

Introduction to 1-2 Chronicles

Author and Date

The text of 1 and [2 Chronicles](#) nowhere directly identifies its author, but traditionally he has been called “the Chronicler.” He was either a priest or a Levite who was employed in the service of the temple during the Persian period (539–332 BC), after God’s people had returned from exile.

The Gospel in 1-2 Chronicles

As the last books in the Hebrew Old Testament, the books of 1–2 Chron.icles prepare God’s people for the arrival of Jesus. This preparation begins with genealogies. But these genealogies are not random, wandering collections of paternity records. Rather, they represent the carefully crafted lens through which we observe the one plan of God’s redemption. They teach us to rest in the unwavering commitment of God to fulfill all of his covenant promises.

The genealogies in [1 Chronicles](#) give attention to each of the tribes of Israel, but clearly focus on two tribes: Judah ([2:3–4:23](#) [110 verses]) and Levi ([6:1–81](#)). They focus on the tribes of Judah and Levi to identify the royal and priestly lines of Israel, searching for a rightful king and priest for God’s people. The genealogies in [Matthew](#) (and Luke) find what Chronicles was searching for: Jesus, the true King ([Rom. 1:3](#); [2 Tim. 2:8](#); [Rev. 19:16](#)) and Priest ([Heb. 4:14](#); [5:5–6](#); [8:1](#)) for God’s people.

The summary of the history of Israel that follows the genealogies is shaped by the emphases of the genealogies—kingship and priesthood—expressed through Israel’s inheritance of the land and worship in the temple. The presentations of David and Solomon focus on the building of the temple in Jerusalem. But we quickly encounter royal infidelity and idolatry, eventually resulting in the forfeiture of the land and the destruction of the temple. At the end, we are then left waiting for the true and better Priest-King of Israel to come and restore all things.

Outline

- A Genealogical Presentation of the Tribes of Israel ([1 Chron. 1:1-9:44](#))
 - Adam to Esau ([1:1-54](#))
 - The sons of Israel ([2:1-2](#))
 - The tribe of Judah ([2:3-4:23](#))
 - The tribe of Simeon ([4:24-43](#))
 - The Transjordanian tribes ([5:1-26](#))
 - The tribe of Levi ([6:1-81](#))
 - Other northern tribes ([7:1-40](#))
 - The tribe of Benjamin ([8:1-40](#))
 - The resettlement of Jerusalem ([9:1-34](#))
 - The genealogy of Saul ([9:35-44](#))
- The United Kingdom of David and Solomon ([1 Chron. 10:1-2 Chron. 9:31](#))
 - David's rise to power over Israel ([1 Chron. 10:1-12:40](#))
 - David's transfer of the ark of the covenant to Jerusalem ([13:1-16:43](#))
 - The dynastic promise to David ([17:1-27](#))
 - David's wars ([18:1-20:8](#))
 - David's census and preparation for the temple ([21:1-29:30](#))
 - Solomon's temple preparations ([2 Chron. 1:1-2:18](#))
 - Solomon's building of the temple ([3:1-5:1](#))
 - The dedication of the temple ([5:2-7:22](#))
 - Solomon's other accomplishments ([8:1-16](#))
 - Solomon's international relations and renown ([8:17-9:31](#))
- The Kingdom of Judah down to the Exile ([2 Chron. 10:1-36:23](#))
 - Rehoboam ([10:1-12:16](#))
 - Abijah ([13:1-14:1](#))
 - Asa ([14:2-16:14](#))
 - Jehoshaphat ([17:1-21:1](#))
 - Jehoram and Ahaziah ([21:2-22:12](#))
 - Joash ([23:1-24:27](#))
 - Amaziah ([25:1-28](#))
 - Uzziah ([26:1-23](#))
 - Jotham ([27:1-9](#))
 - Ahaz ([28:1-27](#))
 - Hezekiah ([29:1-32:33](#))
 - Manasseh ([33:1-20](#))
 - Amon ([33:21-25](#))
 - Josiah ([34:1-35:27](#))
 - The last four kings ([36:1-21](#))
 - Restoration ([36:22-23](#))