

Chronicles

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Leaders' notes and sample studies

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Study 1. Bible history overview

The events of 1-2 Chronicles = c.1010 - 586BC

The writing of 1-2 Chronicles = c.400BC

What were the challenges facing the returning exiles? (cf. Ezra 9:6-15; Nehemiah 13)

Skim through 1-2 Chronicles. What do the authors spend the most time on?

What is the last documented event?

What do you think the authors might want to achieve in the way they recorded this history?

Study 2. The David episode (part 1)

Read 1 Chronicles 10

1. What is the verdict on Saul?
2. What is the conclusion to Saul's story?

Read 1 Chronicles 11

3. What is your overall impression? Why list all the names?

In small groups, read 2 Samuel 2-3.

4. How does this compare to the Chronicles account?
5. What are the differences? Why has the author presented history differently?

Read 1 Chronicles 12 [It's a flashback!]

6. What is the message of this chapter?

So what do we do with this?

Read Ephesians 1:15-23.

7. What does this tell us about Christ fulfilling the prototype of David?

Read Ephesians 4:1-16.

8. How is this similar / different to the Israelites around King David?

Study 3. The David episode (part 2)

Read Exodus 25:10-22

The Journey of the Ark of the Covenant in 1-2 Samuel

1 Sam. 3:3	The Lord calls to Samuel who is sleeping in the tent of meeting, "where the ark of God was"
1 Samuel 4	Philistines capture the ark (for seven months: 1 Sam. 6:1)
1 Sam. 5:1-7	Philistines bring the ark to Ashdod, setting it up next to the idol Dagon
1 Sam. 5:8-9	Philistines bring the ark to Gath
1 Sam. 5:10-12	Philistines send the ark to Ekron
1 Sam. 6:10-15	Philistines return the ark with guilt offering to Beth-shemesh
1 Sam. 6:19-21	The Lord strikes 70 men for looking upon the ark
1 Sam. 7:1-2	Men of Kiriath-jearim take the ark to the house of Abinadab (where it stays for 20 years)
1 Sam. 14:18	Saul commands Ahijah to bring the ark to the war camp
2 Sam. 6:2-5	David begins to move the ark to Jerusalem on a cart
2 Sam. 6:6-7	The Lord strikes Uzzah dead for holding on to the ark
2 Sam. 6:10-11	David takes the ark to the house of Obed-edom, where it stays for three months

1. What is the Ark?

Read 1 Chronicles 15

2. What is David's main concern?

Read 1 Chronicles 16

3. How would you characterize this chapter?

4. Read the Psalm. This is a composite (i.e. representative) Psalm, drawn from Psalms 105, 96, and 106. What are the main themes it addresses?

5. What does this reveal about the Chronicler's concerns for the Post-Exilic community?

Read 1 Chronicles 17

6. What is David's intention?

7. What is the LORD's response?

8. How does David respond to this?

9. What does chapter 17 tell you about God's relationship with his people?

So what do we do with this?

10. What similarities might we have to the Post-Exilic community?

11. How do chapters 15-17 help us?

Read Hebrews 1:1-13.

Study 4. The Solomon episode

1. Think back to last week. What do you remember? What are we expecting of Solomon?

Read 2 Chronicles 1

2. What does this tell us about Solomon?

Read 2 Chronicles 2:1-10

3. What is Solomon's intention?

Read 2 Chronicles 5

4. How do you feel about Israel's prospects?

Read 2 Chronicles 6-7

5. What are the main events of these chapters?
6. Re-read Solomon's prayer. What are the main themes?
 - a. What is Solomon's attitude to the LORD?
 - b. What is Solomon's attitude to the people?

7. The LORD receives the sacrifices and then speaks to Solomon privately. What does 2 Chron 7:11ff tell us of God's expectations?

8. What does 7.11ff suggest to the returned exiles?

9. Are the expectations in 7:11ff binding on Christians today?

To finish, read 1 John 1:5-10.

Study 5. Rehoboam

1. Think about 1-2 Chronicles so far. What themes have been important to the Chronicler?
2. How would you describe Israel under David & Solomon?

Read 2 Chronicles 10

3. What are your impressions of Rehoboam?
4. What are your impressions of Jeroboam?
5. What are your impressions of the state of Israel?

Read 2 Chronicles 11

6. What are your impressions of Rehoboam?
7. What are your impressions of Jeroboam?
8. What are your impressions of the state of Israel?

Read 2 Chronicles 12

9. What are your impressions of Rehoboam?

10. What are your impressions of the state of Israel?

11. What do you think the Chronicler hopes for in his retelling of this story?

Read 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

12. What does the account of Rehoboam have to say to us?

Study 6. Abijah & Asa

1. What state was Israel in at the end of chapter 12?

Subjugated to the Egyptians; Divided. Northern Kingdom = Jeroboam, Southern Kingdom = Rehoboam. Rehoboam had started well but led the people astray 'he did evil, for he did not set his heart to seek the Lord.' (2 Chron 12:14)

Read 2 Chronicles 13

2. What are your impressions of Abijah?

Seems to be on the right track? Faces off against Jeroboam and wins because he relies on the Lord.

3. What are the allegations listed against Jeroboam & The Northern Tribes?

13:4ff - The Northern Kingdom is in rebellion against the Davidic kingship - a covenant made by God! (A covenant of salt = eternal). Jeroboam rebelled against Solomon, the son of David (note the two big names) and then against Rehoboam (who admittedly was a bit of a jerk cf. v7)

13:8ff - The Northern Kingdom is reliant on their superior numbers and their idols. They have driven out the priests and Levites, and 'made priests for themselves' (v9) They have forsaken the LORD their God.

4. What is the main issue of this chapter?

This chapter is way more about North vs. South, about idolatry vs. the LORD, than it is about Jeroboam vs. Abijah. Will God vindicate the South and the Davidic throne? YES!

5. What is the result of the stand-off and what is the reason cited?

V18 - Thus the men of Israel were subdued at that time, and the men of Judah prevailed, because they relied on the LORD, the God of their fathers.

Read 2 Chronicles 14-15

6. What are your impressions of Asa?

The summary of his reign (v2-8) praises his faithfulness and destruction of idols etc. He fortified Judah and there was a time of peace.

In the face of an enormous military force (Ethiopia), he led the people in trusting God and they were victorious. (14:11-12)

He listened to Azariah the prophet and led reforms in Israel.

7. What do you think of Israel's prospects?

Things are looking good - 'They swore an oath to the LORD with a loud voice and with shouting and with trumpets and with horns. And all Judah rejoiced over the oath, for they had sworn with all their heart and had sought him with their whole desire, and he was found by them, and the LORD gave them rest all around.' (15:14-15)

8. How would you characterize God's dealings with his people at this stage of history?

God punishes faithlessness, but look at how readily he takes his rebellious people back!

Read 2 Chronicles 16

9. What did Asa do wrong?

Rather than appealing to the Lord, when faced with the threat of Baasha in the Northern Kingdom (who blocked trade etc between the North and the South by building a new town (Ramah) between Bethel and Jerusalem), Asa appealed to the Syrians rather than to the Lord.

10. What is the irony here?

Asa was faithful in the face of a much bigger threat! The Ethiopians were a staggering force and Asa relied on the Lord and was victorious. Here, in the face of a smaller threat, especially one who has revolted against the Lord, Asa is faithless himself.

11. How do things look for Israel now?

It is clearly noted that in his final years, Asa refused to seek the Lord. Israel is still divided and at war with herself. The Northerners persist in rebellion, the Southerners are under a king who rejects the Lord.

12. Can you think of occasions where you might be faithful in something big but faithless in something small?