

# **Read the Bible in a Year**

Week 29 – December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021

**Read on Your Own this Week:**

*Psalms 85-87*  
Proverbs 25-28

**Readings in Class:**

2 Chronicles 3-

## **Introduction to 2 Chronicles**

2 Chronicles picks up the story after the death of David with Solomon asking for wisdom and building the temple. Just as with David, the sins of Solomon are downplayed or omitted, as he is also being presented as a type of Christ. The book then continues in a similar vein as the book of Kings did, but with a focus solely on the Kings of Judah.

## **A Brief Overview of Chronicles**

1. The Reign of Solomon
  - a. Gift of Wisdom (Ch 1)
  - b. Building the Temple and the Dedication (Ch 2-7)
  - c. Other Activities (Ch 8)
  - d. Solomon's Death (Ch 9)
2. The Kings of Judah
  - a. Rehoboam (Ch 10-12)
  - b. Abijah (Ch 13)
  - c. Asa (Ch 14-16)
  - d. Jehoshaphat (Ch 17-20)
  - e. Jehoram and Ahaziah (Ch 21-22)
  - f. Joash (Ch 22-24)
  - g. Amaziah (Ch 25)
  - h. Uzziah (Ch 26)
  - i. Jotham (Ch 27)
  - j. Ahaz (Ch 28)
  - k. Hezekiah (Ch 29-32)
  - l. Manasseh (Ch 33:1-20)
  - m. Amon (Ch 33:21-25)
  - n. Josiah (Ch 34-35)
  - o. Josiah's Successors (Ch 36:1-14)
  - p. Exile and Restoration (Ch 36:15-23)

## **Building the Temple**

As we saw in the first part of Chronicles, a major focus of the book is on the building of the temple. This is because of liturgical and theological themes of how to rightly worship God and because the book is written post-exile when the people of Israel are rebuilding the temple and trying to figure out how to again be God's people. Much of the focus of the Kings of Judah is how they relate to the temple and if they properly worship God. The temple is where God has promised to be present and dwell with His people (something that is ultimately fulfilled in Jesus – John 2:18-22). The book of Chronicles ends with the promise of a second temple, which we read about in the book of Ezra.

## **The Prophets**

While many of the stories of the kings are repeats from the Book of Kings, there are many new and different details. One of these is the role of the prophets. While in Kings we get several stories of Elijah and Elisha, in Chronicles we see them and other prophets as interpreters of events. Whether or not a king listened to the prophets was another indicator of if they were a good king or bad king.

The emphasis on the prophets and how they continually called the people to repent and turn back to God also has to do with the fact that this is written post-exile. The writer is trying to drive home why the people went into exile in the first place (they did not fear God or keep his commandments) so that they do not repeat it. It also emphasizes the fact that God had pity on His people that he kept sending them messengers to turn them back to Him, even though they did not listen to them (36:15-16).

At the time Chronicles is written, the time of the prophets is either close to coming to an end or has already. The last of the prophets is most likely Malachi, written during the time of Nehemiah and the rebuilding of Jerusalem. Another messenger does not appear for almost 400 years when John the Baptist came.

## **The End of the Old Testament History**

In many ways the story of the Old Testament ends here. While we do get a bit more about how the temple and Jerusalem were rebuilt post-exile in Ezra and Nehemiah, those books are in many ways more like epilogues. Chronicles is actually how the Hebrew scriptures ended. It's a bit of a cliffhanger. The promised land is basically lost (even though the people return there, they are under foreign rule). There is no longer a king, which brings to question the promise God made to David that one of David's descendants would always sit on the throne. The people are still waiting for the promised Messiah (a promise that gets confused over the next few hundred years as the people begin to think of the Messiah as someone who will overthrow the foreigners who rule over them). All the people now have are the promises God made through the prophets. Promises that will get fulfilled 400 years later.