



WELCOME TO FIRST CHRONICLES

The book of 1 Chronicles was written after the people of Judah returned from exile in Babylon, likely sometime between 450–400 BC. Jerusalem had been destroyed. The temple had been ruined. Generations had been displaced from their land, their worship rhythms, and much of their national identity.

The Books of 1, 2 Chronicles were originally one book (*and still is one book in the Hebrew Bible*). It covers much of the same time and events that is already covered by 2 Samuel and 1,2 Kings, but from a different perspective: Where Kings was written to help the people of God see why they were exiled, Chronicles will help them re-build a society that honors God as King.

The book was not written to introduce brand-new information. Much of the history had already been recorded in earlier books like Samuel and Kings. Chronicles retells Israel's story for a bruised and rebuilding people who needed to remember who they were, whose they were, and what kind of people God had called them to become.

The opening genealogies may seem strange to modern readers, but to the original audience they would have sounded like hope. These names reminded returning exiles that they were still part of God's covenant story. Their failures had not erased God's promises. Their suffering had not canceled their identity. God still had a people, a purpose, and a future for them.

Identity

Chronicles constantly reminds God's people where they came from. The genealogies are not filler material; they are theological restoration. God rebuilds people by reminding them of their story.

The Presence of God

One of the central burdens of Chronicles is restoring worship and returning the presence of God to the center of national life. The ark, the temple, worship, prayer, musicians, gatekeepers, priests, and thanksgiving are all emphasized because the chronicler wants the people to understand that flourishing begins with God's presence among His people.

Faithful Leadership

David is presented as a model king—not because he was perfect, but because his life fundamentally pointed people toward worship, repentance, and dependence on God. Chronicles focuses less on David's failures and more on the direction of his heart and the kingdom vision he helped establish.

Building for Future Generations

The final chapters focus heavily on preparation for the temple. David gathers resources, organizes leaders, establishes systems of worship, and prepares Solomon to build what he himself would never fully see completed. Chronicles teaches us that faithful people build beyond their own lifetime.

Hope After Failure

The original readers of Chronicles lived among the consequences of generations of sin, compromise, and collapse. Yet the book is filled with hope. God still restores. God still calls. God still rebuilds. Even after exile, there was still a future for the people of God. As you read through 1 Chronicles, pay attention to what the book emphasizes. Notice how often worship appears. Watch how leadership is connected to devotion. Observe the way God works through ordinary faithfulness across generations. Listen for the repeated call to seek the Lord wholeheartedly.

Week 1 — A People With a Past

Chronicles begins by reminding God's people who they are. The genealogies are not filler. They are identity recovery for a people returning from exile and rebuilding their lives around the presence and purposes of God.

Day 1 — You Belong to a Bigger Story

Today's Passage: 1 Chronicles 1–2

God begins the story with generations, reminding His people that they are connected to promises bigger than themselves.

Further Exploration:

- Genesis 12:1–3
- Psalm 105:8–11

Personal Reflection: Where do you need to remember that your life is part of God's larger story and covenant purposes?

Day 2 — God Sees the Overlooked

Today's Passage: 1 Chronicles 3–4

In the middle of long genealogies, names like Jabez and Sheerah emerge. God notices people others overlook and uses unexpected people to build His kingdom.

Further Exploration:

- 1 Samuel 16:7
- Psalm 113:5–8

Personal Reflection: What gifts, burdens, or callings has God placed in you that you may have underestimated?

Day 3 — Strength After Sorrow

Today's Passage: 1 Chronicles 5

Even after loss, conflict, and failure, God continues His work through His people.

Further Exploration:

- Joel 2:25
- Romans 8:28

Personal Reflection: How have you seen God continue working even after disappointment or failure?

Day 4 — The Weight of Worship

Today's Passage: 1 Chronicles 6

The Levites were entrusted with worship and the presence of God. Worship was not a side activity; it was central to the life of the nation.

Further Exploration:

- Psalm 84:1–4
- John 4:23–24

Personal Reflection: What currently sits at the center of your attention, affection, and devotion?

Day 5 — Guarding What Is Holy

Today's Passage: 1 Chronicles 7–8

God's people were called to steward what He entrusted to them—families, cities, worship, and covenant identity.

Further Exploration:

- Proverbs 4:23
- 2 Timothy 1:14

Personal Reflection: What has God entrusted to you that needs greater intentional stewardship?

Day 6 — Returning From Ruin

Today's Passage: 1 Chronicles 9

Chronicles was written for returning exiles learning how to rebuild life with God again. Restoration begins by returning to His presence and purposes.

Further Exploration:

- Ezra 3:10–13
- Psalm 126

Personal Reflection: What area of your life needs rebuilding with God at the center?

Day 7 — When Leadership Falls

Today's Passage: 1 Chronicles 10

Saul's downfall shows the danger of drifting from trust and obedience to God.

Further Exploration:

- Proverbs 14:12
- Galatians 6:7–8

Personal Reflection: Where do you sense God inviting you back into greater trust and obedience?

Week 2 — The Presence of God

Chronicles shifts toward David's rise and the restoration of worship. The defining mark of God's people is not merely strength or success, but the presence of God among them.

Day 8 — A King After God's Heart

Today's Passage: 1 Chronicles 11

David gathers mighty men and unites the people around God's purposes. Kingdom community forms around shared devotion and mission.

Further Exploration:

- Acts 13:22
- Psalm 78:70–72

Personal Reflection: What kind of people are shaping your faith and direction?

Day 9 — Strength Through Unity

Today's Passage: 1 Chronicles 12

The tribes gathered around David "with a whole heart." Unity around God's purposes releases strength.

Further Exploration:

- Psalm 133
- Philippians 2:1–5

Personal Reflection: How can you contribute to unity and encouragement within God's people?

Day 10 — Joy Before the Lord

Today's Passage: 1 Chronicles 13–15

David brings the ark to Jerusalem with celebration, reverence, and worship. God's presence was worth rejoicing over.

Further Exploration:

- Psalm 16:11
- John 15:11

Personal Reflection: What would it look like for worship and joy in God to become more central in your life?

Day 11 — The God Who Dwells With His People

Today's Passage: 1 Chronicles 16

David responds to God's presence with thanksgiving, worship, and public declaration.

Further Exploration:

- Psalm 96
- Revelation 21:3

Personal Reflection: What testimonies of God's faithfulness should you speak about more openly?

Day 12 — God Builds What Lasts

Today's Passage: 1 Chronicles 17

David wants to build God a house, but God promises to establish David's house forever—a promise fulfilled in Jesus.

Further Exploration:

- Luke 1:31–33
- Psalm 89:1–4

Personal Reflection: How does knowing Jesus reigns forever strengthen your confidence today?

Day 13 — Victory Comes From God

Today's Passage: 1 Chronicles 18–19

David experiences victory because the Lord is with him. God's presence changes outcomes.

Further Exploration:

- Zechariah 4:6
- Romans 8:31

Personal Reflection: Where do you need to depend less on your own strength and more on God's power?

Day 14 — Mercy After Failure

Today's Passage: 1 Chronicles 20–21

David sins greatly, yet responds with repentance and worship. God's mercy remains available to those who turn back to Him.

Further Exploration:

- Psalm 51
- 1 John 1:9

Personal Reflection: What would wholehearted repentance look like in your life right now?

Week 3 — Build the House

The final section of Chronicles focuses on preparing for the temple. God's people are called to build for future generations and live for a mission larger than themselves.

Day 15 — A Vision Bigger Than Yourself

Today's Passage: 1 Chronicles 22

David prepares for a future he will not personally complete. Kingdom people build beyond their own lifetime.

Further Exploration:

- Hebrews 11:13
- Psalm 145:4

Personal Reflection:

What are you building now that could bless future generations?

Day 16 — Every Person Has a Role

Today's Passage: 1 Chronicles 23–24

God organized His people with purpose. Every role mattered in the work of worship and ministry.

Further Exploration:

- 1 Corinthians 12:12–27
- Ephesians 4:11–16

Personal Reflection:

How might God want to use your gifts more intentionally in His kingdom?

Day 17 — Worship Shapes the Future

Today's Passage: 1 Chronicles 25

Musicians and worship leaders were appointed to minister continually before the Lord. Worship forms people and shapes culture.

Further Exploration:

- Colossians 3:16
- Psalm 150

Personal Reflection:

What voices and influences are shaping your heart most consistently?

Day 18 — Faithfulness in Every Assignment

Today's Passage: 1 Chronicles 26–27

From gatekeepers to military leaders, every assignment mattered when offered to God.

Further Exploration:

- Colossians 3:23–24
- Matthew 25:21

Personal Reflection:

How can you approach your current responsibilities as worship unto God?

Day 19 — Courage to Build

Today's Passage: 1 Chronicles 28

David charges Solomon to be strong, courageous, and obedient in building the temple.

Further Exploration:

- Joshua 1:6–9
- 2 Timothy 1:7

Personal Reflection:

What step of courage or obedience is God asking you to take?

Day 20 — Openhanded Generosity

Today's Passage: 1 Chronicles 29

The people give willingly and joyfully toward the work of God. Generosity becomes worship.

Further Exploration:

- 2 Corinthians 9:6–8
- Psalm 24:1

Personal Reflection:

How can your resources, time, or abilities become an offering to God?

Day 21 — The True King and Greater Temple

Today's Passage: Matthew 12:6; John 2:19–21; Revelation 21:22–27

Chronicles ultimately points beyond David and Solomon to Jesus—the eternal King and the true meeting place between God and humanity.

Further Exploration:

- Isaiah 9:6–7
- Hebrews 1:1–4

Personal Reflection:

How is Jesus inviting you not just to admire His kingdom, but to fully participate in it?