

The Book of 2 Chronicles

Author:	Ezra
Date/Location:	450-425 B.C. – Israel
Genre:	Historical Narrative
Length:	36 chapters
Key Passages:	7:14; 16:9

Contents:

Another account of Solomon’s reign over Israel, then the dividing of the kingdom, and then both nations being taken into captivity.

Theme and Purpose:

While 1 Chronicles parallels 1 and 2 Samuel, 2 Chronicles continues the history of David’s line and parallels 1 and 2 Kings. But for all practical purposes, it ignores the Northern Kingdom because of apostasy and total absence of any godly kings who patterned their life after David. By contrast, 2 Chronicles focuses on those kings who did walk after the lifestyle of David. Chapters 1-9 describe the building of the temple during Solomon’s reign. Chapters 10-36 trace the history of the Southern Kingdom of Judah to the final destruction of Jerusalem and the exile of the people to Babylon. Therefore, it devotes extended sections to the lives of those kings who brought revival and reform to the nation like Asa, Jehoshaphat, Joash, Hezekiah, and Josiah.

Outline:

2 Chronicles divides into three sections:

- I. *The Reign of Solomon* (1-9)
- II. *The Kings of Judah* (10-36)

Basic Chronology of 1–2 Chronicles

Events	Dates	Passages
Foundation of the Davidic monarchy	1010–931 b.c.	1 Chronicles 10– 2 Chronicles 9
History of Judah from the division of the kingdom until its fall	931–586	2 Chron. 10:1– 36:21
Babylonian captivity	586–538	2 Chron. 36:17–21
Cyrus's decree	538	2 Chron. 36:22–23

Outline for 1–2 Chronicles

Chronicles is a carefully constructed work with a clearly directed narrative. Its material falls into three major sections that overlap their present division into two books. Each of these sections has in turn a number of more or less discrete units. In greater detail, these units are as follows:

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