

Key to II CHRONICLES

1. STATISTICS:

Writer, probably Ezra, scribe-priest; time of writing about 500 B.C. Covers period of about 400 years; type of book, history. Key thought, kingdom of Judah (emphasis on good kings); key verse, 15:2; key character, Solomon.

2. THEME:

Solomon, his temple and his glory, and the kings which followed him. Emphasis on miracles GOD accomplished through kings of Judah.

3. OUTLINE:

Solomon's reign, temple, fame (1-9)
Judah's kings, wars, victories (10-36)
Babylonian captivity, restoration (36)

4. SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS:

Building, splendor and dedication of the temple most important.

Little mentioned of sin and failure. Righteous kings and their acts are emphasized. Religious side is uppermost.

Ezra, a Levite, writes from that standpoint. When the split came between the tribes at the time of Rehoboam, practically all the Levites moved to the Southern Kingdom where they ministered.

Undoubtedly written late, possibly one of the latest, since other books are mentioned (I Chronicles 29:29).

As pure history this book is of less value than Samuel and Kings. Most valuable as religious interpretation of history by an eyewitness of much of it.

5. OUTSTANDING TEACHINGS:

It was the added blessings of GOD that Solomon abused, which led to his downfall.

Temple was built after the general pattern of the tabernacle in the wilderness, with parts just twice the dimensions. Some 30,000 Jews and 150,000 Canaanites labored 7 1/2 years without the sound of a hammer during its assembling.

The altar of burnt offering is thought to have stood on the rock now enclosed in the Mohammedan "Dome of the Rock" which was the traditional spot of Abraham's offering of Isaac (Genesis 22).

Jehoshaphat reigned for 25 years and "**sought the LORD with all his heart.**" He began a system of public instruction in the homes of the people as priests and Levites taught the law of GOD. His courts of justice throughout the land, with a court of appeals at Jerusalem, greatly strengthened righteous living (chapters 17-20).

Hezekiah inherited a badly disorganized kingdom but started out with a great reformation. He cleansed and restored the temple, kept the passover, and trusted in God. He also leaned heavily on Isaiah.

The last kings were tragic in their wickedness, until there was no remedy. Zedekiah was taken in chains to Babylon where he died. Jerusalem and the great temple were utterly demolished.

6. INTERESTING FEATURES:

GOD Himself was the architect of the temple (I Chronicles 28:19).

Shishak's sarcophagus of pure gold has been found, possibly made of some of Solomon's gold (12:9).

Josiah had one of the most remarkable reigns in Judah's history. When only 8 years of age he sought the LORD. In his eighteenth year of reign he found the Book which brought a great reformation.

Note similarity in 36:22,23 and Ezra 1:1-3.

7. KEY TO UNDERSTANDING:

The key to national success is a complete and continual recognition of GOD's place. Only when He is revered, worshiped, and His commandments observed, can there be true prosperity. You will want to take GOD's position as you "observe" the happenings of II Chronicles.

~ end of II Chronicles ~

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