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The Introduction To 1-2 Chronicles

Often people come and they start reading books such as 1-2 Chronicles, especially the opening chapters, and the first question they ask is why did God ever record genealogies of names and different family lines that are not very exciting and really do not make any sense as we read them, but they are important.

First and Second Chronicles are very important because God included it in the Canon of Scripture to reveal the accuracy and reliability of His word that reveals His will and purposes!

1. The Word of God is Inspired, imparted by the Spirit of God through the vehicle of men to be written, preserved and transmitted from generation to generation. 2Tim. 3:16-17; 2Pet. 1:19-21
2. As we look to Chronicles we can compare the records that are here with others that are independent.
3. Some of the ways certain things are recorded are not word for word as they are recorded in the other books, allowing us to understand the unique method by which God has allowed His word to be recorded.
4. So we have One God speaking through various individuals, anointing them at different geographical locations and periods of time, yet with a very central message that is accurate and a reliable record.

The concept of the people of God begins in the Old Testament and it goes into the New Testament.

1. Peter says we are the people of God, those with whom He has made a covenant.
2. We are reading the Old covenant of the law, we the church are the New covenant of grace.
3. The two are distinct from each other as night and day, never confused them or conflate them, Israel is the wife of God divorced for spiritual adultery, to be restored in the latter days, the Church is the virgin bride of Christ looking for a wedding.
4. Do not believe God is through with Israel, called Replacement Theology, teaching that all the promises and blessings are now for the church that is Spiritual Israel.
5. This is a lie from hell and the majority of churches, Christian Universities and Seminaries teach this by spiritualizing the Scriptures subjectively!

I. The particulars of the books of First of Second Chronicles.

- A. The Title of the book of Chronicles.
 1. The book of Chronicles are called “dibre hayyamim” the words of the day.
 - a. The same phrase appears 32 times in 1-2 Kings.
 - b. Yet the word “dibre” can also mean things, event or idea, as to mean “the happenings of....”

2. The title Chronicals was given by Jerome in the fourth century, but is not in the original Hebrew canon.
 - a. Jerome translated the Hebrew title “Events or annals of the days (times)” by the Latin word “the chronicle of the entire divine history.” 1Chron. 27:24
 - b. They are called journals or words of days.
 - c. One man has called it a divine diary, men keep diaries and a man has called Chronicles the diary of God.
2. Chronicles in the Hebrew canon appears at the end of the canon, called the Writtings.
 - a. Our Bibles has it with our historical books.
 - b. The Greek translators of the LXX gave them the title “matters previously omitted” to Chronicles tragically, seeing them as supplements to 1-2 Samuels and 1-2 kings, but they are not.
 - c. But even though we can get some supplementary material to the kings, that was not the purpose for writing Chronicles, but rather to give God’s divine perspective because it is written after the historical fact, after the captivity, which includes identical passages, omissions and additions.

B. The authorship of 1-2 Chronicles.

1. The author traditionally is attributed to Ezra.
 - a. Some include Nehemiah also.
 - b. Others of more recent years reject Ezra and believe it is a compilation, but the weight of internal evidence is one author.
 - c. The time of the writing of 1-2 Chronicles was after the captivity of Babylon.
2. The date of the writings of Chronicles is linked with Cyrus the King of Persia.
 - a. The return of the Jews is attributed the decree of Cyrus the King of Persia according to the prophecy of Jeremiah, the book of Ezra begins with the same edict, strong evidence for the one author. 2Chron. 36:22 Ezra 1:1-2
 - b. God commanded given to Cyrus all the kingdoms of the earth by his own words and commanded to build God a house at Jerusalem. 2Chron. 26:23
 - c. The Chronicles give a clear date of Cyrus the King of Persia, 537-36 B.C.
 - d. Zerubbabel was the political leader that spearheads the first return to repatriate the nation and rebuild the temple in 537-6 B. C. under Cyrus. Ezra 1-6
 - e. The second return was led by Ezra himself which occurs 80 years after Zerubbabel, about 457 B. C. Ezra 7-10
* Ezra was a ready scribe in the law of Moses. Ezra 7:6

- f. The date for Chronicles is around 450-400.
 - 3. The mindset of the people at the time of the writing of Chronicles was when the people of God were very discouraged and disillusioned about the Davidic covenant.
 - a. They even came to the point of thinking that it was not a literal covenant and that it wasn't going to take place.
 - b. They had lost hope in the covenant God had made with David.
 - c. So Chronicles really serves as an exhortation or encouragement towards God's faithfulness to keep His word, to bless, and also to curse.
 - d. They had gone into captivity for their disobedience of the covenant of God, now God had brought them back.
- C. The literary form of the books of 1-2 Chronicles.
- 1. Many people look at Chronicles as being a repetition of kings and Samuel, but it isn't.
 - a. The Chronicles have omissions to Samuel and the kings
 - b. The Chronicles have additions to Samuel and Kings.
 - c. The Chronicles have a distinct focus and perspective different from Samuel and the Kings.

- d. The Chronicles is the interpretation of Kings, as they are often referred to in the books of Kings, as "written in the book of Chronicles of the kings of Judah. 1Kings 14:29; 15:7, 23; 22:45; 2Kings 8:23; 12:19; 14:18; 15:6, 36, 19, 20; 21:17, 25, 28; 24:5
- 2. There are contrasts between the books of Samuel Kings to Chronicles.
 - a. Kings give the prophetic viewpoint, Chronicles give the priestly viewpoint.
 - b. In Kings the focus is on Israel, the Northern kingdom, in Chronicles the focus in on the Southern Kingdom, Judah.
 - * Israel is mentioned only as related to Judah!
 - c. The setting of the books of Samuel and Kings is more political and military, in Chronicles the setting is more on ecclesiastical, the temple and priesthood.
 - d. The books of Samuel and Kings is more biographical, Chronicles is more statistical.
 - e. Samuel and kings focus on the throne and king, while Chronicles focuses on the temple and the priest.
 - h. Samuel and kings deal with civil rule, Chronicles deals with the spiritual rule.

3. Remember that 1-2Chronicles were written after the fact, while the books of Samuel and Kings were written as history of the fact.
 - a. The books of Samuel and Kings record the acts of man and God in the present.
 - b. The books of Chronicles record the acts of man looking back to the past.
 - c. The emphasis is on God's perspective.
4. So really in 1-2Chronicles we get a Divine perspective, a different little twist.
 - a. A good example is when Daniel was in Shushan the palace Nebuchadnezzar had a dream and he couldn't remember it and he saw it as a great image.
 - b. Daniel came in and said these are the kingdoms of the world, he said you are the head of Gold, you will be superseded by the Medo-Persian empire, the arms of silver, they'll be superseded by the Grecian empire, the belly of brass, it will be superseded by the Roman Empire the legs of iron. The last empire to rule upon the earth is a ten toe or ten nation confederacy representative of the ten toes and they would have a relation to the old Roman Empire, and they will be mixed with clay, a type of democracy, but iron and clay do not mix.
 - c. Now from the human perspective, Nebuchadnezzar saw the empires of the world as the strong, mighty and

- powerful, later when God gave the very same dream, He gave it from His perspective as a bear, a lion, a bear, a leopard, etc. Dan. 2, 7
- * What a difference it makes depending on whether it is from man's or God's perspective.
4. So 1-2Chronicles is really from the divine perspective, a record of God intervening into man's history and into men's affairs.
 - a. To work out His purposes.
 - b. To work out His will.
 - c. To work in spite of the circumstances or situations sovereignly.
 6. Commentators feel that there are two purposes for the writings of Chronicles.
 - a. The historical, to give a divine perspective from Adam to the captivity, because He begins in verse one with Adam.
 - 1) Not to pick up where the books of Kings ends, it begins at Adam and goes all the way to the captivity, a period of 3500 years.
 - 2) So you might call it as a summary, but again, through the eyes of God.
 - b. The spiritual, to remind Israel and future generations of the centrality of God in the midst of His people.
 - 1) God wanted them to know He is always in the midst of His people,

even though sometimes it may look very gloom, very dark, but God is always present.

- 2) God wanted them to know His plans for Israel were still intact and would sovereignly fulfill His covenant.
- 3) God cannot deny Himself, therefore He can't deny His people.

D. The books of 1-2Chronicles.

1. The Hebrew canon of 1-2 Chronicles was one volume or book, not two.
 - a. The division into two books came early in the Second Century B. C.
 - b. The longer text could be handled easier in two scrolls.
 - c. The division now appears in all Bibles, including the printed Hebrew editions.
 - d. When it was translated into the Greek and is placed at the end of the third division of "The Writings", as the last book of the Old Testament.
 - e. Our Bibles have Chronicles after Kings and before Ezra, in the Hebrew they were the last book.
2. The sources of the books of Chronicles are many and genuine records.
 - a. Genealogies. 1Chron. 1-9
 - 1) From Adam to Abraham, to Jacob to David. 1Chron. 1-2

- 2) "and all the villages that *were* around these cities as far as Baal. These *were* their dwelling places, and they maintained their genealogy." 1Chron. 4:33
 - 3) "And they were recorded by genealogy according to their generations, heads of their fathers' houses, twenty thousand two hundred mighty men of valor." 1Chron 7:9
 - 4) "So all Israel was recorded by genealogies, and indeed, they *were* inscribed in the book of the kings of Israel. But Judah was carried away captive to Babylon because of their unfaithfulness." 1Chron. 9:1
 - 5) Ezra reckoned the priest returning by their genealogies and some were not able to provide it, so they were as polluted from the priesthood. Ezra 2:62
- b. Documents.
- 1) The written letter from Sennacherib. 2Chron. 32:17-20
 - 2) The proclamation by Cyrus. 2Chron. 36:22-34
 - 3) The documents of David in the temple of Solomon about the details of the plans for the temple by the Spirit of God. 1Chron. 28:11-12
- c. Poems.

- 1) The Psalm David delivered into the hands of Asaph. 1Chron. 16:7-36
 - 2) The song and praise of the words of David. 2Chron. 29:30
 - 3) The lamentation of Jeremiah for Josiah. 2Chron. 35:25
- d. Prophecies.
- 1) Chronicles refers to at least eleven prophetic books.
 - 2) Samuel, Gad, Nathan, Ahijah, Shemaiah, Iddo including his visions, Jehu, Isaiah and his visions, Hezai, alludes to the fulfillment of Jeremiah. 1Chron. 29:29; 2Chron. 9:29; 12:15; 13:22; 20:34; 26:22;
- e. Others.
- 1) The books of the kings of Israel and Judah. 2Chron. 27:7; 33:18; 36:27; 36:8
 - 2) The annals of King David. 1Chron. 27:24
 - 3) Annotations of the books of Kings. 2Chron. 24:27
 - 4) The Acts of Uzziah by Isaiah the Prophet. 2Chron. 26:22

These are some of the particulars of the books of First and Second Chronicles!

- ## II. The historical background behind the unfolding purpose of the books of First and Second Chronicles.
- A. The political setting.
1. The Chronicles were written when Judah was no longer a monarch.
 - a. Judah had no king.
 - b. Judah was a small group of exiles returning from Babylon after 70 years.
 - c. Judah returned as a vassal to the Persian empire.
 - d. This was right on schedule with “The Times of the Gentiles” revealed to Nebuchadnezzar through the image comprising the empires to rule the world till the setting up of the Kingdom of God on the earth. Dan. 2
 - * The metals decline in purity and worth being inferior to the previous one.
 - 1) Babylon was the head of gold.
 - 2) Medo-Persia was the shoulders and arms of silver.
 - 3) Greece was the belly of brass.
 - 4) The legs of iron was Rome.
 - 5) The last empire was the ten toes of iron and clay, the Anti-Christ and the ten-nation confederacy.
 - 6) The rock that struck the image at the feet, indicating the Second Coming of

Jesus to set up the Kingdom Age.
Dan. 2:31-45

2. The Jews had been placed by God in positions of influence.
 - a. Daniel had served as prime minister in Babylon under Nebuchadnezzar and Persia under Cyrus. Dan. 2, 6
 - b. Esther was Queen and Mordecai was prime minister of Persia in the time of Ahasuerus, the father of Artaxerxes I Longimanus who gave the decree to Nehemiah to restore and rebuild the walls of Jerusalem in troublous time. Esther 2,6; Neh 1-2

B. The religious setting.

1. The Temple of Solomon was gone, it had been completely destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar. 2Kings 24-25
2. As stated Zerubbabel was the political leader that led the first return to repatriate the nation and rebuild the temple in 536-7 B.C. under Cyrus. Ezra 1-6
* The temple of Zerubbabel was completed in 516 B.C.
3. The second was led by Ezra that occurs 80 years after Zerubbabel, about 457 B. C. Ezra 7-10
4. The people were back in the land, but not back with their God.

5. The tendency as we already stated was to dismiss the covenant and promise of the Messianic Davidic Kingdom.
 6. This spiritual stagnation is revealed through the six post-exilic books, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi.
 7. So the Chronicles were written to remind and encourage the people of the God's faithfulness focusing on the line of David and Judah, the tribe the Messiah would come from.
- C. The judgment setting was a call to repentance to receive the blessings of God.**
1. The repeated theme in Chronicles is their need to repent, eleven times, the key verse and most often quoted. 2Chron. 7:14
* 2Chron. 6:38; 12:14; 16:9; 22:9; 30:19; 34:31
 2. The repeated phrases related to repentance are many.
 - a. Loyal heart, all their heart, set their hearts to seek the LORD God of Israel, he did not prepare their heart to seek the LORD, sought the LORD with all his heart, not with a loyal heart, when he was strong in his heart was lifted up, willing heart, singleness of heart, tender heart, and hardened his heart,
 - b. Fifty-three times the word heart appears in 1-2 Chronicles.

3. The books of 1-2Chronicles focus on the responsibility of the King and leaders.
- a. The northern Kingdom was lead to idol worship by Jeroboam, all the kings were evil.
 - b. The southern kingdom by a good number of her kings.
 - 1) “So Saul died for his unfaithfulness which he had committed against the LORD, because he did not keep the word of the LORD, and also because he consulted a medium for guidance. But *he* did not inquire of the LORD; therefore He killed him, and turned the kingdom over to David the son of Jesse.” 1Chron. 10:13-14
 - 2) Asa depended on God, then he did not, “And at that time Hanani the seer came to **Asa** king of Judah, and said to him: “Because you have relied on the king of Syria, and have not relied on the LORD your God, therefore the army of the king of Syria has escaped from your hand.” 2Chron. 16:7
 - 3) Jehoshaphat aliened himself with the wicked king Ahab, “And Jehu the son of Hanani the seer went out to meet him, and said to King **Jehoshaphat**, “Should you help the wicked and love those who hate the LORD? Therefore

the wrath of the LORD *is* upon you.”
2Chron. 19:2

- c. First Chronicles gives emphasis to Davd, his genealogical line, the house and riegn of David in Jerusalem. 1Chron. 1-29
* The focus being the temple, the heart of David, comprising seven of the twenty-nine chapters. 1Chron. 22-29
- d. Second Chronicles gives emphasis to the family line through David to Solomon to Rehoboam, the line of Judah, resulting in the divided kingdom till the destruction of Jerusalem. 2Chron. 1-36
* The focus being the times of reform and revival through five good kings, comprising twenty-one of the thirty-six chapters. 2Chron. 14-35
 - 1) The reform of Asa. 2Chron. 14-16
 - 2) The reform of Jehoshaphat. 2Chron. 17-20
 - 3) The reform of Joash. 2Chron. 23-24
 - 4) The reform of Hezekiah. 2Chron. 29-32
 - 5) The reform of Josiah. 2Chron. 34-35
* The key to evey one of these reforms and renewal of revival was the return and obedience to the Word of God. 2Chron. 15:8, 9; 17:3, 4; 23:16-21; 24:1-6; 29:3-36; 30:1, 15, 16; 34:18-21

This is the historical background behind the unfolding purpose of the books of First and Second Chronicles!

III. The simple outlines of the books of First and Second Kings.

I. The outline for First Chronicles.

- A. The Genealogies of David. 1Chron. 1-9
 - 1. Adam to Noah. 1Chron. 1:1-4
 - 2. The descendents of Noah's three sons. 1Chron. 1:5-27
 - 3. Abraham to the Tribes. 1Chron. 1:28-54
 - 4. The sons of Israel. 1Chron. 2:1-4
 - 5. The tribe of Judah. 1Chron. 2:5-4:23
 - 6. Simeon, Ruben, Gad and Manasseh. 1Chron. 4:24-5:26
 - 7. The descendents of Issachar, Benjamin, Naphtali, Manasseh, Ephraim, Asher. 1Chron. 7:1-40
 - 8. The descendents of Benjamin. 1Chron. 8:1-40
 - 9. Records of Israel and Judah. 1Chron. 9:1-44
- B. The Reign of David. 1Chron. 10-29
 - 1. The end of Saul's reign and beginning of David's. 1Chron. 10
 - 2. The mighty men of David. 1Chron. 11-12
 - 3. The ark and David. 1Chron. 13-16
 - 4. The temple and David. 1Chron. 17

- 5. The wars of David. 1Chron. 18-20
- 6. The sin of David. 1Chron. 21
- 7. The preparation and organization of David for the building of the temple. 1Chron. 22-27
- 8. The crowning of Solomon to be king by David. 1Chron. 28-29

II. The outline for Second Chronicles.

- A. The reign of Solomon. 2Chron. 1-9
 - 1. The confirmation of Solomon to be king. 2Chron. 1
 - 2. The construction of the temple by Solomon. 2Chron. 2:1-5:1
 - 3. The dedication of the temple by Solomon. 2Chron. 5:2-7:22
 - 4. The admiration of the power, extravagance and wisdom of Solomon. 2Chron. 8:1-9:31
- B. The division of the Kingdom and history of Judah. 2Chron. 10-36
 - 1. The first phase in the history of Judah. 2Chron. 10:1-20:37
 - 2. The second phase of the history of Judah. 2Chron. 21:1-32:33
 - 3. The third phase of the history of Judah. 2Chron. 33:1-35:27
 - 4. The fourth phase of the history of Judah. 2Chron. 36:1-23

These are the simple outlines of the books of First and Second Kings!