

## BIBLE TRAINING INSTITUTE

To proactively accelerate the spiritual growth of Grace Bible Church for the purpose of knowing God more intimately and becoming more effective servants of God in the world

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## Chronicles

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## Introduction to Chronicles

### Title

- ✓ Hebrew = *Divrei Hayamim* (דְּבָרֵי הַיָּמִים א & ב; “The words (matters) of the days A & B”)
- ✓ Greek = *Paraleipomenōn* (ΠΑΡΑΛΕΙΠΟΜΕΝΩΝ A & B; “of the remaining or left out things A & B”)

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## Introduction to Chronicles

### WHO—Authorship

- ✓ Unknown, but most likely candidate is Ezra, the scribe

### WHO—Audience

- ✓ The remnant of Jews who returned from exile after Cyrus' decree

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## Introduction to Chronicles

### WHEN

- ✓ From Adam (1 Chr 1:1) to the grandsons of Zerubbabel (~500 BC; 1 Chr 3:19–24)
- ✓ Chronicles ends with Cyrus' decree (538 BC), but considering Zerubbabel's grandsons (1 Chr 3:21), a modest date of 480 BC is proposed
- ✓ Ezra arms the returning exiles with history declaring God's faithfulness to bring them back
- ✓ 1 Chronicles = 1 & 2 Samuel
- ✓ 2 Chronicles = 1 & 2 Kings

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## Introduction to Chronicles

### WHERE

- ✓ Cyrus Cylinder—God's Word embedded in Archaeology
- ✓ God's Personal Relationship with His people
- ✓ Temple as a Beacon of Relationship
- ✓ King and Representation—People Must Be as Their King
- ✓ The Coming King (1 Chr 17:11)



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## Introduction to Chronicles

### WHERE

- ✓ God is Faithful
- ✓ Kings—Rationale for Exile; Chronicles—Rationale of Promised Restoration
- ✓ God's work in the **past** encouraged the **present** people to trust Him for the **future**

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## Introduction to Chronicles

### WHY

To remind the small remnant of Jews returning from exile of God's faithfulness by recounting Israel's history from Adam to their present day and affirming His promise to Abraham and David to restore creation, give His people the land, and establish His eternal Temple and Kingdom under the Messiah, the true and final King of Israel.

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## Introduction to Chronicles

### HOW—Terminology

- ✓ "All Israel" (1 Chr 9:1; 11:1; 12:38; 13:5; 14:8; 15:3, 28; 17:6; 18:14; 19:17; 21:4; 28:4; 29:23, 25, 26; 2 Chr 1:2; 7:6, 8; 9:30; 10:1, 3, 16; 11:3, 13; 12:1; 13:4; 18:16; 24:5; 29:24; 30:1, 5, 6; 31:1; 33:7)
- ✓ Lovingkindness (or Loyalty, Love; 1 Chr 16:34, 41; 17:13; 19:2; 2 Chr 1:8; 5:13; 6:14, 42; 7:3, 6; 20:21; 24:22; 32:32; 35:26)

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## Introduction to Chronicles

### HOW—Terminology

- ✓ Temple (2 Chr 3:17; 4:7, 8, 22; 26:16; 27:2; 29:16; 36:7)
  - ❖ Covenant (or Art of Covenant; 1 Chr 6:31; 11:3; 13:3; 15:1, 25, 26, 28, 29; 16:1, 6, 15, 17, 37; 17:1; 22:19; 28:2, 18; 2 Chr 1:4; 5:2, 7; 6:11, 14; 8:11; 13:5; 15:12; 16:3; 21:7; 23:1, 3, 16; 29:10; 34:30, 31 (2x), 32; 35:3)
  - ❖ Priests (1 Chr 9:2; 13:2; 15:11; 16:6; 18:16; 23:2; 24:2; 28:13; 2 Chr 4:6; 5:5; 6:41; 7:2; 8:14; 11:13; 13:9; 17:8; 19:8; 23:4; 24:5; 26:17; 29:4; 30:3; 31:2; 34:5; 35:2; 36:4)
  - ❖ Levites (1 Chr 6:19; 9:2; 13:2; 15:2; 16:4; 23:2; 24:6; 26:17; 28:13; 2 Chr 5:4; 7:6; 8:14; 11:13; 13:9; 17:8; 19:8; 20:19; 23:2; 24:5; 29:4; 30:15; 31:2; 34:9; 35:3)

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## Introduction to Chronicles

### HOW—Terminology

- ✓ House of God (or 'of Yahweh'; 1 Chr 5:36; 6:31, 32, 48; 9:11, 13, 23, 26, 27; 14:1; 17:4, 5, 6, 12, 14, 25; 22:2, 5 etc.)
- ✓ King (or Kingdom, Reign; 1 Chr 1:43 (3x), 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50; 3:2, 4 (2x); 4:23, 41; 4:31; 5:6, 17, 26; 9:1, 18; 10:14; 11:2, 3, 10; 12:31, 38 (2x); 14:1, 2, 8; 15:29; 16:20, 21, 31; ... 29:11, 30; 2 Chr 9:19; 11:1; 12:8; 13:5, 8; etc.)

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## Introduction to Chronicles

### HOW—Themes

- ✓ The Davidic Dynasty
- ✓ Yahweh as the Cause of All that Happens (1 Chr 5:22; 11:14; 18:6; 2 Chr 20:15)

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## Introduction to Chronicles

### HOW—Themes

- ✓ Historical Sources
  - ❖ The Words of Samuel the Seer (1 Chr 29:29)
  - ❖ The Words of Nathan the Prophet (1 Chr 29:29; 2 Chr 9:29)
  - ❖ The Words of Gad the Visionary (1 Chr 29:29)
  - ❖ The Prophecy of Ahijah the Shilonite (2 Chr 9:29)
  - ❖ The Vision of Jedo the Visionary [to Jeroboam, the Son of Nebat] (9:29)
  - ❖ The Words of Shemaiah the Prophet and Iddo the Visionary (12:15)

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## Introduction to Chronicles

### HOW—Themes

- ✓ Historical Sources
  - ❖ The Midrash of the Prophet Iddo (13:22)
  - ❖ The Book of the Kings for [of] Judah and Israel [Israel and Judah] (16:11; 25:26; 27:7; 28:26; 35:27; 36:8)
  - ❖ The Words of Jehu, the Son of Hanani (20:34)
  - ❖ The Scroll [Words] of the Kings of Israel (20:34; 33:18)
  - ❖ The Midrash of the Scroll of the Kings (24:27)
  - ❖ [The Vision of] Isaiah, the Son of Amoz [the Prophet] (26:22; 32:32)

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## Introduction to Chronicles

### HOW—Literary Structure

- |   |                                      |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| ✓ Adam to Saul (1 Chr 1:1 – 9:44)       | ✓ Amaziah (25:1–28)                  |
| ✓ David (10:1 – 29:30)                  | ✓ Uzziah (26:1–23)                   |
| ✓ Solomon (2 Chr 1:1 – 9:31)            | ✓ Jotham (27:1–9)                    |
| ✓ Rehoboam (10:1 – 12:16)               | ✓ Ahaz (28:1–27)                     |
| ✓ Abijah (13:1 – 14:1)                  | ✓ Hezekiah (29:1 – 32:33)            |
| ✓ Asa (14:2 – 16:14)                    | ✓ Manasseh (33:1–20)                 |
| ✓ Jehoshaphat (17:1 – 21:1)             | ✓ Amon (33:21–24)                    |
| ✓ Jehoram (21:2–20)                     | ✓ Josiah (34:1 – 35:26)              |
| ✓ Ahaziah (and Athaliah) (22:1 – 23:21) | ✓ Jehoahaz (i.e., Jehoikim) (36:1–8) |
| ✓ Joash (and Jehoiaada) (24:1–27)       | ✓ Jehoiachin (36:9–23)               |

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## Introduction to Chronicles

### HOW—Literary Structure

- ✓ God's Faithfulness to Build His People (1 Chr 1:1 – 9:44)
  - ✓ God's Faithfulness to Unite His People (10:1 – 29:30)
    - ✓ God's Faithfulness to Love His People (2 Chr 1:1 – 21:1)
  - ✓ God's Faithfulness to Preserve His People (21:2 – 28:27)
- ✓ God's Faithfulness to Restore His People (29:1 – 36:23)

Section 1 is earmarked by an extensive genealogy. Section 2 offers the extended narrative of David's reign. Section 3 is demarcated by the account of kings spanning from Solomon to Jehoshaphat in a chiasmic structure of its own. Section 4 starts a common refrain ("then his son reigned in his stead. [So-and-so] was [number] years old"). Section 5 interrupts that faithful refrain with Hezekiah's reign, indicating a new section has begun.

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## Introduction to Chronicles

### Interpretive Issues

- ✓ Who did Elhanan kill (1 Chr 20:5; cf. 2 Sam 21:19)?
- ✓ Who incited David to take a census (1 Chr 21:1; cf. 2 Sam 24:1)?
- ✓ To whom is 2 Chronicles 7:14 referring?

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