

## 2 Chronicles

Since 2 Chronicles merely continues the history recorded in 1 Chronicles, being these two books were originally one scroll in the Hebrew Bible, issues pertaining to authorship, date, historical background, and message should be carefully reviewed in the *Introduction* section of 1 Chronicles.



### Outline

Any outline of 1 and 2 Chronicles must take into account the fact that these two books were originally one scroll in the Hebrew Scriptures. Therefore, since the original material presented the historical record in one unbroken account, any attempt to outline these two books must of necessity reflect a single, continuous, and unified presentation of the pro-gressive development of the argument as recorded in the original Book of Chronicles.

The Book of 2 Chronicles presents the second half of the fourfold outline suggested in 1 Chronicles.<sup>1</sup> Beginning where 1 Chronicles concludes, 2 Chronicles records a selective history of Israel, focusing only on the kings of the Davidic Dynasty. The account traces **The Reign of King Solomon** ([971–931 B.C.] 2 Chron 1:1–9:31) and **The Reign of [all the kings of Judah] the Davidic Dynasty** from Rehoboam (931 B.C.)<sup>2</sup> through Zedekiah (586 B.C.) up to the decree issued by Cyrus in 538 B.C. allowing the Jews to return from captivity to Jerusalem (10:1–36:23). The book covers the same 432 year period as 1 and 2 Kings (971–538 B.C.), but, as mentioned above, 2 Chronicles focuses on only the kings of Judah (the Davidic Dynasty) excluding those of Israel.

### Outline 2 Chronicles

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<sup>1</sup>The outline suggested for the Book(s) of Chronicles in 1 Chronicles is presented here for review:

- I. Tracing the Royal Ancestry of David: Genealogies from Adam to David 1 Chronicles 1:1–9:44
  - II. The Reign of David 1 Chronicles 10:1–29:30
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- [III.] I. The Reign of Solomon 2 Chronicles 1:1–9:31
  - [IV.] II. The Reigns of the Kings of the Davidic Dynasty 2 Chronicles 10:1–36:23

## I. The Reign of Solomon 1:1–9:31<sup>3</sup>

### A. Solomon's Wisdom and Wealth 1:1-17

1. Solomon's vision at Gibeah 1:1-13
  - a. Solomon's worship of God 1:1-6
  - b. Solomon's prayer for wisdom 1:7-10
  - c. God's pleasure with Solomon's request 1:11-13
2. Solomon's immeasurable wealth 1:14-17

### B. Solomon's Temple 2:1–7:10

1. The preparations for building 2:1-18
2. The building of the temple 3:1–4:22
3. The dedication of the temple 5:1–7:10
  - a. The installation of the Ark in the temple 5:1-12
  - b. The glory of the LORD fills the temple 5:13-14
  - c. The sermon by Solomon 6:1-11
  - d. The prayer by Solomon 6:12-42
  - e. The infilling of Solomon's temple by God 7:1-22
    - 1) The LORD's glory-cloud fills the temple 7:1-11
    - 2) The LORD's answer to Solomon's prayer 7:12-22
      - a) Promised blessings for obedience 7:12-18; cf. Deut 28:1-14
      - b) Promised curses for disobedience 7:19-22; cf. Deut 28:15-64

### C. Solomon's Additional Achievements and Fame 8:1–9:31

1. Solomon's building and fortifying of cities 8:1-11
2. Solomon's religious zeal 8:12-16
3. Solomon's fame 8:17-9:12

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<sup>2</sup>The dates suggested for the Hebrew kings are culled from Edwin R. Thiele, *The Mysterious Numbers of the Hebrew Kings*, new rev ed. (Grand Rapids: Kregel, 1994).

<sup>3</sup>See *Appendix A* depicting the Chronicler's Use of "A Chiastic Literary Structure of King Solomon's Reign" at the end of these notes on 2 Chronicles.

- a. His navy: delivering gold from Ophir 8:17-18
- b. His visit from the Queen of Sheba 9:1-12
4. Solomon's wealth 9:13-28
5. Solomon's death 9:29-31

## II. The Schism and Reigns of the Kings of the Davidic Dynasty 10:1-36:23

### A. The Reign of Rehoboam [931–913 B.C.] 10:1-12:16

1. Rehoboam causes the division of the kingdom: Jeroboam/Israel's rebellion 10:1-19
  - \* The rupture of the united kingdom: Israel's accession from Judah 10:16-19
2. Rehoboam follows the LORD 11:1-23
3. Rehoboam forsakes the LORD 12:1-16
4. Rehoboam's reign summarized 12:13-16
  - a. Introductory summary 12:13
  - b. *Theological assessment*: "he did evil because he did not set his heart to seek the LORD." 12:14
  - c. Concluding summary: death of Rehoboam 12:15-16

### B. The Reign of Abijah [913–910 B.C.] 13:1-22

- \* *Theological assessment*: his zeal for the LORD—war against Jeroboam/Israel 13:2b-20

### C. The Reign of Asa [911–870 B.C.] 14:1-16:14

- \* *Theological assessment*: "Asa did good and right in the sight of the LORD his God" (15:2); and, "Asa's heart was blameless all his days." (15:17b) 14:2–16:10
  - a. Asa follows the LORD (ch. 14)
  - b. Asa's spiritual reliance on the LORD (ch. 15)
  - c. Asa forsakes the LORD (ch. 16)

### D. The Reign of Jehoshaphat [872–848 B.C.] 17:1–20:37 (coregent with Asa 872–869 B.C.)

1. Jehoshaphat follows the LORD 17:1-19
2. Jehoshaphat's foolish alliance with Ahab and the northern kingdom 18:1–19:4
3. Jehoshaphat's reforms, and appointment of judges 19:4-14

4. Jehoshaphat's defeat of the Moabite-Ammon alliance 20:1-30
  5. Jehoshaphat's failures 20:31-37
- E. The Reign of Jehoram [853–841 B.C.] 21:1-20 (coregent with Jehoshaphat 853–848 B.C.)
- \* Theological assessment: “he did evil in the sight of the Lord” by introducing and promoting Ahab's (Israel's) evil practices and idolatry in Judah 21:1-7
- F. The Reign of Ahaziah [841 B.C.] 22:1-9
- \* Theological assessment: Ahaziah “also walked in the ways of the house of Ahab” and “he did evil in the sight of the Lord like the house of Ahab.” 22:1-4
- G. The Reign of Athaliah [841–835 B.C.] 22:10–23:21
1. Athaliah's seizure of power: slaughter of the royal offspring of Judah 22:10
  2. Jehoiada's preservation of Joash 22:11-12
  3. Jehoiada's crowning Joash the Davidic king 23:1-11
  4. Jehoiada's execution of Athaliah 23:12-15
  5. Jehoiada's reforms and covenant renewal 23:16-21
- H. The Reign of Joash [835–796 B.C.] 24:1-27
- \* Theological assessment: “Joash did what was right in the sight of the Lord all the days of Jehoiada.” 24:2
1. Joash's early reforms under Jehoiada 24:4-16
    - a. The repair of the temple 24:4-13
    - b. The replacement of the temple utensils 24:14
  2. Joash's later apostasy after Jehoiada's death 24:15-27
- I. The Reign of Amaziah [796–767 B.C.] 25:1-28
- \* Theological assessment: “he did right in the sight of the Lord, *yet not with a whole heart.*” 25:2
- J. The Reign of Uzziah [792–740 B.C.] 26:1-23 (coregent with Amaziah 792–767 B.C.)
- \* Theological assessment: “he did right in the sight of the Lord according to all that his father Amaziah had done.” 26:4-5
1. Uzziah's abuse of priestly prerogatives results in leprosy from Yahweh 26:16-20
  2. Concluding summary: Uzziah remained a leper to the day of his death 26:21-23

- K. The Reign of Jotham [750–732 B.C.] 27:1-9 (coregent with Uzziah 750–740 B.C.)
- \* Theological assessment, both positive and negative: 27:2
    - a. Positive assessment: “he did right in the sight of the Lord, according to all that his father Uzziah had done.” 27:2a
    - b. Negative assessment: “however he did not enter the temple of the Lord” and “the people continued acting corruptly.” 27:2b
- L. The Reign of Ahaz [732–715 B.C.] 28:1-27 (coregent with Jotham 735–732 B.C.)
- \* Theological assessment: “he walked in the ways of the kings of Israel.” 28:2-4
  - 1. Ahaz’s wickedness results in military defeats dispatched by God 28:5-21
    - a. Defeat by Syria 28:5a
    - b. Defeat by Israel 28:5b-15
      - 1) Israel’s defeat and subjugation of Judah 28:5b-8
      - 2) Israel’s return of the Judean captives 28:9-15
    - c. Defeat by the Edomites, Philistines, and Assyrians 28:16-21
  - 2. Ahaz’s additional idolatry and wickedness 28:22-27
- M. The Reign of Godly Hezekiah [715–686 B.C.] 29:1-32:33
- \* Theological assessment: “he did right in the sight of the Lord, according to all that his father David had done.” 29:2
  - 1. Hezekiah’s religious reforms 29:3–31:21
    - a. The cleansing and rededication of the temple 29:3-36
    - b. The Passover celebration 30:1-27
    - c. The re-establishment of proper temple worship 31:1-21
    - d. Theological assessment: “he did what was good, right, and true before the LORD his God . . . [in] every work which he began . . . seeking his God, he did with all his heart and prospered.” 31:20-21
  - 2. Hezekiah’s victory over King Sennacherib of Assyria 32:1-23
    - a. Sennacherib’s invasion of Judah and siege of fortified cities 32:1-19
    - b. Hezekiah’s prayer results in a supernatural defeat of the Assyrian army 32:20-23
  - 3. Hezekiah’s last days: his sickness and recovery, and final days 32:24-33
- N. The Reign of Manasseh [696–642 B.C.] 33:1-20 (coregent with Hezekiah 696–686 B.C.)

- \* Theological assessment—his wickedness: “he did evil in the sight of the Lord” and he “misled Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to do more evil than the nations whom the Lord God destroyed before the sons of Israel.” 33:2, 9

O. The Reign of Amon [642–640 B.C.] 33:21-25

- \* Theological assessment—his wickedness: “He did evil in the sight of the LORD, and he did not humble himself before the LORD.” 33:2-3

P. The Reign of Josiah [640–609 B.C.] 34:1-35:27

- \* Theological assessment: “He did right in the sight of the LORD, and walked in the ways of his father David . . . .” 34:2

1. Josiah’s reforms 33:3–34:33
2. Josiah’s Passover 35:1-19
3. Josiah’s fatal encounter with Pharaoh Neco of Egypt 35:20-25

**Q. Josiah’s Successors: *Last Four Kings of Judah* 36:1-14**

1. The Reign of Jehoahaz [609 B.C.] 36:1-4

2. The Reign of Jehoiakim [609–598B.C.] 36:5-8

- \* Theological assessment: “he did evil in the sight of the Lord his God.” 35:5b

3. The Reign of Jehoiachin [598–597 B.C.] 36:9-10

- \* Theological assessment: “he did evil in the sight of the Lord.” 36:9b

- \* **The curse on Jehoiachin or Coniah Jer 23:24-30**

4. The Reign of Zedekiah [597–586 B.C.] 36:11-16

- \* Theological assessment: “he did evil in the sight of the Lord his God” 36:12a

a. Zedekiah’s rebellion against God and Babylon 36:12b-16

- 1) Zedekiah’s rebellion against God’s prophet Jeremiah 36:12b
- 2) Zedekiah’s rebellion against King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon 36:13
- 3) Zedekiah’s rebellion against the messengers of the LORD 36:14-16

b. Zedekiah’s ruin by Nebuchadnezzar: Babylonian conquest and exile (586 B.C.) 36:17-21

- 1) The destruction of Jerusalem by King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon 36:17-19

- a) The slaughter of the people 36:17
  - b) The stripping and burning of the temple 36:18-19
  - 2) The deportation of Judah to Babylon 36:20-21
- R. The Decree of Cyrus [**538 B.C.**] 36:22-23; cf. **Ezra 1:1-4**
1. Cyrus' rise to power as the king of Persia 36:22; cf. **Isa 45:1-25**
  
  2. Cyrus' royal edict permitting the Jewish captives to return to Judah to rebuild the temple of God in Jerusalem 36:23