

Purpose

To unify the nation around true worship of God

Penman

Ezra, according to tradition

Date Written

Approximately 430 BC, from the beginning of Solomon's reign (970 BC) to the Babylonian Captivity (586 BC)

Key People

Solomon, Rehoboam, Asa, Jehoshaphat, Uzziah, Hezekiah, and Josiah

Key Places

Jerusalem and the Temple

Key Verse

"If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves and pray, seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and heal their land. "
2 Chronicles 7:14

Special Features

2 Chronicles parallels *1 Kings* and *2 Kings* and serves as their commentary. Originally *1 Chronicles* and *2 Chronicles* were one book. It was written after the Exile from a priestly perspective, highlighting the revivals in Judah. Israel is ignored.

An Overview (36 Chapters)

- The Reign of Solomon (*1:1-9:31*)
- The Kingdom of Judah (*10:1-36:23*)

Major Themes

- *Temple*: The Temple was the symbol of God's presence and the place set aside for worship and prayer. Built by Solomon from the plans God gave to David, the Temple was the spiritual center of the nation.
- *Prayer*: After Solomon died, David's kingdom was divided. When a king led the Israelites into idolatry, the nation suffered. When the king and his people prayed to God for deliverance and they turned from their sinful ways, God delivered them. God still answers prayers today.
- *Reform*: Although idolatry and injustice were common, some kings turned to God and led the people in spiritual revival. Revival included the destruction of idols, obedience to the law, and the restoration of the priesthood. We must constantly commit ourselves to obeying God. We are never secure in what others have done before us. Each generation of believers must dedicate themselves to the task of carrying out God's will in their own lives as well as in society.
- *National Collapse*: In 586 BC, the Babylonians completely destroyed Solomon's beautiful Temple. The formal worship of God ended. The Israelites had abandoned God, and as a result God brought judgment upon them. When we forget that all our power, wisdom, and wealth come from God and not ourselves, we are in danger of the same spiritual and moral collapse that Israel experienced.