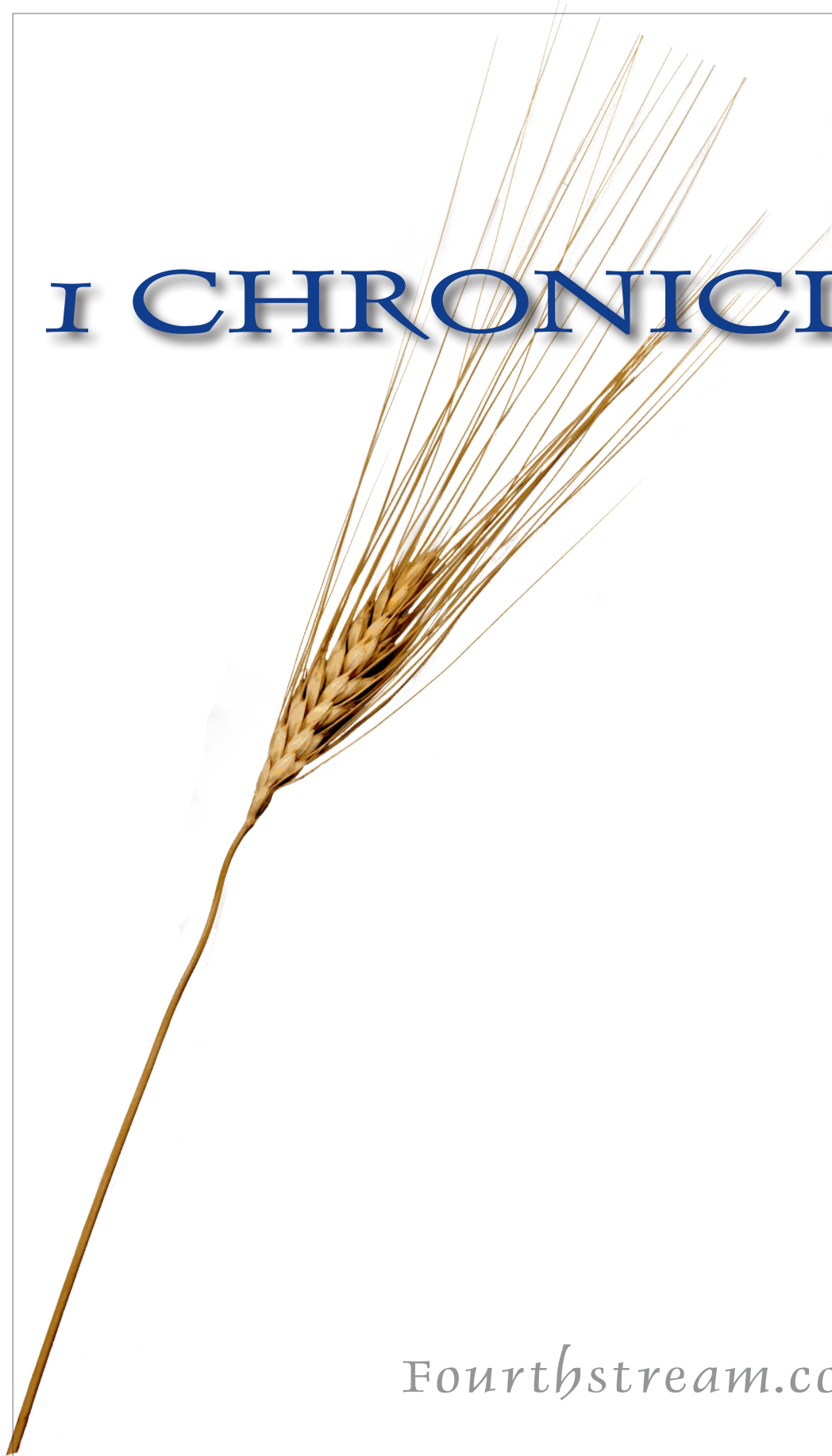


I CHRONICLES

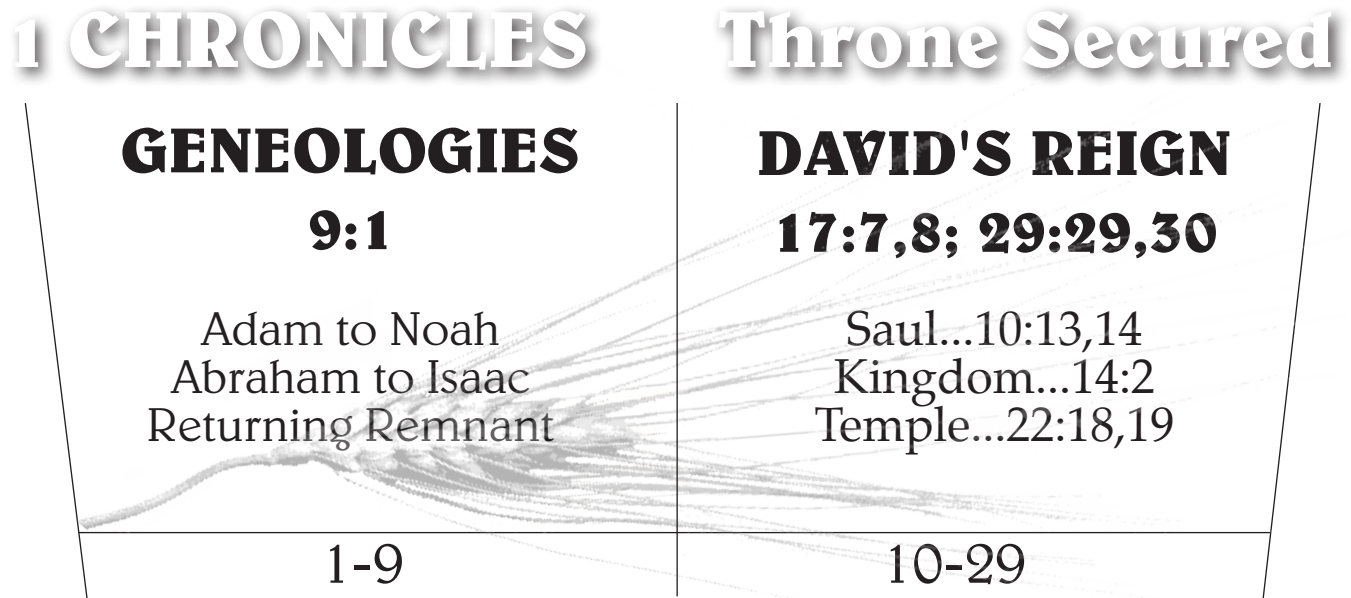


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Welcome to the book of 1 Chronicles!

To begin your study of I Chronicles, meditate on the content of the book reflected in the overview chart below. What are the two major movements of this book? What do you notice that is peculiar about the three-fold genealogy? Why was this genealogy included? By noting the four lines of description under David's reign, how would you compare it with what we have seen in 2 Samuel? Much of I Chronicles is further comment by God on what we had seen in 2 Samuel from the life of David, although there is additional information, a decidedly different tone, and a different purpose in the book.



"And David realized that the Lord had established him." 14:2

Also note the passages listed in the overview chart above. Take this opportunity to refer to and note each one, relating the section titles to the appropriate passage. What have you learned thus far about I Chronicles?

I Samuel begins with the call of Samuel the judge and closes with the casket of Saul. 2 Samuel opens with David's success and closes with his shame over Bathsheba and Absalom which is the result of his sin. I Kings opens with Solomon's splendor and closes with a split in the kingdom. 2 Kings opens with the subjectivity of Ahaziah and closes with the scattering of Israel. I Chronicles opens with a historical statement of genealogy and closes with specifics of David's reign from a decidedly different perspective than we have seen before.

Open your heart as you read!

What new insights do you learn about being whole-hearted in Christ? Just because the throne was secured for David and his son, Solomon, there was no guarantee against sin and its consequent judgment! We must work out our salvation with fear and trembling. Are you?

NAME

The name "Chronicles" comes from the Latin title of these Old Testament books; the Hebrew title means "events of the times", while the Greek literally means "leftovers" (i.e., things left over from the books of Kings). Chronicles once existed as a single book, but the Septuagint translators divided the work into two separate books.

AUTHOR

Talmudic tradition suggests Ezra wrote the Chronicles, but some conservative Bible scholars are in disagreement on this point. The following arguments would tend to support Ezra as the writer:

1. The book of Ezra compares favorably in language style and type of contents.
2. The closing verses of II Chronicles are repeated as the opening verses of Ezra (1:1-3a).

DATE

Internal evidence, such as I Chronicles 3:16-24 and 9:1 make clear that Chronicles were written after the exile to Babylon. The very last works of II Chronicles make even the edict of Cyrus, which officially ended the exiles, a thing of the past. The close affinity between Chronicles and Ezra suggests that both books were written at the same time. Since Ezra describes events down to 457 B.C., it seems that the book of Chronicles was written about 450 B.C.

OTHER BACKGROUND

The reign of David and preparations for the building of the temple are covered in I Chronicles. The book falls into two major sections:

The Line of David (chapters 1-9)

The Reign of David (chapters 10-29)

It is also interesting to note the many sources the author of Chronicles used in his compilation. These sources of reference by the author are very revealing after careful consideration. They indicate: a) that the author was well informed for his job; b) that he was using well-known documents which proved the legitimacy of his work; and c) that many consultable writings by competent scholars had accumulated during Israel's history. This fact alone should reaffirm in our minds the reliability of the Bible and its historicity.

Why study the book of I Chronicles?

Many might feel that the first nine chapters of this book, containing endless genealogical tables, is a waste of the paper they are written on, or a good cure for insomnia. To the Jews, however, these lines of descent were a further assurance that the nation was the possessor of Divine promises reaching on to unborn generations. This same truth applies to the believer today, for the Divine promises contained in the Bible are applicable to succeeding generations of "spiritual children". For the Israelites, the past took on a whole new significance, for it was of its fathers, it would be blessed. If we, as believers, would only acquire the faith of our fathers, we too would be blessed.



1 Chronicles Chapter Chart

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Genealogy Review

Read Chapters 1-5

Chapter	Title	Key Verse
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		

KEY QUESTIONS:

1. Go through these first 5 chapters looking for "insights" that are revealed in this genealogy.
2. Note things like the description of Nimrod in verse 10. What does this verse tell us about the man and the time?
3. Divide this reading into several sections. Who are key people in Israel's history?
4. Why is there no mention of Moses?

What about today?

Meditate upon the immensity of the judgment when all will be brought forth before God. Think of just the lives represented here from just this one nation, and this is just a selected list! Truly, we have an incomprehensible God with an equally incomprehensible grace. Meditate upon God's power over man in Job 41 (especially vs. 34).

Genealogy Review!

Read Chapters 6-9

Chapter	Title	Key Verse
6		
7		
8		
9		

KEY QUESTIONS:

1. Go through these chapters looking for "insights" that are revealed in this genealogy.
2. What do you learn about the customs and traditions of the Jews?
3. What principles may we apply today as we seek to follow in the path of faith as God's chosen people?
4. Note the pivot of purpose now in 9:1 that gives indication of the purpose of the book. We see Israel returning to her dispossessed possession (9:2)!

What about today?

Once again Israel is reminded of her heritage and history. It is time once again for recommitment and revival to the purposes of the people of God. Do you have a need to review your own spiritual history? Have you learned from your mistakes? Are you walking strong, abounding in the work of the Lord? II Corinthians 13:5 speaks of an honest evaluation of our faith!

David's Kingdom Established!

Read Chapters 10-12

Chapter	Title	Key Verse
10		
11		
12		

KEY QUESTIONS:

1. What do we learn in the demise of Saul that we have not seen before?
2. What do we see from his life that is repeated and/or reinforced?
3. Here in a capsule we see the result of Saul's no-heart relationship with the Lord God. Why did the men of Jabesh-Gilead respond as they did?
4. What was the role of the mighty men? What does this teach us about God's favor upon David?
5. Note God's hand in the building of David's army (12:22)!

What about today?

God built the army of David with supernaturally valiant men. Saul built his valiant army by fleshly means. David relied upon God for a strong offense and defense. As we seek to see the church growing and built up in the Lord, it is important not to do so through fleshly goals of valor. Note I Corinthians 1:26-31 for some in-depth insight as you seek to operate by God's wisdom!

David's Prosperity!

Read Chapters 13-15

Chapter	Title	Key Verse
13		
14		
15		

KEY QUESTIONS:

1. Observe some of the methodology David used to lead the people (13:1).
2. Why do you think David was angry about the incident of the ark? With whom was he angry?
3. Note the obedience of David. How was it manifested?
4. How explicitly did he obey the voice of the Lord (verse(s))?
5. What were the results of David's obedience?

What about today?

David's prosperity came as a result of his full heart for God. Notice the contrast of David's heart with that of Saul's daughter, Michal. So, too, our prosperity comes with a heart that leaps before the Lord! Note Nehemiah 8:10. There is a great difference between the "joy of the Lord" and human happiness!

David's Success

Read Chapters 16-20

Chapter	Title	Key Verse
16		
17		
18		
19		
20		

KEY QUESTIONS:

1. What was the form for praise for God in chapter 16?
2. What specifically made the Psalm of chapter 16 one of thanksgiving?
3. Note the complete obedience (16:40).
4. What do we learn about Christ in the restated Davidic promise in 17:1-15?
5. Compare the prayer of chapter 17 with that of II Samuel 8:1-18.
6. What principles of success in conquest would you draw from chapters 19 and 20?

What about today?

How would you describe your life of praise at this point? How would you evaluate your own success in conquest? David was successful because he followed through on that which was important to God. Note Psalm 37:1-6 for the things that bring success.

Acts of David!

Read Chapters 21-24

Chapter	Title	Key Verse
21		
22		
23		
24		

KEY QUESTIONS:

1. What do we learn about Satan's power and dealings?
2. What do we learn further about David?
3. What do we learn from and about Joab?
4. Note David's request in 21:8. What was his perspective toward God at this time?
5. Why wasn't David allowed to build the temple?
6. What were David's specific desires for Solomon?

What about today?

David had learned much about the "fear of the Lord" and had come to know "the beginning of knowledge". We must have a reverence for God if we are to worship Him with a whole heart. Do you stand in awe of God and His hatred of sin? Note Proverbs 1:7, Job 28:28; Psalm 111:10; Proverbs 9:10; 15:33; and Ecclesiastes 12:13. What do you learn about fearing the Lord?

Final Acts of David

Read Chapters 25-29

Chapter	Title	Key Verse
25		
26		
27		
28		
29		

Each person had his or her place in praising God no matter what their position (25:8) or status. What would be the function that needed to be fulfilled (make a list)? How do each of these supplement each other? Take the functions of the temple-worshippers and correlate each with some need fulfillment you see that God desires in the body.

What about today?

There was a place for everyone in the worship of God! Does this not preview the great Body of Christ, whom to the last member have a purpose in the lifting up of the Lord? Have you found your place in the "temple-worship" service of God? He inhabits the praises of His people!

CONCLUSION

We cannot fail to sense the emphasis upon the temple and worship of the people. This is done to prepare the returning remnant to rebuild that which has been destroyed. What have you learned about the worship of God from I Chronicles?