

BIBLE READING FOR 2023

WEEK #20

1 CHRONICLES

05-14-23

Monday - 1 Chronicles 1-5

Wednesday - 1 Chronicles 10-16

Friday - 1 Chronicles 24-29

Tuesday - 1 Chronicles 6-9

Thursday - 1 Chronicles 17-23

First and Second Chronicles, like First and Second Samuel and First and Second Kings, were originally one writing before being divided into two books. They contain much of the same information that is in the four books previously mentioned and that immediately precede them in our English Bibles. However, they also give a selective summary of the period from Adam to the Babylonian captivity of Judah, with emphasis on David's descendants. In addition to that, at the end of chapter thirty-six of Second Chronicles, the release of the Jews by Cyrus king of Persia, allowing them to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple, is also recorded. So even though there is some material from other Old Testament writings repeated in these books, they also contain certain information found nowhere else in the Scriptures. Therefore, these books present a unique account of the origin and history of God's people and help us better understand His plan for man.

The author of First and Second Chronicles is unknown, however, Jewish tradition credits Ezra with writing these books. This is considered a reasonable possibility but cannot be proven.

The date of writing could not be before 536 B.C. when Cyrus gave his proclamation ending Judah's captivity. Some who think Ezra was the author place the date of writing around 425 B.C.. However, we do not know exactly when First and Second Chronicles were written.

The purpose of both books seems to be to encourage the Jews that have returned to their homeland by reminding them of who they are, and the very special role they play as a nation in covenant relationship with God. They have been referred to as "books of hope."

A major theme of the books of Chronicles is the importance of worshipping God in a way that is acceptable to Him. The event describing David's attempt to move the ark of the covenant, that resulted in the death of Uzza in First Chronicles, underscores how important it is that zeal to serve God is accompanied by knowledge of how God wants that service accomplished. In Second Chronicles King Josiah is an excellent example of making God's word the authority for what is done in worshipping Him. Today our worship must also be based on the Scriptures and not just what happens to appeal to the majority of people at a particular point in time.

An outline for First Chronicles: 1.) Genealogies from Adam to David 1-9

2.) The history of King David 10-29

Questions for First Chronicles 1-29:

- 1.) How would you summarize the content of the first nine chapters?
- 2.) What important event in David's life took place in 11:1-3?
- 3.) In chapter nineteen, what did Hanun do to David's messengers?
- 4.) What reason did God give to David for why he was not going to be allowed to build the temple for the Lord in chapter twenty-two?
- 5.) How long did David reign in Hebron and how long did he reign in Jerusalem, as recorded toward the end of chapter twenty-nine?

Answers to questions for Week #19 – Acts 1-28:

- 1.) That Christ would return as he had left.
- 2.) Many of the priests were being obedient to the faith.
- 3.) Because Peter would tell him what he needed to do in order to be saved.
- 4.) Raised him from the dead.
- 5.) Festus told Paul that his much learning had driven him mad.