the top of Mount Moriah in Jerusalem was described as being 90 ft. long, 30 ft. wide, and 180 ft. high, with much gold throughout. The "Holy of Holies" was 30 ft. square, overlaid with gold. The Ark was transferred to it.

The Queen of Sheba's visit is described. She was impressed with Solomon's wisdom (2 Chronicles 9).

2 CHRONICLES

The story of King Jehoshaphat of Judah (Southern Kingdom) and his alliance with King Ahab of Israel (Northern Kingdom) and their consulting Micaiah the prophet is described in detail (2 Chronicles 18; 1 Kings 22). King Jehoram of Judah, a "wicked" king, died of what- appeared-to-be bowel cancer (2 Chronicles 21: 18-19).

King Uzziah of Judah got leprosy by entering the forbidden sanctuary.

King Hezekiah of Judah restored the Temple of the Lord God and had burnt offerings and sin offerings made for the nation: young bulls, rams, lambs, and goats were sacrificed for the sin offering (2 Chronicles 29: 20-24). Much celebration occurred with this re-dedication of the Temple at Jerusalem.

2 CHRONICLES

The finding of the scroll of the laws of God by Hilkiah and King Josiah's destroying the idols and altars to "gods" such as Baal are described (2 Chronicles 34).

The end of the independence of the Southern Kingdom of Judah occurred when King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon took over and destroyed Jerusalem -- around 586 B.C.

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2 Chronicles describes how God gives splendor to his kings in order for the nations to recognize His greatness.

This is evident in the conversations between King Solomon and two foreign rulers: Hiram, king of Tyre (chapters 3-4), and the Queen of Sheba (chapter 9).

2 CHRONICLES

2 Chronicles repeatedly describes how the kings of Israel stopped reflecting the ways of their God by following the pagan ways of the nations (2 Chron. 25: 14–16; 33:2–9; 36:11–14).

These sins lead to a major shift in how other nations relate to Israel.

Rather than being co-worshipers of God with Israel, they are now commissioned as His agents to punish Israel's disobedience.

2 CHRONICLES

2 Chronicles describes the hope and restoration of Israel.

Jeremiah the prophet predicts that after a foreign nation (Babylon) takes Israel into exile (2 Chron. 36: 21), another foreign nation (Persia) will be moved by God's mighty hand to reverse this exile (2 Chron. 36: 22).

The book then concludes with an imperial Persian decree for the Jews to go home and worship the only true God.

2 CHRONICLES

2 Chronicles shows God is sovereign in the relationship between His people and other nations.

The rulers of this world may be ignorant of or even opposed God. Cyrus was only dimly aware of his place in God's plans (Isa. 45: 4–5).

The leaders who executed Jesus did not grasp the significance of their actions (Luke 23: 34; 1 Cor. 2: 8).

God uses nations in mysterious ways to deal with the disobedience of His people even today.

God creatively bound together the fate of His people and the Roman Empire for the sake of His redemptive purposes in Christ (Rom. 15: 8–12).

2 CHRONICLES

Earthly kings of the Old Testament were imperfect.

Jesus will reign on earth and in heaven as the rightful heir of David. He is the perfect King who will reign in righteousness and holiness.

2 CHRONICLES

Earthly temples will not last forever.

Christians have the message of truth and the promise of the Holy Spirit as a pledge of their eternal inheritance.

Eph. 1: 13-14

13 In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, **14** who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of *God's own* possession, to the praise of His glory.

2 CHRONICLES

As it did for the Israelites, history can jog our memories. Such memories are blessings in themselves, as well as encouragements to press on in holiness, with hope and confidence.

If you are hard-pressed to recall specific times when God worked in your life, consider your devotional habits.

A prayer journal that recalls prayers asked and those answered can act as your own “history” manual.

God wants us to remember His works, so we, too, can praise Him for His goodness and have hope for our future with Him in heaven!

2 CHRONICLES

Christians should evaluate each past generation (2 Chronicles) and discern why each was blessed for their obedience or punished for their wickedness.

Christians should compare the plight of past generations to their own, both as a body of Christ and individually.

Chronicles teaches Christians that God desires to forgive and heal those who will humbly pray and repent.

1 John 1: 9

9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

2 CHRONICLES

Solomon asked God for wisdom and knowledge to complete the task God had assigned to him.

God has given every Christian a commission to fulfill. The greatest blessing Christians can seek from God is the ability to carry out His will in their lives.

2 CHRONICLES

Christians need the “wisdom from above” to discern His will.

James 3: 17

17 But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy.

2 CHRONICLES

Christians need the understanding and intimate knowledge of Him in order to motivate them to Christlikeness in both deed and attitude.

James 3: 13

13 Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the gentleness of wisdom.