

2 Chronicles Part 1

Both 1st and 2nd Chronicles have their authorship after the southern kingdom of Judah went into exile in Babylon.

- A. The Talmud says that it was Ezra who compiled those books. We will meet him in the next 2 books of the Old Testament, as we continue to move forward in Ezra and Nehemiah.
- B. While 1st and 2nd Samuel and 1st and 2nd Kings are more of a historical record of Israel; last week we said that 1st and 2nd Chronicles are more like an editorial of that history.
- C. They are a divine editorial of the history of the nation from a spiritual perspective. 1st and 2nd Chronicles are, if you would, a theological history of Israel.

Chapter 1

2 Chronicles 1:1 (ESV) ¹ Solomon the son of David established himself in his kingdom, and the Lord his God was with him and made him exceedingly great.

So here we see the secret of Success for Solomon...It wasn't massive amounts of campaigning or his military might...It was that the Lord was with him and made him exceedingly great

Psalm 75:6 For promotion comes neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south. 7 But God is the judge: he puts down one, and sets up another.”

What was His secret? the Lord readied him up...whats yours? the same

2 Chronicles 1:6 (ESV) ⁶ And Solomon went up there to the bronze altar before the Lord, which was at the tent of meeting, and offered a thousand burnt offerings on it.

Before Solomon became king He personally went and worshiped the king of kings

- A. That's always the foundation of strong godly leadership - a personal relationship and devotion to the king of king
 - 1. Spiritually - the Holy Spirit works in our hearts cultivating this
 - 2. Practically - this takes work - Like dieting

Now sadly, that doesn't hold true for the duration of his reign. There's going to be, we're going to see his reign crumbling by the end of it.

2 Chronicles 1:7-8 (ESV) ⁷ In that night God appeared to Solomon, and said to him, "Ask what I shall give you." ⁸ And Solomon said to God, "You have shown great and steadfast love to David my father, and have made me king in his place.

V.7 You have shown great and **steadfast love** to David my father, and have made me king in his place

Would you do me a favor and circle those words - In the Hebrew those words are contained in the word "HE-SED"

- A. It's a difficult word to translate this word because so much is contained inside this word - It speaks of God's covenantal love or Loyal love
- B. Orpah and Ruth
- C. **Here's the picture** - Solomon was moved to worship because he was move by God's "Hesed" for his father and himself
- D. **Here's the question:** What moves you to worship? is it duty? or is it God's "Hesed" - the 2nd motivation will produce a more passionate more joyful worship life

Here's his request...

2 Chronicles 1:10 (ESV) ¹⁰ Give me now wisdom and knowledge to go out and come in before this people, for who can govern this people of yours, which is so great?"

I like the way he asks the....first he asks for wisdom from God, then he recognizes who these people belong too (people of yours) , and how valuable they are to God (Which are so great)

- A. As Husbands we need to recognized that our wives are precious to God
- B. As Parents we need to recognize our kids are precious to God
- C. As singles we need to recognize our bodies are God's temple and they are precious to God
- D. Solomon demonstrated wisdom in asking for wisdom. And where did he get that? Well, before his dad died, his dad was speaking to him. And write this in the margins of your Bible next to verse 10, please. Right next to verse 10 write 1st Chronicles 22:11, 12. This is David speaking to Solomon - **1st Chronicles 22:11 Now, my son, the Lord be with you, so that you may succeed in building the house of the Lord your God, as he has spoken concerning you. 12 Only, may the Lord grant you discretion (the old King James Version reads it as – may the Lord grant you wisdom) and understanding, that when he gives you charge over Israel you may keep the law of the Lord your God.**”

Parents - Solomon had wisdom to pray for wisdom because he heard his dad pray for that very thing for him. And here's the picture - We need to be praying for our kids.

- A. Do not underestimate how much your kids hear what you are praying for them. They listen to what you pray for.

- B. Do not underestimate how your prayers will shape their prayers!

2 Chronicles 1:11–12 (ESV) ¹¹ God answered Solomon, “Because this was in your heart, and you have not asked for possessions, wealth, honor, or the life of those who hate you, and have not even asked for long life, but have asked for wisdom and knowledge for yourself that you may govern my people over whom I have made you king, ¹² wisdom and knowledge are granted to you. I will also give you riches, possessions, and honor, such as

none of the kings had who were before you, and none after you shall have the like.”

This is a tremendous Old Testament picture of New Testament Truth - **Matthew 6:33 But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”**

- A. Solomon was seeking first the kingdom of God. He was not seeking first – personal wealth, personal power. But God added those things to Solomon, because Solomon was just saying, “God, I want to take care of your kingdom. I want to rule on behalf of you, these people.
- B. And that’s when Jesus says, “And God’s going to add these other things to you.” He’ll add.

2 Chronicles 1:13 (ESV) ¹³ So Solomon came from the high place at Gibeon, from before the tent of meeting, to Jerusalem. And he reigned over Israel.

And this, again, is a reference to the united nation of Israel - all twelve tribes.

2 Chronicles 1:15 (ESV) ¹⁵ And the king made silver and gold as common in Jerusalem as stone, and he made cedar as plentiful as the sycamore of the Shephelah.

Now it says...Solomon made silver and gold as common right - A talent is worth \$1,750,000. Solomon received 666 talents of that metal each year. And the reference for that is - **1st Kings 10 and 2nd Chronicles 9**. That means that each year Solomon got between \$1.1 billion a year

But the people were put under an incredible burden of labor and tax. And the people are going to bring this up after Solomon dies.

But God is obviously blessing this guy

Chapter 2 - Solomon builds the temple

We come to Solomon’s most important accomplishment, which I think is really striking when you think of - in today’s world people would be

going, 'Boy, you're making a \$billion a year; that's the biggest accomplishment, and everything that billion dollars can get you.'

But here's his biggest accomplishment. And the Holy Spirit is emphasizing this.

[2 Chronicles 2:1 \(ESV\)](#) ¹ Now Solomon purposed to build a temple for the name of the Lord, and a royal palace for himself.

Summary: Now understand, the temple is the subject of many chapters in this book - It's planning - It's building - It's furnishing - the ark bring brought into the temple...chapters 2-5

- A. The temple in Jerusalem is written about or mentioned 150 times in 2nd Chronicles. The author wanted the reader to see that everything about who they were was tied up in relationship to the **House of God at Jerusalem.**
- B. **Remember the story:** The author of Chronicles is writing to the Jews returning from exile after 70 years in Babylon.
 - 1. By inspiration of the Holy Spirit, he reminded them that Israel, like no other nation, has no destiny apart from the promises, the plans and the purposes of God concerning their nation. **And the temple was crucial in the redemptive plans and purposes of God**
- C. **Most everything in 2nd Chronicles is viewed in relationship to the temple.**
 - 1. If you looked at the kings of Judah that are mentioned in this book, on a percentage basis:
 - 1. 70% of the material of the rest of the book highlights the good kings - why? - because they were instrumental in bringing spiritual reform. They restored the temple. They rebuilt the temple.
 - 2. Only about 30% of the rest of the book mentions the bad kings

3. And the kings of the north aren't mentioned at all because they had no relationship with the temple

Here's the big question: WHY IS IT SO IMPORTANT FOR US TO UNDERSTAND THE TEMPLE TODAY AS N.T. BELIEVERS? - Understand the temple is an illustration of three very important New Testament truths.

- A. **Number 1** – The temple speaks of the physical body of the believer - Paul – in 1st Corinthians 6 – “Don't you know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit”
- B. **Number 2** – The temple speaks of the spiritual body of Christ Ephesians 2 “God is building us up together to be a habitation by the Spirit” - The temple is no longer a physical structure. Now we are living stones being fitted together for a habitation of God by His Spirit.
- C. **Number 3** - The temple speaks of Jesus Christ. John 2 is the reference for that Jesus declared that He is greater than the Temple in Matthew 12. And ultimately Jesus replaces the temple in eternity. Look at Revelation 21:22 And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. 23 And the city had no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives its light, and its lamp is the Lamb.”
- D. So when you read of the temple in the Old Testament you want to see those three things, okay? - **It's a reference to your body being a temple of the Holy Spirit - It's a reference to the Body of Christ - And It's most importantly a reference to Jesus**

Chapter 3

2 Chronicles 3:1 (ESV) ¹ Then Solomon began to build the house of the Lord in Jerusalem on Mount Moriah, where the Lord had appeared to David his father, at the place that David had appointed, on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite.

Two things here...

1. Solomon showed “follow through” – you can write in the margins of your Bible a little cross reference - in **1st Chronicles 21**...but here's the picture - In **2nd Chronicles 2:1** we saw that that Solomon determined to build a house And now in **2nd Chronicles 3:2** we're told that he began

- A. **He determined...And he began** - Guys, to be determined is important. But to begin means the determination is real
- B. Follow through...

2. Notice the “location” It says that Solomon began to build the house of the Lord in Jerusalem, but in a very specific place in Jerusalem - on Mount Moriah. Moriah, in the Bible, is the mountain of sacrifice.

- A. It's where Abraham offered Isaac.
- B. It's where David paid the full price for the threshing floor of Ornan, where he says, “I'm not going to give the Lord something that cost me nothing.”
- C. It's where David offered sacrifices to stop the plague.
- D. All of that pointed to the sacrifice of the cross, **because Moriah, is where Jesus was crucified.**

- 1. **And here's the picture** - This is a reminder that cross was not an accident...but part of the pre ordained plan of God...and the bible is vessel that God has chosen to declare the good news
- 2. **The bible is more news paper then intersection manual - advice is about what we need to do...Good news is about whats been donjon our behalf...thats the heart of the God's word**
- 3. The christian life is too simply live in response to that good news

2 Chronicles 3:2 (ESV) ² He began to build in the second month of the fourth year of his reign.

This is about 967 B.C. Up to this point Israel had lived in the land of promise for almost 500 years without a temple. And though Solomon broke ground in “the fourth year of his reign”, he probably started organizing the construction in the very first year of his reign

2nd Chronicles 3:4 - Describes the courtyard

2nd Chronicles 3:5 - Describes the holy place

2nd Chronicles 3:8 - Describes the most holy place.

Chapter 5

2 Chronicles 5:1 (ESV) ¹ Thus all the work that Solomon did for the house of the Lord was finished. And Solomon brought in the things that David his father had dedicated, and stored the silver, the gold, and all the vessels in the treasuries of the house of God.

The building project is complete. It took 7 years. It's estimated in today's money \$10 billion dollars to complete.

First - This tells me that when God is building His house – It takes time

- A. We always want quick results...But god is rearly into the quick and easy road...because you don't learn anything on those roads...
When God's building us, He takes his time...and does it right

Secondly - This tells me that when God is building His house - It takes time; and it's costly.

- A. It is costly on numerous levels.
- B. It's costly in trials that refine us. It's costly in prayer and tears.
- C. It's costly in sacrifice of time, talent and treasure.
- D. There is no individual's relationship with the Lord; There is no local church that is being built, that is not costly – in trials that refine, in prayers and tears, and in the sacrifice of time, talents and treasures.

Thirdly - We see the legacy of Solomon's dad, David.

David desired to see God worshipped...David invested in seeing the people of God experience the glory of God...He invested in God receiving glory and worship from His people. All that Solomon's dad, David, had dedicated to the Lord before his death was now facilitating worship and bringing glory to God years after his death. That's profound.

- A.** And here's the picture: There is always a return on investment in the kingdom of God – always!
- B.** If you make it a priority, they will too, If you exemplify a love for Jesus, A love for God's people, A love for the lost, their gonna follow that cue
 - 1.** I think about in Duet 6 - When Moses is reiterating the Law to the wilderness generation - **Deuteronomy 6:4–7 (ESV)** ⁴ “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. ⁵ **You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.** ⁶ And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. ⁷ **You shall teach them diligently to your children,** and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise
 - 2. Here's the point:** David had a heart to after God's...He served God...He invested in the work of God...and His son was watching...and He is finishing of David's God honoring Project
 - a)** Now it's not full proof - Absalom
 - b)** They will have to make that choice to follow Jesus themselves
 - c)** But at least they will have a good example

2 Chronicles 5:2–3 (ESV) ² Then Solomon assembled the elders of Israel and all the heads of the tribes, the leaders of the fathers' houses of the people of Israel, in Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the covenant of the Lord out of the city of David, which is Zion. ³ And all the men of Israel assembled before the king at the feast that is in the seventh month.

So the temple was dedicated in the seventh month. And he wanted to merge the dedication of the temple with the Feast of Tabernacles. And those of you who were with us recently in our study of Nehemiah, this feast is fresh in your minds, right? It's in the middle of the seventh month of each year, commemorating and celebrating God's presence and provision during 40 years that Israel wandered in the wilderness after they came out of Egypt.

Chapter 6

In Solomon's dedication address, in Solomon's prayer at the dedication, he looked in five different directions.

1. First of all – in 2nd Chronicles 6:1-11 - Solomon looked back.

He recalled how God chose him to build the temple. And by way of Solomon, the Holy Spirit instructs us. Remember these things were written for our instruction. The Holy Spirit instructs us that –

- A.** We need to remember and recall those special 'Jesus moments' in our lives.
- B.** We need to remember and recall the day that the Holy Spirit shined into our hearts the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus (2nd Corinthians 4:6). We need to recall and remember the day that we sensed the call of God in our life to a specific ministry.
- C.** And when those epic moments grow dim, that's when we grow indifferent, grow lukewarm and apathetic toward the things of God.
- D.** So looking back – there's a healthy way to look back, to remember the call of God.

2. In 2nd Chronicles 6:12-21 - Solomon looked up -

And he asked God to fulfill the covenant promises that He had made with David. The Davidic Covenant pointed to and anticipated the coming into this world of the one called the Son of David, Jesus Christ, to die in our place for our sins. And it pointed to and anticipated the return of Jesus to this world to sit on the throne of David and rule the world in righteousness for 1,000 years.

- A.** So Solomon's prayer instructs us that we need to remember, not just the Davidic Covenant, but the New Covenant that God established with us by the shed blood of Jesus. We need to stand on and live in all that God has promised and provided for us in, and through, and with, and by Jesus (Ephesians 1- 3). It's so important.
- B.** We need to remember the promise of the return of Jesus.
- C.** Philippians 3:20 But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself."
- D.** Even as the Davidic Covenant looked forward to Jesus returning, and sitting on the throne of David, we too look forward and expect His return
- E.** The future hope of His return has a profound impact on the present - 1 John 3:2 Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. 3 And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as Jesus is pure."

3. In 2nd Chronicles 6:22-31 - Solomon looked ahead.

Solomon asked God to help His people in future trials, and especially in their future failures. In this chapter, there are numerous references to prayer. This is big stuff, again, for parents, husbands, leaders, friends.

4. In 2nd Chronicles 6:32-35 - Solomon looked around.

And he actually called on God to help the Gentiles. Guys, God intended the temple to be “a house of prayer for all nations” in Isaiah 56:7. God intended the descendants of Abraham to be a blessing to all the world (Genesis 12:1–3).

5. And in 2nd Chronicles 6:36-40 - Solomon looked within.

He looked within the nation.

And he ended his prayer by pleading for forgiveness for Israel’s sins.

2 Chronicles 6:36–40 (ESV) ³⁶ “If they sin against you—for there is no one who does not sin—and you are angry with them and give them to an enemy, so that they are carried away captive to a land far or near, ³⁷ yet if they turn their heart in the land to which they have been carried captive, and repent and plead with you in the land of their captivity, saying, ‘We have sinned and have acted perversely and wickedly,’ ³⁸ if they repent with all their heart and with all their soul in the land of their captivity to which they were carried captive, and pray toward their land, which you gave to their fathers, the city that you have chosen and the house that I have built for your name, ³⁹ then hear from heaven your dwelling place their prayer and their pleas, and maintain their cause and forgive your people who have sinned against you. ⁴⁰ **Now, O my God, let your eyes be open and your ears attentive to the prayer of this place.**

Now who’s the author’s audience? This was written for those who had returned from captivity. The very readers were the answers to Solomon’s prayer! That had to blow their minds! That had to remind them that God’s plans always move forward, that God is faithful and unfailing towards His people.

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

- A.** What hope this passage gives to me as a dad, my wife as a mom!
- B.** What hope this passage gives to those who pastor the flock of God!
- C.** What hope this gives to those of you who are friends to people who have backslidden! And what hope this gives to anyone in this room here who has come in tonight backslidden!
- D.** God restores people.

Chapter 7

2 Chronicles 7:1 (ESV) ¹ As soon as Solomon finished his prayer, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and the glory of the Lord filled the temple.

This is such a picture of the gospel:

- A.** The fire does not fall on the people of Israel...The fire fell on the altar and the sacrifices.
- B.** The altar of the Old Testament points to the cross of Jesus.
- C.** The sacrifices of the Old Testament point to and look forward to the sacrificial death of Jesus.
- D.** There at the cross the fire of God fell upon His Beloved Son who stood in our place. The wrath that we deserved was rained down upon Jesus.

Would you write these verses in the margin of your Bible there next to 2nd Chronicles 7:1?

2 Corinthians 5:21 For our sake he made him (that's Jesus) to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him (that's Jesus) we might become the righteousness of God."

1 John 4:10 In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation (or the wrath appeasing sacrifice) for our sins."

- A. Here's the picture:** Your salvation is important to God...that before the foundations of the earth he would roll out a plan that would not only honor Man's free will, but his righteous standard...all because you are precious to Him...do you know that?

Chapters 8 - 9 The facade of success

This first big section of 2nd Chronicles finishes with Solomon looking like the picture of Success in the eyes of man

Chapter 8 speaks of His accomplishments:

- A.** The wars he won
- B.** The houses he built - It took him 7 years to build God's house, and 13 years to build his house - and then v.11 tells us he built a house for His wife Pharaoh's daughter

Chapter 9 speak of his fame:

- A.** Queen of Sheba visiting Jerusalem, standing in awe of Solomon's wisdom and his wealth - 2 Chronicles 9:5-6 (ESV) ⁵ And she said to the king, "The report was true that I heard in my own land of your words and of your wisdom, ⁶ but I did not believe the reports until I came and my own eyes had seen it. And behold, half the greatness of your wisdom was not told me; you surpass the report that I heard.
- B.** His wealth - 2 Chronicles 9:13 (ESV) ¹³ Now the weight of gold that came to Solomon in one year was 666 talents of gold...remember 1.1 billion
- C.** His unmatched prominence - 2 Chronicles 9:22 (ESV) ²² Thus King Solomon excelled all the kings of the earth in riches and in wisdom.
 - 1. Here's the picture:** He's the top dog:
 - a)** He would be adored in this day and age

- b) But here's the issue - Despite the amazing lessons we can glean from Solomon's relationship with the Lord, his life also warns us, guys, because Solomon's life was marked by compromise that led to corruption on the personal level and the national level
- c) 1 Kings 11:4–8 (ESV) ⁴ For when Solomon was old his wives turned away his heart after other gods, and his heart was not wholly true to the Lord his God, as was the heart of David his father. ⁵ For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites. ⁶ So Solomon did what was evil in the sight of the Lord and did not wholly follow the Lord, as David his father had done. ⁷ Then Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the abomination of Moab, and for Molech the abomination of the Ammonites, on the mountain east of Jerusalem. ⁸ And so he did for all his foreign wives, who made offerings and sacrificed to their gods.
- d) **Here's the picture:** He was successful on the outside...yet dying on the inside
- e) *G. Campbell Morgan said this — “Yielding to certain lower things of his nature, he became a slave to them, and dragged down his nation with him. So long as he remained on the throne, the people were solaced and drugged by the material magnificence; but underneath, the spirit of rebellion and revolt was at work, ready to break out into open manifestation directly he was removed.”*
- f) Solomon knew success, wealth, and pleasure and extravagance beyond anything we can comprehend. But during this time of incredible success, and wealth, and pleasure and extravagance he was filled with emptiness.

- g)** Ecclesiastes 1:1 The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem. 2 Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity.
- h)** Solomon had the money/fame/accomplishments/women/anything he desired...all the things...we long for!!!

 - (1)** We get on the “If I could just have” treadmill
 - (2) Conclusion** “Solomon’s life is a reminder that the American dream is not the key to real happiness... happiness is found in one person - Jesus - **Psalm 16:** “8 I have set the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken. 9 Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure.... 11 You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.”