

Key to I CHRONICLES

1. STATISTICS:

Writer, presumably Ezra, scribe and priest (II Chronicles 36:22 and Ezra 1:1, 2). Time of writing 500 B.C. Key thought, kingdom history from sacred standpoint. Key verse, 29:26. Type of book, history and genealogical records. Chronicles means "word of days" or "journal" or "record."

2. THEME:

A condensed history, beginning with Adam and ending with captivity of Jewish nation (including II Chronicles), with emphasis on the reign of David, Israel's greatest king.

3. OUTLINE:

Genealogical records (1-10) Reign of David (11-29).

4. SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS:

Book is part of a recapitulation of II Samuel but with a different purpose in mind. Writer was concerned with an accurate statistical record for the time in which he was writing and for the future.

Books of Samuel and Kings (102 chapters) cover 585 years of pure history. Prophets are important; kings of both nations are named, special emphasis on prominent ones. Two books of Chronicles (65 chapters) cover 460 years of religious history. Priests are important; they tell only of the good kings of Judah.

Whatever has to do with the temple, purity of its worship, regularity of its services, its preservation or restoration is emphasized. The attitude of the kings to the King of kings is shown to be the key to national success.

The ministry of music is fully set forth; the duties of the Levites were designated and the priesthood was organized into 24 courses. Doorkeepers and treasurers were authorized as well as David's civil servants.

Public worship was given special attention. GOD was seen to be greatly interested in regular assembling of the people to honor Him. It was necessary that there be instruction as to how to make such worship acceptable.

5. OUTSTANDING TEACHINGS:

While in the books of Samuel and Kings we found wars, idolatries, and offenses; in this book are deliverances, repentances, and reformations. In the former, idolatry appears as treason against the king; in the latter, the apostasy was against GOD.

Four great deliverances in (I & II) Chronicles and in each case victory was by GOD's hand.

David had many valuable friends (chapters 11, 12). They were described as "**expert in war, with all instruments of war**"; with "**faces... like the faces of lions**:" They were "**as swift as the roes (deer) upon the mountains**" and they could "**use both the right hand and the left.**"

David was given the honor of preparing materials for the temple which was to be built by Solomon (chapter 22). He collected vast stores of gold, silver, and building materials. The estimate of the value is from two to five billions of dollars. David said concerning the temple, it "**must be exceeding magnificent**" (v. 5).

The great Davidic covenant (II Samuel 7) was reiterated in I Chronicles 17:7-15. This is one of GOD's unconditional agreements with Israel. (See also Psalm 89:20-37.)

The ark of His covenant had been in Kirjath-jearim for 20 years (I Samuel 7:2); then in the house of Obed-edom for three months. Now in grand triumphal procession, David brought it to a tent prepared for it in Jerusalem (chapter 15).

6. INTERESTING FEATURES:

Uzza's death came as a result of doing the right thing, in the wrong way (13:9, 10).

David refused to give an offering to the LORD which had cost him nothing (21:22-26).

7. KEY TO UNDERSTANDING:

Repetition means emphasis. What GOD has restated in Chronicles should be noted carefully.

~ end of I Chronicles ~

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