

## OLD TESTAMENT HISTORY: THE RECORDS OF ISRAEL + JUDAH

In the original Hebrew Bible, Chronicles is the last book. It summarizes the historical Jewish Scriptures and serves as a high-level overview of the Old Testament, starting with Adam and ending with the Israelites' hopeful return from exile. Throughout Chronicles, there are overlapping stories and similar content to 1 + 2 Samuel and 1 + 2 Kings. While those books serve more as narratives, Chronicles serves more as a historical summary.

1 Chronicles opens with in-depth genealogies, following the descendants Jacob's twelve sons, the twelve tribes of Israel. The most intricate genealogies follow the descendants of Judah, the line of David. The Israelites were hopeful for a future king from David's descendants. These genealogies may appear boring or unimportant at a glance, but they highlight God's plan to send Jesus through David's lineage and bring redemption to His people.

2 Chronicles focuses on the rulers of the southern kingdom, primarily recording the history of Judah. Developing the narrative found in 1 + 2 Samuel, 2 Chronicles highlights both the obedient and unfaithful kings, illustrating how their characters led to both the blessing and failure of Judah. The book ends on a positive note, offering a glimmer of hope for the Israelites to eventually return to the Promised Land and rebuild the temple.

## MAIN IDEAS: THE LEADERSHIP OF JUDAH'S KINGS

- **David was appointed as king over Israel and led as both a ruler and a shepherd.** (1 Chronicles 11:2)
- **Solomon was instructed to lead Israel in a way that honored God.** (1 Chronicles 28:9)
- **Hezekiah, Jehoshaphat, Asa, Jotham, and Josiah were righteous kings.** (2 Chronicles 14-24)
- **After the Babylonian exile, the Israelites hoped to restore the temple.** (2 Chronicles 36:22-23)

## EXAMPLE OF GOD'S CHARACTER: PROVIDER OF JUSTICE

Throughout Chronicles, God's justice is evident in His responses to both the obedient and disobedient rulers. God blessed and rewarded those who sought him wholeheartedly, including the righteous kings like David, Hezekiah, and Josiah. Conversely, He brought judgment upon those who persisted in rebellion and idolatry, as seen in the downfall of kings like Manasseh and Jehoiakim.

God provided many opportunities for the leaders of Israel to repent and turn towards Him. Although He provides justice and allows natural consequences of sin, God is not merciless, absent, or vengeful. God wants to see His creation thrive, and He allowed the nation of Israel a second chance for faithfulness.



## JESUS IN 1 + 2 CHRONICLES: HOPE FOR THE MESSIANIC KING

If you've also read 1 + 2 Samuel, you'll notice that some of the stories about King David's life were excluded from Chronicles – specifically, the account of David and Bathsheba, in which David took another man's wife, got her pregnant, and then had her husband killed. David was by no means perfect, but he continually repented and turned towards God after his mistakes. David was not without sin, but he was one of Israel's most faithful kings.

1 Chronicles paints David in a more positive light to provide hope for the Israelites that a future king – a better king – was coming from David's descendants. In comparison to 1 + 2 Kings (which tracks both Israel's and Judah's kings) 1 + 2 Chronicles primarily follows the nation of Judah, tracking the descendants of David. Although some of the kings of Judah were wicked and evil, God allowed them to remain on the throne. God promised David that an eternal kingdom would be established through his lineage. Jesus fulfilled this promise and prophecy by inviting all believers into God's kingdom – one that is fully righteous, just, and joyful!