

2 CHRONICLES

AN OVERVIEW

Purpose

To unify Judah around true worship of Yahweh by showing His standard for judging kings. The righteous kings of Judah and the religious revivals during their reigns are highlighted, and the sins of the evil kings are exposed.



Author

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

Date

Written approximately 430 BC, recording events from the beginning of Solomon’s reign in 970 BC to the beginning of the Babylonian captivity in 586 BC.

Audience

The people of Judah after the exile.

Setting

Second Chronicles parallels 1 and 2 Kings and serves as their commentary.

Special Features

Because the focus is so thoroughly on individual kings, 2 Chronicles has the feel of an anthology of brief biographies and hero stories.

Key Verses

God answered Solomon, “Because ... you have not asked for possessions ... but have asked for wisdom and knowledge ... I will also give you riches, possessions, and honor ...” (1:11-12 ESV)

“If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.” (7:14 ESV)

Key People

Solomon, the Queen of Sheba, Rehoboam, Jeroboam, Asa, Jehoshaphat, Jehoram, Joash, Uzziah (Azariah), Ahaz, Hezekiah, Manasseh, Josiah.

Key Places

Gibeon, Jerusalem, Shechem, the Hill Country of Ephraim, Aram, Samaria, Ramoth Gilead.