

BIBLE SYNTHESIS II (Bible Survey)

Introduction to II Chronicles

The Chronicles, written after the return from Babylonian captivity, showed Israel and later readers the things that remained:

(1) The *LINE* of David was still in existence, although the *THRONE* of David was gone. In I Chronicles we see the genealogy from Adam to Zedekiah, and the two books together show this royal succession in greater detail.

(2) The Temple and its fortunes is kept central in II Chronicles. David gave the *Scepter* (Throne), Solomon gave the *Sanctuary* (Temple). It is shown as being *contaminated* by some kings, and being *cleansed* by others. Finally it is *consumed* by the fires of Nebuchadnezzar. But, at the time of writing of this history, a new temple had been raised upon the ruins of the old. The writer of the Chronicles shows the importance of the Temple.

(3) The Chronicles shows that all of Judah's troubles stemmed from apostasy. God's viewpoint of history is shown, and it ends in judgment and the Babylonian captivity.

The nations of the world played a big part in the life of Israel during these times and those which followed. These nations were:

Egypt

Assyria

Babylon

Persia

Each of these nations conquered the other. Each played a vital part in the fortunes of Israel and Judah. In the second and the seventh chapters of Daniel we see the Times of the Gentiles presented. Babylonian captivity began the Times of the Gentiles, and they continue until our day. God used these nations to judge Israel and Judah.

There is a law of recurrence or recapitulation in the Scriptures. That is, the Holy Spirit will cover a larger expanse of truth, then He will return to certain sections which He will enlarge upon in more detail. First, He takes His telescope to see the larger picture, then He returns with His microscope, to view in more detail. The books of Samuel and Kings give a larger view. The Chronicles provide us with the microscopic analysis.

1. Author

See notes on I Chronicles

2. Addressees

See notes on I Chronicles

3. Date:

(1) Of coverage:

From the accession of Solomon (about 971 B.C.) to the decree of Cyrus (538 B.C.). This decree was foretold by Isaiah [See Isa. 44:28 — 45:13]. Cyrus is named by Isaiah approximately 150 years before the decree is given. This is another remarkable prophecy.

(2) Of writing:

See notes on I Chronicles.

4. Circumstances:

- (1) To give the story of the Temple in the reign of Solomon, and to present God's warning to Solomon against apostasy as a basis for the later judgment upon Judah.
- (2) To tell the story of Judah's kings (and the one usurping queen), their apostasies and repentances, their victories and defeats. Presenting the continuous line of David from Solomon to Zedekiah.
- (3) To give the progress of apostasy and its resulting judgment at the hand of the Babylonians.
- (4) To tell of the decree of the Persian monarch, Cyrus, as he told them to return to Jerusalem.

5. Relationship to other books

See notes on I Chronicles.

6. Theme

Judah's Glory and Decline

7. Key Passage

II Chronicles 7:12–22 [Memorize 7:14]

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OUTLINE OF II CHRONICLES

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|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Solomon's Reign | —II Chron. 1 — 9 |
| 2. The Division of the Kingdom | —II Chron. 10 |
| 3. The History of Judah | —II Chron. 11 — 36 |

Outline by Robert Lee, London:

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|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. The Reign of Solomon | —II Chron. 1 — 9 |
| (1) Loyal to the LORD | |
| (2) Forsaking the LORD | |
| 2. The Kings of Judah | —II Chron. 10 — 36 |
| (1) Seeking the LORD | |
| (2) Serving the LORD | |

Religious revivals:

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| (1) Under Asa | —II Chron. 15 |
| Jehoshaphat continued it —II Chron. 17 — 20 (17:7–9; 19:4) | |
| (2) Under Joash, inspired by Jehoida the priest | —II Chron. 23 — 24 |
| Compare Luke 11:50–52 and Matthew 23:35–36 with the dying words of Zechariah in II Chron. 24:22. | |
| (3) Under Hezekiah | —II Chron. 29 — 30 |
| (4) Under Josiah | —II Chron. 34 |

Miscellaneous Notes on II Chronicles:

(1) In I Kings 7:8, we are simply told that Solomon built a separate house for Pharaoh's daughter. But II Chronicles 8:11 informs us that it was not built in Jerusalem, for Solomon felt that an idolatrous person, even though it was his wife, should not reside in the holy city of Jerusalem.

(2) II Chronicles 11:15 points out that Jeroboam not only worshiped the golden calves (as in I Kings 12:25–33), but he also worshiped devils.

(3) I Kings does not record one redeeming act on the part of Abijah, Rehoboam's son, but II Chronicles 13:5–12 records his devout address, and 13:14, 18 records Judah's prayer to God as he led them in battle.

(4) It is only to be found in II Chronicles that good King Asa neglected the LORD in his last illness, turning to the physicians instead (II Chron. 16:12).

(5) It is Chronicles, not Kings, that tells us that the godly king Jehoshaphat entered into *three* sinful alliances with the wicked kings of the northern kingdom: (1) Marriage—21:6; (2) Military—18:3 [cf. I Kings 22]; (3) Commercial (II Chron. 20:35–37) [cf. I Kings 22:48–49]. This was despite the statement of II Chron. 17:1.

(6) II Chron. 24:7 tells us that the wicked sons of Athaliah had committed sacrilege. Kings says nothing of this.

(7) II Kings 15:5–7 only tell us that Uzziah (Azariah) was smitten with leprosy, but does not tell us why. II Chronicles 26:16–21 tells us why, giving the details.

(8) In II Kings 18:4–6 we have but three verses about his reformation, but in II Chronicles there are three chapters (II Chron. 29 — 31). Just the opposite is true concerning the account of his military activities.

(9) II Kings 21 has much to say about Manasseh's wickedness, but in II Chronicles 33:11–13 there is an account of his captivity in Babylon and his restoration to the LORD and to his throne.

(10) Compare II Chron. 9:8 with I Chron. 29:23. Upon whose throne was Solomon? For Whom was he king?

(11) "Seek the LORD": 7:14; 11:16; 14:4, 7; 15:2, 4, 12, 13, 15; 17:4; 19:3; 20:3–4; 22:9; 26:5; 30:19; 31:21; 34:3. Also see 12:14; 16:12.

(12) Prayer and trust: 1:1; 13:18; 14:6, 11; 15:9; 20:27; 26:6–7; 27:6; 32:8, 22. Also see 24:24; 38:6, 19, and especially note 20:20.