

# Book of 1Chronicles

## Synopsis



## Introduction

Book No	13
Name	1Chronicles
Written By	Ezra
Testament	Old
Category	History
Date Written	Approx. 450 - 430 BC
Place Written	Israel
Audience	To the people of Israel
Purpose	To unify God's people, to trace the Davidic line, and to teach that genuine worship ought to be the center of individual and national life
History Covered	Approx. 1000 - 960 BC
Chapters	29
Verses	941
Key Verse	And David perceived that the LORD had confirmed him king over Israel, for his kingdom was lifted up on high, because of his people Israel. (14:2)
Key People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ David</li> <li>❖ Solomon</li> </ul>
Key Places	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Hebron</li> <li>❖ Jerusalem</li> <li>❖ Kiriath jearim</li> <li>❖ Tyre</li> <li>❖ Baal perazim</li> </ul>

## Purpose of the Book

First Chronicles was written for the dual purpose of providing encouragement and exhortation to those who had returned to Jerusalem. The remnant that was left needed encouragement to keep their faith alive in the midst of difficulty, and they needed hope for the future.

The emphasis of Chronicles on their spiritual heritage of David, Solomon, the temple, and the priesthood was a refreshing reminder that God was faithful and He would not forget His promises to David and to His people. Yet 1 Chronicles also served as a strong exhortation to motivate God's people to adhere to the Mosaic covenant and ritual, so that the tragedy of the past would not be repeated.

Reunions are important. They are times for touching and connecting with others from branches of the family tree, tracing one's personal history back through time and culture, seeing physical reminders (her eyes, his nose), recalling warm traditions. Knowing one's genetic and relational path gives a sense of identity, heritage, and destiny.

It is with this same high purpose that the writer of Chronicles begins his unifying work with an extensive genealogy. He traces the roots of the nation in a literary family reunion from Adam onward, recounting its royal line and the loving plan of a personal God. We read 1 Chronicles and gain a glimpse of God at work through his people for generations. If you are a believer, these people are your ancestors, too. As you approach this part of God's Word, read their names with awe and respect, and gain new security and identity in your relationship with God.

The previous book, 2 Kings, ends with both Israel and Judah in captivity, surely a dark age for God's people. Then follows Chronicles (1 and 2 Chronicles were originally one book). Written after the Captivity, it summarizes Israel's history, emphasizing the Jewish people's spiritual heritage in an attempt to unify the nation. The chronicler is selective in his history telling. Instead of writing an exhaustive work, he carefully weaves the narrative, highlighting spiritual lessons and teaching moral truths. In Chronicles the northern kingdom is virtually ignored, David's triumphs—not his sins—are recalled, and the Temple is given great prominence as the vital center of national life.

First Chronicles begins with Adam, and for nine chapters, the writer gives us a “Who’s Who” of Israel’s history with special emphasis on David’s royal line. The rest of the book tells the story of David—the great man of God, Israel’s king—who served God and laid out the plans for the construction of and worship in the Temple.

First Chronicles is an invaluable supplement to 2 Samuel and a strong reminder of the necessity for tracing our roots and thus rediscovering our spiritual foundation. As you read 1 Chronicles, trace your own godly heritage, thank God for your spiritual forefathers, and recommit yourself to passing on God’s truth to the next generation.

### Overview

- ❖ 13<sup>th</sup> book of the BIBLE, Old Testament and 8<sup>th</sup> among the 12 historical books
- ❖ First Chronicles parallels 2 Samuel
- ❖ 1 Chronicles emphasizes the religious history of Judah and Israel.
- ❖ The specific background of 1 and 2 Chronicles is the period after the Exile.
- ❖ While the Books of Kings were written to those in exile, the Books of Chronicles address the postexilic community
- ❖ Kings and Chronicles have different political perspectives. While Kings embraces both kingdoms, Israel and Judah, Chronicles focuses only on Judah.
- ❖ Kings presents a prophetic outlook, while Chronicles operates from a priestly vantage point.
- ❖ The Book of 1 Chronicles has two main divisions. The first section is nine chapters of genealogies.
- ❖ The second part of 1 Chronicles (10—29) records the events and accomplishments in the life of King David.
- ❖ While 1 and 2 Kings draw out the fact of human responsibility, showing that sin leads to defeat, 1 Chronicles accentuates the sovereign deliverance of God.
- ❖ Chronicles skillfully tells the story of how God was true to His word and kept the promises He had made to His people.

### Hebrew Names of GOD used in 1Chronicles

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## Revelation of JESUS CHRIST

Christ is foreshadowed in 1 Chronicles in much the same way as He is in 1 Kings. First Chronicles 21 (also 2 Sam. 24) explains that as a consequence for sin, a death plague had broken out against Israel. David buys a piece of property from Ornan on which to make a sacrifice that stops the plague. This site on Mount Moriah was the very place where Solomon would build the temple (2 Chr. 3:1).

It is possible that this was the very mountain where Abraham was asked to sacrifice his son Isaac (Gen. 22:2). In the New Testament, three times Paul refers to believers as the “temple of God” (1 Cor.3:16, 17; 6:19; Eph. 2:19–22). It is Christ who has purchased the ground for this spiritual temple. It was His sacrifice that delivered us from death (Rom. 5:12–18; 7:24, 25; 1 John 3:14).

## Work of THE HOLY SPIRIT

There are two clear references to the Holy Spirit in 1 Chronicles. The first is in 12:18, where “the Spirit” came upon or clothed Amasai and enabled him to give an inspired utterance. See Introductions to 1 and 2 Kings: The Holy Spirit at Work. They describe the Holy Spirit’s inspiring others to prophesy during the kingdom period. The second reference to the Holy Spirit in 1 Chronicles is in 28:12, which explains that it was through the ministry of “the Spirit” that the plans of the temple were revealed to David.

## Mega Themes of 1Chronicles

### ISRAEL’S HISTORY

By retelling Israel’s history in the genealogies and the stories of the kings, the writer laid down the true spiritual foundation for the nation. God kept his promises, and we are reminded of them in the historical record of his people, leaders, prophets, priests, and kings.

Israel’s past formed a reliable basis for reconstructing the nation after the Exile. Because God’s promises are revealed in the Bible, we can know God and trust him to keep his word. Like Israel, we should have no higher goal in life than devoted service to God.

### GOD’S PEOPLE

By listing the names of people in Israel’s past, God established Israel’s true heritage.

They were all one family in Adam, one nation in Abraham, one priesthood under Levi, and one kingdom under David. The national and spiritual ‘unity’ of the people was important to the rebuilding of the nation.

God is always faithful to his people. He protects them in every generation and provides leaders to guide them. Because God has been at work throughout the centuries, his people can trust him to work in the present. You can rely on his presence today.

### DAVID, THE KING

The story of David’s life and his relationship with God showed that he was God’s appointed leader. David’s devotion to God, the law, the Temple, true worship, the people, and justice sets the standard for what God’s chosen king should be like.

Jesus Christ came to earth as a descendant of David. One day he will rule as King over all the earth. His strength and justice will fulfill God’s ideal for the king. He is our hope. We can experience God’s Kingdom now by giving Christ complete control of our lives.

### TRUE WORSHIP

David brought the Ark of the Covenant to the Tabernacle at Jerusalem to restore true worship to the people. God gave the plans for building the Temple, and David organized the priests to make worship central to all Israel.

The Temple stood as the throne of God on earth, the place of true worship. God’s true throne is in the hearts of his people. When we acknowledge him as the true King over our lives, true worship takes place.

### THE PRIESTS

God ordained the priests and Levites to guide the people in faithful worship according to his law. By leading the people in worship according to God’s design, the priests and Levites were an important safeguard to Israel’s faith.

For true worship to remain central in our lives, God’s people need to take a firm stand for the ways of God recorded in the Bible. Today, all believers are priests for one another, and we should encourage each other to faithful worship.

Life Lessons in 1Chronicles

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Truth</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Lesson</b></p>
<p><b>Growing in Godliness</b></p> <p>Growing in godliness means growing in faithfulness to the Lord in every area of our lives. That growth begins and increases as we seek to know God’s Word and surrender to His ways in our lives.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Learn from past mistakes, and align yourself with God’s Word, the Bible. Doing so will bring great joy and freedom.</li> <li>❖ Be strong, and have courage; pray for wisdom and understanding to walk in God’s ways. As you walk in His ways, He will prosper you.</li> <li>❖ Be warned that unfaithfulness to GOD may result in our hearts and minds being taken captive by the world system</li> <li>❖ Do not seek out spiritual information or insight from any spiritual source other than the HOLY SPIRIT or CHRIST centered counsellors. Be warned that doing so can result in serious judgement even death</li> </ul>
<p><b>Cultivating                      Dynamic Devotion</b></p> <p>Chronicles focuses on the heart of God’s people. The heart is referenced repeatedly, because our actions follow the leanings of our heart. That to which we incline and devote our hearts decides what we will serve and become.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ We are called to worship with a heart that rejoices in seeking the Lord; a heart full of praise and thanksgiving.</li> <li>❖ Set your heart and soul to seek the Lord. As you do, He will enable you to fulfill His calling for you.</li> <li>❖ Know God, and serve Him with a loyal heart.</li> <li>❖ Remember, He promises that if you seek Him, you will find Him.</li> <li>❖ Understand that GOD gives you times of peace and rest so that you can devote your heart and soul to seeking HIM</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Be diligent in the things GOD gives you to do</li> <li>❖ Serve GOD with unswerving devotion</li> <li>❖ Understand that the LORD honors those who honor HIS WORD and seek HIM with all their heart</li> </ul>
<p><b>Pursuing Holiness</b></p> <p>King David understood that the intentions of the heart determine the behaviour of the person and that the intentions of the heart determine whether or not holiness is learned.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Know that God tests the heart. Welcome the testing, knowing that its purpose is to purify us and make us whole (Zech.13:9; James 1:3, 4).</li> <li>❖ Remember that God takes pleasure in an upright heart.</li> <li>❖ Pray that your heart would forever be fixed toward God.</li> </ul>
<p><b>The Walk of Faith</b></p> <p>Learning to walk in faith is a process in which we learn that God's way are higher than our ways and His thoughts than our thoughts (Is. 55:9).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Ask God for His wisdom that you might be like the sons of Issachar who had "understanding of the times," to know what God's people ought to do.</li> <li>❖ Seek God's counsel first, and then consult others. It is a safeguard for you.</li> <li>❖ Learn God's Word so that you are able to know His ways and walk in them.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Keys to wise living</b></p> <p>Wisdom counsels us that GOD's ways are higher than our ways and HIS thoughts than our thoughts. HE knows the best way to do HIS work</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Do not undertake to do GOD's work in your own way</li> <li>❖ Be warned that employing human wisdom to accomplish GOD's work can result in frightening consequences</li> </ul>
<p><b>A key to generous living</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Understand that all we possess comes from the hand of the LORD</li> </ul>

Knowing the extent of divine resource frees us to greater generosity	
<b>Key to relating to authority</b> GOD instructs us in how to relate to HIM by instructing us in how to relate properly to those HE sends	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Know that GOD has sworn to protect those HE sends to proclaim HIS WORD.</li> <li>❖ Be careful how you speak about and treat GOD's servants</li> </ul>
<b>Lessons for leaders</b> GOD calls HIS leaders to realize that the work to which they are called is HIS and HE will see to its completion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Leaders take courage in the fact that the LORD pledges to be with those HE calls until that to which HE calls them has been completed</li> </ul>

### Praise Points in 1Chronicles

- ❖ Answered prayer (4:10)
- ❖ Those who serve the lord (9:13)
- ❖ People who help us in times of need (12:18)
- ❖ Victory over the enemies of god's people (14:11)
- ❖ The holiness of his character (15:12-14)
- ❖ Those who worship the lord (16:10)
- ❖ His faithfulness to his promises (16:15)
- ❖ His rule over all the earth (16:31)
- ❖ His salvation (16:35)
- ❖ Faithful believers who pass on to us their wisdom (28:9)
- ❖ His plans for us, which he has written down in his word (28:19)
- ❖ His majesty and splendor (29:11).

### Worship Insights in 1Chronicles

First Chronicles begins with several chapters of genealogies—lists of families and names—starting with Adam and continuing through the priests and leaders at the beginning of David's reign. Most of the remaining chapters retell the history of Israel up to the death of David, whose reign significantly shaped the faith and worship of

God's people. The Ark of the Covenant, where the Lord's presence resided, was carried up to Jerusalem and placed in its own tent. Priests were appointed to worship before the Ark with singing and instrumental praise. David bought the threshing floor of Araunah as the site for the future Temple. He organized the priests and musicians for their various duties in the worship of the Lord.

With great rejoicing, David brought the Ark of the Covenant up to Jerusalem from the house of Obed-edom. The festive procession began with special sacrifices, and continued with glad shouts, singing, and the sounding of trumpets and other instruments. After the Ark arrived, David placed it in a special tent. He appointed some of the Levites, Asaph and his associates, to worship the Lord before the Ark. They were to proclaim the Lord's great deeds (16:9-12), his faithfulness to his covenant (16:15), and his dominion over all the world (16:25-29).

For Israel, this was a new facet to worship—not the sacrifices of animals and the offerings of grain, but the organized singing and instrumental music that became a regular part of worship at the Tabernacle and Temple. This feature of worship characterizes many of the Psalms: “God has ascended with a mighty shout. The LORD has ascended with trumpets blaring” (47:5); “Sing a new song to the LORD!” (96:1); “Praise him with a blast of the trumpet; praise him with the lyre and harp!” (150:3). This regular celebratory praise has been called New Testament worship in an Old Testament setting. It anticipates worship offered by the early Christians, who sang “psalms and hymns and spiritual songs” to the Lord (Ephesians 5:19), offering their “sacrifice of praise” (Hebrews 13:15).

- ❖ Genealogies record God's faithfulness to many generations of his people (5:20).
- ❖ Our heritage influences our worship. In Israelite society, the Levites were specifically charged with certain duties in worship, and these duties were passed down through the generations (9:22).
- ❖ The might of great leaders rests ultimately in God's hands (11:9).
- ❖ Worship can strengthen our relationships (12:18).
- ❖ Worship leads us to bless others, which may involve providing for their physical needs (16:3).
- ❖ The blessing of the Lord upon one person can eventually touch many generations (17:27).

- ❖ When we sin, we cannot always escape the consequences, but we can always depend on the Lord's mercy (21:13).
- ❖ Our acts of worship should flow out of a heart that loves God (28:9-10).

## An Outline of 1Chronicles

### I. Names Are People: 1Ch. 1:1-5:26

- A. God's People in God's World: 1Ch. 1:1-2:2
- B. David, Key to History: 1Ch. 2:3-4:23
- C. Lighted Windows: [1Ch\\_2:3-4](#), [1Ch\\_2:7](#); [1Ch\\_4:9-10](#)
- D. The Secret of Survival: 1Ch. 4:24-5:26

### II. God's Relay Race: 1Ch. 6:1-9:34

- A. Putting God at the Center: [1Ch\\_6:1-81](#)
- B. Our Denomination and God's Church: 1Ch. 7:1-8:40
- C. Another Chance: [1Ch\\_9:1-34](#)

### III. Israel at the Crossroads: 1Ch. 9:35-12:40

- A. The Way of Exile: 1Ch. 9:35-10:14
- B. The Way of Restoration: 1Ch. 11:1-12:40

### IV. Giving God Pride of Place: 1Ch. 13:1-16:43

- A. Good Intentions: [1Ch\\_13:1-14](#)
- B. ... Honored by God: [1Ch\\_14:1-17](#)
- C. Doing It Right: 1Ch. 15:1-16:6; [1Ch\\_16:37-43](#)
- D. Doxology—Antidote to Despair: [1Ch\\_16:7-36](#)

### V. Thy Kingdom Come!: 1Ch. 17:1-20:8

- A. God's Promises Are Forever: [1Ch\\_17:1-15](#)
- B. David's Amen to God's Will: [1Ch\\_17:16-27](#)
- C. Fitting into God's Plans: 1Ch. 18:1-20:8

### VI. Saved to Serve: 1Ch. 21:1-22:19

- A. A Gracious Discovery: 1Ch. 21:1-22:1
- B. Resources for the Task: [1Ch\\_22:2-19](#)

### VII. Varieties of Ministry: 1Ch. 23:1-26:32

- A. "Who Sweeps a Room ...": [1Ch\\_23:1-12](#), [1Ch\\_23:14-32](#); [1Ch\\_24:20-31](#)

**B.** Priestly Duties: [1Ch\\_23:13](#); [1Ch\\_24:1-19](#)

**C.** Sacred Music and Song: [1Ch\\_25:1-31](#)

**D.** "Who May Ascend to the Hill of the Lord?": [1Ch\\_26:1-19](#)

**E.** Finance: [1Ch\\_26:20-28](#)

**F.** A Wider Ministry: [1Ch\\_26:29-32](#)

**VIII.** Transition: [1Ch. 27:1-29:30](#)

**A.** God's Stewards: [1Ch. 27:1-28:21](#)

**B.** Willing Gifts and Worshiping God: [1Ch\\_29:1-19](#)

**C.** God's Earthly Throne: [1Ch\\_29:20-30](#)