

## Chronicles

### STRUCTURE

- I. Canonical Role: Conclusion and Recalibration
- II. Differences between Samuel/Kings and Chronicles
  - a. Perspective
  - b. Subject
  - c. Question
- III. I.1-9 The Genealogies (World history up to David)<sup>1</sup>
- IV. I.10-21 The Rise and Reign of David
- V. I.22-29 Preparation for Succession (to Solomon)
- VI. II.1-9 The Reign of Solomon - set up as a potential eschatological Son of David - falls short
- VII. II.10-25 The Davidic Dynasty: Rehoboam to Uzziah
- VIII. II.26-36 The Davidic Dynasty: Uzziah to the Restoration Community

### THEOLOGY

"God, through a special covenant relationship with the Davidic dynasty, one exhibited by and centered on the temple and its cultus, will bless His elect people Israel when and as they live in obedience, and through them will extend his grace to the world."<sup>2</sup>

### REDEMPTION

Chronicles is a "New Genesis" – reestablishes Israel's identity as an expectant people.

Similarities:

- I. Begins with Adam
  - a. Genesis 2:7
  - b. 1 Chronicles 1:1
- II. Quickly moves history along to the covenant head, mostly through genealogies, then slows down to tell his story
  - a. Abraham: Genesis 12
  - b. David: 1 Chronicles 11
- III. Concludes with "Go up" language about return to promised land
  - a. Genesis 50:25 Joseph: "You shall carry up [from 'ālâ אֶלְאָ] my bones from here." (second to last verse).
  - b. 2 Chronicles 36:23 - "Whoever is among you of all his people, may the LORD his God be with him. Let him go up." [from 'ālâ אֶלְאָ] - which is an intentional place to cut off the book, b/c Cyrus' decree says more than that, cf. Ezra 1:2-4
  - c. "Thus, the first and the last books of the Hebrew Bible begin and end on the same note: Adam and the hope of an impending Exodus."<sup>3</sup>
- IV. Matthew then is the "New [Book of] Exodus" to Chronicles' "New Genesis"
  - a. Begins with Adam (and Abraham and David)
  - b. Recaps history through a genealogy
  - c. Tells the story of the new covenant head

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<sup>1</sup> Merrill, "The Books of 1 and 2 Chronicles," *The World and the Word*, pp., 333-34.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid., 339.

<sup>3</sup> Stephen Dempster, "Canons on the Right and Canons on the Left: Finding a Resolution in the Canon Debate" JETS 52/1 (March 2009) 47-77. (74).

## APPLICATION

Believe in Jesus.

- We are an expectant people. God is a covenant keeping God. In Christ's first coming he established his New Covenant with new promises. He is the New Adam, the New Abraham, the New David. Like the post-exilic Jews looked back to David, look back to Jesus.
- In Christ's second coming he will carry out the full and final exodus of his people out of bondage to sin and death and into his eternal kingdom. Like post-exilic Jews looked forward to the New Moses, look forward to the Return of Christ.

## DISCUSSION

*Remember: think canonically. What is this passage saying to a post-exilic reader? What is this passage saying to a Christian reader?*

1. [Saul] 1 Chronicles 10:6-7, 13-14
  - a. What does this teach us about God's control of world events?
  - b. What does this teach us about God's ideal king?
  - c. What does this teach us to expect from the coming Messiah (Jesus)?
  - d. What does this teach us about God?
  - e. What does this teach us about our response to God's Word?
2. [David] 1 Chronicles 17:1-15 (esp. 4, 11-14)
  - a. How does this passage teach that the coming Son of David is greater than David?
    - . What does this teach us about God's ideal king?
  - a. What does this teach us to expect from the coming Messiah (Jesus)?
  - b. What does this teach us about God?
  - c. What does this teach us about our response to God's Word?
3. [Solomon] 2 Chronicles 6:12-21
  - a. How does this passage show that the coming Son of David is greater than Solomon?
  - b. What does this teach us about God's ideal king?
  - c. What does this teach us to expect from the coming Messiah (Jesus)?
  - d. What does this teach us about God?
  - e. What does this teach us about our response to God's Word?
4. [Zedekiah] 2 Chronicles 36:11-16
  - a. What does this teach us about God's ideal king?
  - b. What does this teach us about the influence of the king?
  - c. What does this teach us to expect from the coming Messiah (Jesus)?
  - d. What does this teach us about God?
  - e. What does this teach us about our response to God's Word?