

An Old Testament Glance

The History Books – 1 Chronicles

Written	450 BC	Period*	4000-975 BC	Author	Unknown
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*Dates are sometimes hard to know. They can vary depending on scholars & sources of information.

1 Chronicles 1-9	Israel's Genealogies
1 Chronicles 10-22	History of King David
1 Chronicles 23-29	A Look at King David's Plans

Nobody likes starting to read 1 Chronicles 1. Maybe, there's more being said here than we realized.

1. Whose family is mentioned first? (1 Chronicles 1:1) _____
2. Whose family is mentioned last? (1 Chronicles 9:35-44) _____

This appears to be a summary of all the families in Israel from the beginning of man up until just before King David's life & reign. The author of this book, who I think is Ezra the Priest, must have been an incredible historian & researcher.

3. What four books of the Bible come before 1 Chronicles?

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____

Ezra probably got most of his historical information from these 4 books. He would have had access to temple records which logged all Jewish families.

It is believed by some that the Prophet Jeremiah wrote 1 & 2 Kings since he was alive during the exile to Babylon in 586 B.C. The Prophet Samuel probably wrote 1 & 2 Samuel. These documents would obviously have been available to Ezra.

Imagine, you are a descendent of Isaac (1 Chronicles 1:34-37). You know that your family failed God through the years; you know your family hurt & disobeyed God; you were taken to Babylon by force; you get back to Jerusalem finally; you have no future, no home, no hope, no country.

4. How do you feel? What do you do? _____

Then, standing there listening to this book being read to you by the priests, you hear your family name being listed; you are still loved by God; there is still a place in God's plan for you; your family is included in the future of Israel.

5. Wipe away the tears from your eyes. What do you feel now?

Everyone of those families from Jewish history heard the same thing read – their names. Ezra wrote this while they were all back in Israel. He wrote the Chronicles 450 years after 1 & 2 Samuel was written, and 100 years after 1 & 2 Kings.

6. Remember, the last time your life was at a dead end? You needed help. What kind of help did you need? What did you need to hear?

1 Chronicles 1-9 lists all these families who lived in a Jewish history of failure.

7. What new value system does God want them to follow? What example do they follow from now on? (1 Chronicles 11-29)

Ezra did not concentrate on the mistakes made by King David when he wrote 1 Chronicles. The people already knew where the mistakes got them (read 1 & 2 Kings).

8. Match the verses in 1 Chronicles with the new life direction King David demonstrated.

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| a. 11:1-3 | ___ | Defeat your enemies |
| b. 11:10-46 | ___ | Make Godly plans |
| c. 14:8-17 | ___ | Make worship of God important |
| d. 16:1-6 | ___ | Become a good leader |
| e. 16:7-36 | ___ | Become organized in your life |
| f. 22:1-36:32 | ___ | Surround yourself with God's strength |
| g. 27:1-16 | ___ | Surround yourself with a good Godly team |
| h. 27:16-34 | ___ | Make a habit of expressing thanks to God |