

## 1 Chronicles Chapter 1

### Reading: 1 Chronicles Ch. 1

**Introduction:** Written by Ezra & Nehemiah either during or just after the Babylonian captivity, roughly the 5th century BC.

- 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles are historical books, covering the same period of history as the books of Samuel and Kings **with an emphasis upon the kingdom of Judah and the messianic line of Christ.**
- These books helped the children of Israel who were returning from captivity to become aware of or connect with their history and the continuation of God's promises and his plans for the nation. It's also the story of God preserving His people and keeping His promises to them, and through them to us.
- One of the lessons I've learned in my studies is that repetition points to importance; if something is repeated it's because it's important and we're being warned not to neglect or forget this part of scripture.
- The 1<sup>st</sup> nine chapters of this book are genealogies, which at first blush might appear needless or at the least very dry, but there are a number of gems and nuggets tucked into the midst of them.
- One of the things that Genealogies tell us in a general sense is that what we are reading is actual history, this is not a legend or fairy tale, these are real people and these are real events, this is actual history - in this case the history of the nation of Israel that leads up to the Messiah.
- These genealogies also portray the fulfillment of the promises of God to mankind:  
**Genesis 2:16-17** **"<sup>16</sup>And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: <sup>17</sup>But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die."**
- When Adam and Eve ate that fruit they died, but the death being spoken of, and generally the death being spoken of in the Bible refers to "spiritual" death - and what that means is being eternally separated from God.
- When they ate that fruit in disobedience to God's Word they were separated from God; fellowship with God was broken.
- Thus the purpose of our existence was lost because God created us that we might please Him and know the joy and the blessing of being in fellowship with God. When that fellowship was broken our lives suddenly became without

purpose, they became empty, and without meaning and consequently men have tried to fill that void with many things but all to no avail.

- Men have sought the extremes of “religion”, and the pursuit of pleasure, power, accomplishments - but have been left “empty” and un-fulfilled, frustrated because it’s only the Spirit of the living God that can fill that void.
- **God promised Adam & Eve** that He would send a Saviour, One that would bring “life” back to man, One that would restore fellowship between God and man.

We see the fulfillment of that promise in Jesus Christ:

**1 Timothy 2:5** “For there is one God, and One mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.”

- **God promised Abraham that the Messiah**, the Savior of the world would be one of his descendants. In order to be able to prove that Jesus was indeed the promised Messiah, it is necessary that we have the genealogy from Adam to Abraham and onto Jesus.

God gave a similar promise to Jacob who passed it onto his son:

**Genesis 49:10** “The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto Him shall the gathering of the people be.”

- Thus we have the prophesy that the Messiah would come from the tribe of Judah.
  - **Later it was promised to David** that there would never cease to be one of his descendants sitting upon the throne - which David rightly interpreted to mean that the Messiah would come through David’s family.
  - So we begin to see the importance of the genealogies. They start with Adam through the various patriarchs, sometimes taking a little trip down through one of the other families. Then it stops and re-starts following the Messianic line.
1. During the 70 years of captivity in Babylon, there were a lot of intermarriages - and when they came back into the land the same had happened with the Samaritans from the Northern kingdom.
  2. When the Persian king, Artaxerxes commanded the rebuilding of Jerusalem and the Temple which was accomplished under Ezra and Nehemiah, there were those who were still in the land who wanted to help.
  3. The first question they were asked was “show us your pedigree, your lineage, show us your genealogy.”

4. Prove to us that you're pure descendants of Abraham. Those who could not were not allowed to participate, they wanted to keep the line pure.
5. This is again why God commanded the Jews not to intermarry, because He wanted to keep the line pure, unto the Messiah.
  - So this listing of names so that God could demonstrate the accuracy of His word, the genealogies that ultimately lead to Luke's Gospel, and the genealogy that leads through Mary to Jesus.
  - It was also necessary that the Jews remain Jews, even after the Messiah came. Because many of the prophecies of the second coming of the Messiah, declare that Israel shall exist as a nation again, and to do so , they have to remain as a distinct national, ethnic group.
  - So God preserved the Jewish people through the ages, for over 2,000 years without a homeland, then miraculously brought them back into their own land after that time as a distinct people group maintaining their own ethnic identity.

### 1st Chronicles Chapter 1: 1-4

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|---------------|------------------------|
| 1. Adam       | man                    |
| 2. Seth       | appointed (to)         |
| 3. Enosh      | mortal                 |
| 4. Kenan      | sorrow (.)             |
| 5. Mahalalel  | The Blessed God        |
| 6. Jared      | shall come down        |
| 7. Enoch      | teaching (and)         |
| 8. Methuselah | his death shall bring. |
| 9. Lamech     | the despairing         |
| 10. Noah      | rest / comfort.        |

#### The sons of Noah:

1. Shem: Became the Semites, who remained in the region of the middle east.
2. Ham: They migrate South inhabiting Africa.
3. Japeth: Inhabit present-day Europe.

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## 1st Chronicles Chapter 2

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V: 1-2 The 12 sons, and later the 12 tribes of Israel.

V: 3-7 Er & Achin - one sentence to sum up their lives, and it wasn't good.

V: 8-55 It's noted that Jesus didn't have a very good pedigree up to this point; Er, Judah's first born was evil so God killed him.

- Most of these names are not mentioned anywhere else in scripture.

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## ***1st Chronicles Chapter 3***

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V: 1-9 A listing of David's sons first in Hebron then those that were born in Jerusalem - 19 total.

V: 10-16 "*his son*" - A listing of those who succeeded David on the throne after Solomon up until their being taken captive to Babylon.

V: 17-24 These names delineate the royal line following the return of the Jews to the Promised Land.

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## ***1st Chronicles Chapter 4***

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V: 1-10 Another look at the line of Judah through to Jabez, a man noted for his prayer.

- Jabez was successful, he was prosperous, he was a man of prayer willing to go beyond his comfort level, beyond his own limits.

**James 4:2** "... *ye have not, because ye ask not.*"

**James 5:16** "*Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.*"

V: 11-43 Mention is made of craftsmen, tradesmen, and potters.

- The tribe of Judah occupied their cities and smote the Amalekites that were near to them.

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## ***1st Chronicles Chapter 5***

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- Chapter 5 deals with the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and the ½ tribe of Manasseh.

V: 1-2 Reuben defiled his father's bed by going into one of his father's concubines. **Genesis 35:22, Genesis 49:4**

- The "chief ruler" - is a reference to both David and the Son of David, Jesus Christ.

V: 3-22 These tribes are living on the wrong side of the river, they settled for less than what God wanted for them, and they were the first to go into captivity.

- Prior to that however they were victorious in battle because they cried out to God who gave them the victory - "because they put their trust in Him" - that's when we're victorious also!

V: 23-26 The ½ tribe of Manasseh turned away from God, they "transgressed" meaning they willfully went into intentional sin, they went "a-whoring after" other gods."

- So God stirred up their enemies and gave them victory over the children of Israel.
- The sheep that wander to the outer edges of the flock, the straggler, the loners, they are the ones that will be picked off by the enemy.
- These tribes went into captivity first because they were on the outside, the outskirts, they were the farthest away.
- It's the sheep that stay in the center of the flock, abiding with the shepherd that are safe, and protected

**John 15:5** "I am the vine, ye are the branches: he that abideth in Me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without Me ye can do nothing."