

1 Chronicles

Original Historical Setting

Author: Unknown (Traditionally Ezra)

Written: Perhaps around 425 B.C.

Audience: Probably Israelites living in Jerusalem who have returned after being exiled.

Occasion: To answer important questions for Israelites who had returned after years of exile in Babylon as to their position and purpose in God's plan.

Timeline:

- ??? BC – Adam is created
- ~1900 BC – Jacob (Israel) and his family live in Canaan
- ~1446 BC – Moses leads Israelites out of Egypt
- ~1050 BC – Saul anointed king
- 1010 BC – David begins reign as king
- 970 BC – Solomon begins reign as king
- 930 BC – Solomon dies and the kingdom is divided

World Events that occur simultaneously

- ~2000 BC – Native Americans immigrate to North America from northern Asia
- ~2000 BC – India uses bellows for higher furnace temperatures
- ~1750 BC – Code of Hammurabi established
- ~1000 BC – China develops refrigeration using winter ice

Genre/Literary style

Genealogical tables, narrative history and some poetry

Features and Structure

- Perhaps the most striking feature is the variety of name lists and genealogies that many tend to gloss over.
- 1 Chronicles can be divided into **2 sections: Genealogies (1-9) and David's Reign (10-29)**

Key text(s)

2:11 – Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever.

4:10 – Prayer of Jabez

17:3-14 – God's covenant with David

What to look for

- Think about how having these lists of genealogies to portray their heritage would have been encouraging to a group of people who had been in exile and were just now returning to their land. These people needed to be reminded that God is faithful and would keep His promise to David to establish the throne of the Son of David forever.
- Notice how the author uses the term "all Israel" repeatedly to emphasize the unity of the remnant from both the north and the south who had returned.
- Asaph, author of many of the songs in the book of Psalms, is appointed by David to lead musicians who play music and sing praises to the Lord God of Israel (16) Read an example of one of these songs in Psalm 105.
- The repetition of stories that you have already read comes from the fact that 1&2 Chronicles are a priestly perspective of the reigns of the kings found in 1&2 Kings.

Interesting facts

- Years ago some scholars thought that the genealogy in 1 Chronicles was mostly fictional until archaeologists began discovering towns were named after many people listed among the tribes of Israel.
- Regardless of the many criticisms of The Prayer of Jabez: Breaking Through to the Blessed Life, by Bruce Wilkinson (the 2001, nine million copy-selling, International bestseller based on 1 Chron. 4:10), many hearts were turned to fervent prayer as never before.

Memory Verse: 1 Chronicles 16:8-9