

1 CHRONICLES

Parallels 2 Samuel. Originally it formed 1 book with 2 Chronicles.

1 Chron. begins with a genealogy from Adam to the exile, and then with 2 Chron. traces the history of Judah from David to the exile, and even to Cyrus' proclamation for the people to return to build the Temple.

The writer may have been Ezra. Undoubtedly it was written during the Exile—probably just before the return. (1 & 2 Chron. are similar in many ways to Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther.)

The genealogy begins with Adam and goes to the exile (the longest genealogy in the Bible (1-9)). Only one chapter is devoted to Saul (10). The remainder of the book is given to the reign of David, concluding with his death (11-29).

I. The Genealogy (1-9).

- A. Ch. 1 - from Adam to Esau and Israel (Jacob).
- B. Chs. 2:1-4:23 - the genealogy of Judah, leading to David and those who succeeded him. All of Jacob's sons are given in 2:1, 2.
- C. Chs. 4:24-9:44 - the genealogy of the remaining tribes of Israel (except for Zebulun and Dan), leading to Benjamin and Saul.

II. Saul (10). Only Saul's death and why the kingdom was transferred to David are recorded in this chapter.

THUS, WE BEGIN TO REALIZE THAT WE ARE READING A VERY SELECTIVE HISTORY WITH THE EMPHASIS PLACED ON DAVID, AND ON THE TIMES, THE MEN, AND THE EVENTS WHICH WERE ESPECIALLY SIGNIFICANT IN ISRAEL'S HISTORY (Judah after the division) FROM THE GOOD SIDE OF THE LEDGER—THE BLESSINGS. SOME HAVE SAID THAT IN 1 SAM-2 KINGS WE HAVE HISTORY FROM MAN'S POINT OF VIEW; IN 1 & 2 CHRON., FROM GOD'S!

Comparing 1 & 2 Chron. with 1 Sam. through 2 Kings we find parallels, additions, and omissions--all expressive of a special purpose!

III. David (11-29). Primarily we see what David did which was instrumental in establishing Israel as a nation in line with the purposes of God as expressed in the Davidic Covenant. This is seen both from without (his wars), and from within (his preparations for the building of The Temple).

Note: His men--chs. 11; 12; 18:14-16; 21; 23-27.

His wars--chs. 14; 18-20.

His desire--chs. 13; 15; 16; 17; 22; 23:1, 2; 28, 29. If he cannot build the Temple, then he will do all that he can in preparation for its building under Solomon. In this latter point there are three chapters that are especially important:

- 1) Ch. 17 - The Lord forbids David the privilege of building the Temple, but promises that his son shall build it.
- 2) Ch. 22 - David tells Solomon the above and charges him, making him King in 23:1, 2.
- 3) Ch. 28 - He tells his men and the people the above, charges Solomon before them all, and gives him the plan revealed by God.

Conclusion:

Our reaction in reading 1 Chron. is altogether different in comparison with 1 Sam. through 2 Kings. Here we have blessing and hope--with one exception: the numbering of the people in ch. 21 where Satan is specifically mentioned the only time (as such) from Genesis through Esther!

But, if this book were written during the Exile, then it must be studied from that point of view. See Baxter, Vol. 2, pp. 169-171. Here was the hope that the people had that God had not cast them off, and that the Temple must be first in their plans to get re-established in the land.