

2 Chronicles

Summary

The books of 1 and 2 Chronicles are a survey of the time period of the united and divided kingdoms in the history of Israel. Throughout the books of 1 and 2 Chronicles, there are themes of following and trusting God or forsaking God. In the book of 2 Chronicles, the chronicler continues the narrative of Solomon's life in chapters 1-9. The author recounts very few personal details of Solomon's life but instead focuses primarily on the construction of the temple. The rest of the book of 2 Chronicles recounts the history of the divided kingdom and the many kings of the northern and southern kingdoms, which ended in exile.

Author

Though the author is unnamed in 1 and 2 Chronicles, it has traditionally been attributed to Ezra, the scribe.

Date

The most common date given for the writing of 1 and 2 Chronicles is after the return from exile in Babylon. More specifically, scholars date the book in the latter half of the fifth century around 450-400 B.C.

Primary Characters

Solomon (2 Chronicles 1-9)

Rehoboam (2 Chronicles 10-12)

Jehoshaphat (2 Chronicles 17-20)

Hezekiah (2 Chronicles 29-32)

Historical Moments

Solomon's Reign (2 Chronicles 1-9)

The Temple Is Built (2 Chronicles 3)

Death of Solomon (2 Chronicles 9)

Hezekiah's Cleansing of the Temple (2 Chronicles 29)

Sennacherib Lays Siege to Jerusalem (2 Chronicles 32)

Jerusalem Falls and the Exile Begins (2 Chronicles 36)

Major Theological Themes

The Temple Is the House of the Lord - Throughout the Old Testament, the Spirit of the Lord dwelt in the Ark of the Covenant inside the temple. This temple was a moving tabernacle in the days of Exodus, but later became a solid construction under Solomon. When Christ sacrificed himself and paid for our sins, the temple was no longer necessary. The Holy Spirit was given to New Testament Christians to dwell within all those who believe, leading Paul to teach in 1 Corinthians 6:19, "Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God?" Let us be grateful that we no longer have to make sacrifices in the temple because of the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

God Is Sovereign - God is the Sovereign Creator of the entire Universe, and His control over the world is unlimited. Even the greatest and most powerful nations on earth pale in comparison to the all-encompassing power of God. He uses the nations as He wills and punishes those that rise up against Him. There is no limit to the power and influence of God.

Lessons Learned from 2 Chronicles

Even the Greatest People Have Weaknesses - Throughout the book of 2 Chronicles, there are countless instances of powerful leaders failing miserably. If someone as wise as Solomon could make the mistakes that he did, then none of us are beyond failure. We must constantly be praying and asking God for discernment. Let us never believe that we are beyond the shortcomings that plague all of humanity.

God Asks Us to Be Obedient - For most of the book of 2 Chronicles, we see a rollercoaster pattern of the people of Judah. Some kings follow God, but others reject Him and fall into idolatry and false belief. When the people followed God's decrees and directions, they received God's provision and got to be a part of His amazing work. We must always ask

ourselves if we are really trying to be obedient to the Word of God and to His calling on our lives. Oftentimes, our biggest problems can be caused by our own deviation from what we know to be true in God's Word.

Sin Has Consequences - Throughout the book of 2 Chronicles, we see the people go directly against God's Law and the negative results that follow. The reason that God gave His people the Law and Commandments is to guide them on how to best live. He knows that living outside of this will cause unnecessary pain and struggle, and this is not something God wants for us. However, because He is a just and holy God, there must be consequences when we directly disobey Him. Thankfully, Jesus paid the price for our sins and has covered the need for this punishment. Let us continuously be grateful for this truth!