



## My Drift

**Title: Bible – The Book of 1 Chronicles**

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### Here is the Outline or Structure of the 29 Chapters in 1 Chronicles:

<b>Adam to Esau</b>	<b>1 Chronicles 1:1-54</b>
Adam to Noah	1 Chronicles 1:1-3
Noah's family	1 Chronicles 1:4-23
Shem to Abraham	1 Chronicles 1:24-27
Abraham	1 Chronicles 1:28-34
Esau and Edom	1 Chronicles 1:35-54
<b>The *tribes of *Israel</b>	<b>1 Chronicles 2:1-8:40</b>
The sons of Israel	1 Chronicles 2:1-2
The tribe of Judah	1 Chronicles 2:3-4:23
The tribe of Simeon	1 Chronicles 4:24-43
The tribe of Reuben	1 Chronicles 5:1-10
The tribe of Gad	1 Chronicles 5:11-22
The half tribe of Manasseh east of the river	1 Chronicles 5:23-26

The tribe of Levi	1 Chronicles 6:1-81
The tribe of Issachar	1 Chronicles 7:1-5
The tribe of Benjamin	1 Chronicles 7:6-12
The tribe of Naphtali	1 Chronicles 7:13
The western half tribe of Manasseh	1 Chronicles 7:14-19
The tribe of Ephraim	1 Chronicles 7:20-29
The tribe of Asher	1 Chronicles 7:30-40
Benjamin to Saul	1 Chronicles 8:1-40
<b>People in Jerusalem</b>	<b>1 Chronicles 9:1-34</b>
The people who lived in Jerusalem	1 Chronicles 9:1-9
The families of the priests	1 Chronicles 9:10-13
The families of the Levites	1 Chronicles 9:14-34
<b>Saul's family</b>	<b>1 Chronicles 9:35-44</b>
<b>David becomes king</b>	<b>1 Chronicles 10:1-12:40</b>
The end of Saul's family	1 Chronicles 10:1-14
All Israel accepts David as king	1 Chronicles 11:1-12:40
<b>David brings the *ark to Jerusalem</b>	<b>1 Chronicles 13:1-16:43</b>
The first part of the journey	1 Chronicles 13:1-14
The fame of David	1 Chronicles 14:1-17
The ark comes to Jerusalem	1 Chronicles 15:1-29
The people worship and praise the LORD	1 Chronicles 16:1-43
<b>God's special promise to David</b>	<b>1 Chronicles 17:1-27</b>
The LORD speaks to David	1 Chronicles 17:1-15
David prays	1 Chronicles 17:16-27
<b>David's battles</b>	<b>1 Chronicles 18:1-20:8</b>
The kingdom becomes larger	1 Chronicles 18:1-13
David's organization	1 Chronicles 18:14-17
Defeat of the nation called Ammon	1 Chronicles 19:1-20:3
Battles against the *Philistines	1 Chronicles 20:4-8

<b>David prepares for the construction of the *temple</b>	<b>1 Chronicles 21:1-29:30</b>
David's sin and God's goodness	1 Chronicles 21:1-30
David prepares for the temple	1 Chronicles 22:1-19
Organization of the Levites	1 Chronicles 23:1-26:32
Organization of other leaders	1 Chronicles 27:1-34
Final preparations for the temple	1 Chronicles 28:1-29:20
Solomon becomes king and the death of David	1 Chronicles 29:21-30

### **Who wrote the book?**

**“The chronicler,” as bible scholars have long referred to as the author of this book, is anonymous. However, Jewish and Christian tradition have identified the author as the 5th-century BC figure Ezra, who also gives his name to the Book of Ezra. But nothing within the text provides a definitive clue as to the compiler of the material.**

### **When was it written?**

**The time frame covered in 1 Chronicles mirrors parts of 2 Samuel and 1 Kings. The chronicler focused on David's reign in 1 Chronicles, including and omitting different events recorded in the other biblical histories, so that his document recorded those events significant to his purpose. For instance, 1 Chronicles does not include David's adultery with Bathsheba (2 Samuel 11), which was a well-known fact even before the chronicler began his work, and so it did not bear repeating.**

**The Chronicles was most likely written during the time of Ezra or Nehemiah, while the Jews were dispersed throughout Persia, some having returned to Israel. Archaeological evidence supports this premise. “Fragments of an actual manuscript of Chronicles found at Qumran makes a date in the Persian period (538–333 BC) almost certain.”**

### **Why is 1 Chronicles so important?**

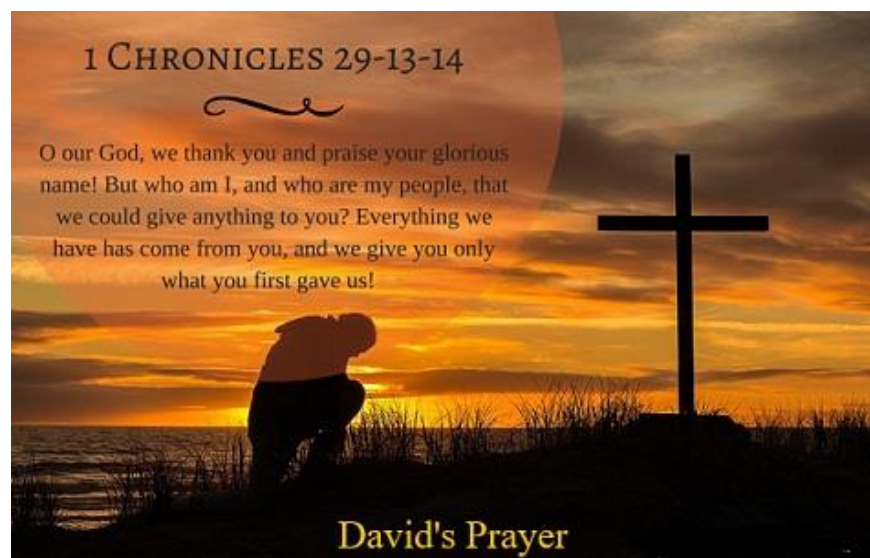
**Readers will note the extensive space devoted to genealogies. Why are these family lists so common in Chronicles? Scholars say that genealogies serve many purposes, among them to demonstrate the legitimacy of a person or family's claim to a particular role or rank . . . to preserve the purity of the chosen people and/or its priesthood . . . to affirm the continuity of the people of God despite expulsion from the Promised Land.**

**In addition to family history, 1 Chronicles lists priests, Levites, armies, temple officials, and other leaders of various ministries.**

**In Chronicles, the history of Israel is told through a priestly perspective. The chronicler devoted significant attention to proper worship of God and adherence to the regulations of His Law. The author included David's decisions on the proper manner in which to undertake moving the ark of the covenant (1 Chronicles 13, 15–16) and detailed descriptions of its return to Jerusalem. The chronicler even highlighted one of David's psalms (16:8–36). We read the story of how David purchased the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite, which he then designated as the future site of the temple (21:15–30). Though David desired to build the temple, God revealed to him that David's son Solomon would have that honor (17:1–14).**

### **What's the Purpose of the Chronicles?**

**Why do we need the books of 1–2 Chronicles when we already have the history of 2 Samuel and 1–2 Kings? Just as the gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John each offer a different perspective on the life of Jesus, so the books of Chronicles present Israel's history with a purpose different than the other historical books. The books of 2 Samuel and 1–2 Kings reveal the monarchies of Israel and Judah—in particular the sins of the nations that resulted in the exile. But the books of Chronicles, written after the time of the exile, focus on those elements of history that God wanted the returning Jews to meditate upon: obedience that results in God's blessing, the priority of the temple and priesthood, and the unconditional promises to the house of David.**



## **David's Prayer - 1 Chronicles 29:10-20**

*10 David praised the Lord in the presence of the whole assembly, saying,*

*“Praise be to you, Lord,  
the God of our father Israel,  
from everlasting to everlasting.*

*11 Yours, Lord, is the greatness and the power  
and the glory and the majesty and the splendor,  
for everything in heaven and earth is yours.*

*Yours, Lord, is the kingdom;  
you are exalted as head over all.*

*12 Wealth and honor come from you;  
you are the ruler of all things.*

*In your hands are strength and power  
to exalt and give strength to all.*

*13 Now, our God, we give you thanks,  
and praise your glorious name.*

*14 “But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand. 15 We are foreigners and strangers in your sight, as were all our ancestors. Our days on earth are like a shadow, without hope. 16 Lord our God, all this abundance that we have provided for building you a temple for your Holy Name comes from your hand, and all of it belongs to you. 17 I know, my God, that you test the heart and are pleased with integrity. All these things I have given willingly and with honest intent. And now I have seen with joy how willingly your people who are here have given to you. 18 Lord, the God of our fathers Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, keep these desires and thoughts in the hearts of your people forever, and keep their hearts loyal to you. 19 And give my son Solomon the wholehearted devotion to keep your commands, statutes, and decrees and to do everything to build the palatial structure for which I have provided.”*

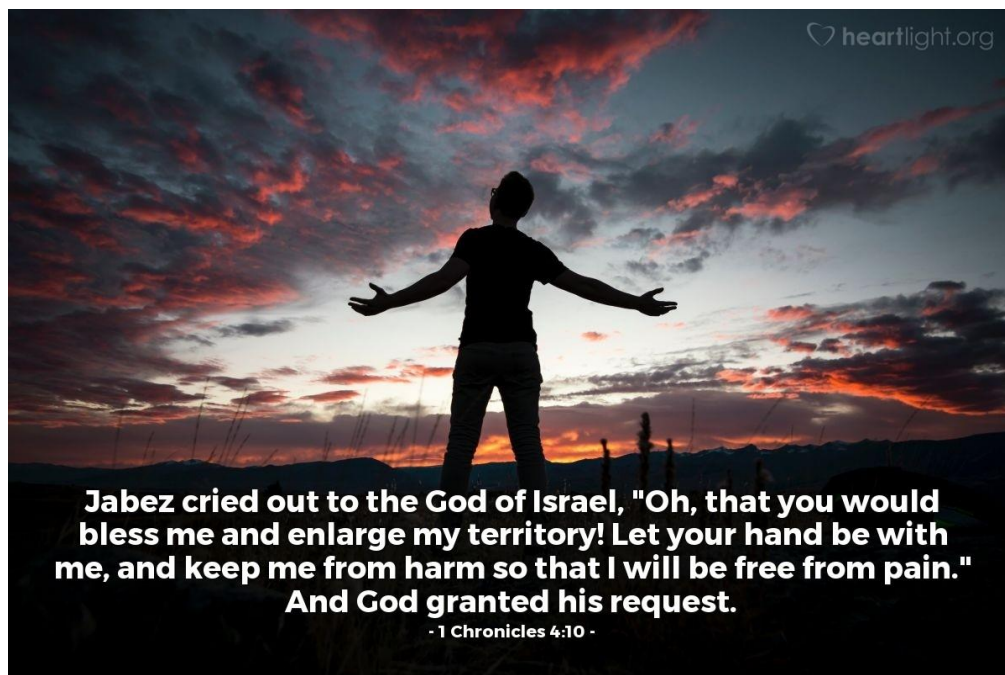
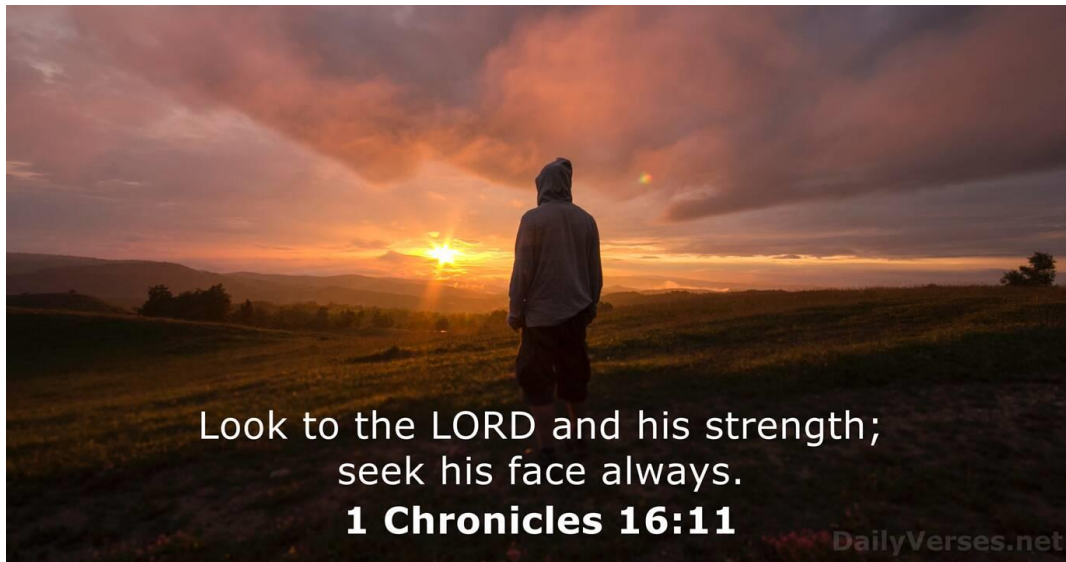
*20 Then David said to the whole assembly, “Praise the Lord your God.” So, they all praised the Lord, the God of their fathers; they bowed down, prostrating themselves before the Lord and the king.*

**David's prayer in 1 Chronicles 29:10–20 summarizes the themes the chronicler wished to communicate: glory to God, gratitude for gifting David's family with leadership of the nation, and the desire that David's descendants continue to devote themselves to God. Remaining faithful to God would reap blessing.**



When the book was written, David's descendants no longer ruled as monarchs over Israel. But the chronicler desired the people to remember the royal Davidic lineage, for God had promised a future ruler would rise from that line. After the seventy-year exile in Babylon, Jewish political and social power resided more with the religious rather than political rulers. Telling Israel's history through a priestly and kingly lens was intended to prepare the people for a future Messiah.

**Here are a few of the more popular verses:**





## Recap

The principal divisions of 1 Chronicles are as follows:

- Genealogical Tables (1:1–9:34)
- The History of David (9:35–29:30)

## First Chronicles in Redemptive History

Written soon after Israel's devastating exile from the Promised Land, 1 Chronicles emphasizes that God still has a plan for his people and his king in Jerusalem. The exile to Babylon had shattered Israel's faith in God's covenantal promises.

### **What is the key theme of 1 Chronicles?**

The central theme of Chronicles is God's covenant with David as the basis of Israel's life and hope. The Davidic covenant is expressed in two institutions: the monarchy and the temple. These institutions are related and together they represent God's kingdom in Israel.

### **Why were the Chronicles written?**

The Chronicles were not written for just cool theology by the Chronicler. The book's message has a pastoral purpose: To bring comfort and hope to generations of God's people who were tempted towards despair or apathy. During a time when many wondered if God was ever going to fulfill his promises, the Chronicler retold the story of their collective past in order to rekindle hope for the future.

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