



Series: Bible Survey

Lesson: 19. Chronicles

• Introduction

- Author: Unknown, probably a compilation of several sources from across the Monarchic Period; possibly Ezra (per Jewish tradition)
- Date: Covers genealogies from Adam until late 5th Century BC and history from the death of Saul (~1011 BC) until the decree of Cyrus (536 BC); most likely written late 5th Century BC
- It is the last book in the *Tanakh* (Jewish Old Testament) and probably the last one written.
- Context: Major questions existed about the status of Israel's covenants with YHWH following the Exile.
 - Israel had returned to the _____...but they were not sovereign over it.
 - Israel had Davidic descendants...but none of them ruled as _____.
 - Israel had Levitical priests and a rebuilt _____...but they were a shadow of what they had been.

- Main themes:

- The identity of Israel as the people of YHWH
- The importance of the Davidic monarchy
- The importance of the Temple
- The necessity of the Levitical priesthood
- The promises of God

- **Key Differences Between Chronicles and Kings**

- Extensive _____

- Judah, Benjamin, and Levi get special significance because of their importance to the rebuilt nation.
- The Davidic line extends eight generations from Jehoiachin to show God's faithfulness.
- The Levitical line proves the legitimacy of those serving as priests.
- All tribes are included to show that all were part of Israel and heirs to the promises.

- More _____ overall

- Chronicles doesn't omit all the failings of faithful kings, but it doesn't include some that don't help with the points being made.
- Israel is being encouraged by the good things God has done for them in the past that he is faithful and that they have every reason to have confidence as His people.

- More direct link between _____ and blessings/consequences
 - In many cases, there is an obvious link between faithfulness/unfaithfulness and how God responds.
 - Chronicles is using object lessons from Israel's history to implore them to be faithful to the Mosaic Covenant (e.g., Abijah's appeal and results in 2 Chron. 13).
 - There is always mercy shown to those who repent and plenty of examples of God's deliverance directly following prayer and/or repentance.
- Much more detail about the Levites and _____.
 - MANY more details are included about David's preparations for the Temple and about other kings' interactions with it.
 - Chronicles emphasizes the continuing relationship with God through the Mosaic Covenant mediated by the priesthood.
- Inclusion of faithful Israelites from the _____ Kingdom in Judah
 - Israelites still lived there after the captivity.
 - Chronicles is emphasizing the unity of the nation (i.e., Hezekiah's invitation to the Passover in 2 Chron. 30).

- Little focus on the _____ Kingdom
 - Because so many faithful Israelites left after Jeroboam's rebellion and again after the dispersion, the rest of that kingdom doesn't factor much into the history of the faithful people who were inheriting the promises.
 - Chronicles focuses on the faithfulness of both God and the people, so those failures are more of a distraction.

- Pointing toward an implicit _____
 - The Prophets had already developed this theology.
 - Using Israel's history to show how much they needed the right king and priesthood in light of those prophecies pointed to the idea that their blessings would come through the Figure Who united those concerns...

Discussion:

1. How does seeing God work with Israel in the Old Testament give us in the Church hope today?
2. How do we articulate the way God responds to our actions (good or bad) today?

Blanks: Land, king, Temple, genealogies, positive, actions, worship, Northern, Northern, Messiah