

2019 Through the Bible Reading: Bible Study Support

The Book of 1 & 2 Chronicles	
<p>Background (Who, what, why, when)</p>	<p>According to ancient Jewish tradition, Ezra wrote Chronicles, Ezra and Nehemiah, however, this cannot be established with certainty. A growing consensus dates Chronicles in the latter half of the fifth century B.C. thus possibly within Ezra’s lifetime. And it must be acknowledged that the author, if not Ezra himself, at least shared many basic concerns with that reforming priest—though Chronicles is not so narrowly “priestly” in its perspective as was long affirmed.</p> <p>In his recounting of history long past, the Chronicler relied on many written sources. About half of his work was taken from Samuel and Kings; he also drew on the Pentateuch, Judges, Ruth, Psalms, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations and Zechariah (though he used texts of these books that varied somewhat from those that have been preserved in the later standardized Hebrew texts). There are also frequent references to still other sources: “the book of the kings of Israel” (e.g. 1 Chron. 9:1; 2 Chron. 20:34; 33:18), “the book of the annals of King David” (1 Chron. 27:24), “the book of the kings of Judah and Israel” or “. . . of Israel and Judah” (2 Chron. 16:11, 25:26, 27:7, 28:26), and “the annotations on the book of the kings” (2 Chron. 24:27). It is unclear whether these all refer to the same source or to different sources, and what their relationship is to Samuel and Kings or to the royal annals referred to in Kings. In addition, the author cites a number of prophetic writings: those of “Samuel the seer” (1 Chron. 29:29), “Nathan the prophet” 1 Chron. 29:29, 2 Chron. 9:29), “Gad the seer” 1 Chron. 29:29), “Ahijah the Shilonite” 1 Chron. 29:29), “Iddo the seer” (2 Chron. 9:29, 12:15, 13:22), “Shemaiah the prophet” (2 Chron. 12:15), “the prophet Isaiah” (2 Chron. 26:22), “the seers” (2 Chron. 33:19). All these he used, often with only minor changes, to tell his own story of the past. He did not invent, but he did select, arrange and integrate his sources to compose a narrative “sermon” for postexilic Israel as she struggled to reorient herself as the people of God in a new situation.</p> <p>The book of 2nd Chronicles is a Narrative History. The author appears to be the prophet Ezra who wrote it circa 430 B.C. It covers the events from the beginning from King Solomon’s reign in 970 B.C. up to the beginning of the Babylonian captivity in 586 B.C. The key personalities are King Solomon, the queen of Sheba, Rehoboam, Asa, Jehoshaphat, Jehoram, Joash, Uzziah, Ahaz, Hezekiah, Manasseh, and Josiah. It was written to emphasize the blessings of the righteous kings and to expose the sins of the wicked kings. It parallels some parts of 1 & 2 Kings. Like 1 Chronicles, it is written from the viewpoint of a priest who spoke from spiritual perspectives, including revivals. It too, was written after the exile and focuses on correct worship to YHWH.</p>
<p>Interesting Facts in 1 & 2 Chronicles</p>	<p>David becomes king over all of Israel, He brings the ark to Jerusalem, and he arranges for the building of the temple through his son, Solomon. David loved the Lord and wanted to build a temple to replace the tabernacle but God denied his request. David’s greatest contribution to the temple would not be the construction but the preparation.</p> <p>The kings’ reigns ranged from one year to fifty-five years. The king that had the longest reign Manasseh who was one of the most evil of all the kings.</p>

	Josiah was one of the youngest kings, starting at eight years old and hewas among the most God-honoring kings.
Reasonable Defense for the faith in 1 & 2 Chronicles	God is always faithful to his people. He protects them in every generation and provides leaders to guide them. Because God has been at work throughout centuries, His people can trust him to work in the present.
Memory Verses	<p><i>“And Jabez called on the God of Israel saying, ‘Oh, that You would bless me indeed, and enlarge my territory, that Your hand would be with me, and that You would keep me from evil, that I may not cause pain!’”</i> (1 Chronicles 4:10 NKJV – often referred to as the “Prayer of Jabez.”)</p> <p><i>“Then if my people who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and restore their land”</i> (2 Chronicles 7:14 NKJV).</p>
Practical Application to memory verse	A life in Jesus Christ has <i>dunamis</i> power, don’t underestimate the power of God through prayer. Call on Him and He will show you great and mighty things. Be sure when you call on Him you prepare yourself, so that you are ready to receive what you ask of Him.
Life Application from Biblical Themes in 1 & 2 Chronicles	Jesus Christ came to earth as a descendant of David. One day He will rule as King over all the earth. His strength and justice will fulfill God’s ideal for His people. He is our hope, we can experience God’s kingdom now by giving Christ complete control of our lives.