

Chronicles

Introduction

1. 1 and 2 Chronicles were originally one book. It takes more space to write in Greek than it does to write in Hebrew. Thus, the space needed to translate this book into Greek was such that it was necessary to divide it into two documents. Remember in those days that books were produced in scroll form. In the Greek language, this book was too large to fit onto one manageable scroll. (Perhaps the same with Samuel and Kings).
2. Authorship: The author is unknown; the Bible nowhere mentions who wrote this material.
3. Date: A precise date for composition is not possible. Due to the material contained within the text, however, it is thought that it was finished sometime after the Babylonian exile. The edict of Cyrus for them to go back and rebuild the temple is included at the end of 2 Chronicles.
4. Purpose: Chronicles appears to be written to encourage those who were to return to Israel. While it covers much of the same history as the books of Kings, it is presented in a much more positive light. For example, the repentance of Manasseh is described in Chronicles (2 Chr. 33:12-17), but not in Kings. Further, Chronicles deals almost exclusively with Judah.
5. Not counting the genealogies, 1 Chronicles covers about forty years – from the death of Saul to the death of David. The genealogies go all the way back to Adam.
6. 2 Chronicles covers about 430 years – from Solomon to the return from exile.

Contents of 1 Chronicles

1-9	Genealogies (with a few interesting details)
10	Death of Saul and his sons
11:1-9	David becomes king and takes Jerusalem
11:10-12:40	List of warriors devoted to David
13	Moving the ark to Obed-edom's house
14:1-7	David's wives and children
14:8-16	War with the Philistines
15-16	Moving the ark to Jerusalem
17	God's covenant with David
18-20	The defeat of Israel's enemies
21	David's Census
22	Preparation for the Temple
23-27	The organization of religious, civil, and military groups
28:1-8	David's charge to Israel
28:9-21	David's charge to Solomon
29:1-9	Collections for temple construction
29:10-22	David's prayer
29:22-25	Solomon made king
29:26-30	Death of David