

1 CHRONICLES

AN OVERVIEW

Purpose

To unify the people of God, to trace the line of King David, and to teach that genuine worship ought to be the center of individual and national life.

Author

Traditionally, the “Chronicler.” But, according to Jewish tradition, it was written by Ezra.

Date

Recording events occurring 1000-960 BC, 1 Chronicles was written c.430 BC.

Audience

The people of Judah after the exile.

Setting

First Chronicles parallels 2 Samuel and serves as a commentary on it.

Special Features

Written after the exile from a priestly point of view, 1 Chronicles emphasizes *the significance of the Davidic covenant as the enduring basis of Israel’s life and hope*. The Davidic covenant is expressed in the two institutions that derive directly from it: the monarchy and the temple.



Key Verses

“And David knew that the LORD had established him as king over Israel, and that his kingdom was highly exalted for the sake of his people Israel.” (14:2 ESV)

David said to Solomon, “My son, I had it in my heart to build a house to the name of the LORD my God. But the word of the LORD came to me, saying, ‘You have shed much blood and have waged great wars. You shall not build a house to my name, because you have shed so much blood before me on the earth.’ ... [your son Solomon] ‘shall build a house for my name. He shall be my son, and I will be his father, and I will establish his royal throne in Israel forever.’ ” (22:7-8,10 ESV)

Key People

David, Solomon.

Key Places

Hebron, Jerusalem, the temple.