

1 Chronicles

1 CHRONICLES records God's dealings with Judah in the days of David.

Jerusalem Journals

The Hebrew name for the two books of Chronicles means 'the acts of the days'. They are journals or records of events in God's ancient kingdom, centred in Jerusalem, when David and subsequent kings sat on "the throne of the LORD".

1 Chronicles begins with several chapters of genealogies – reminding God's people of their ancestry and heritage, and particularly of their function as witnesses to God among the nations. Later chapters cover the same ground as the books of Samuel and Kings, but this book emphasises spiritual themes.

Much in these divinely inspired books looks forward to the restoration of God's Kingdom under Jesus Christ.

Preparations for the Temple

David himself was not allowed to build a temple for God:

But God said to me, 'You shall not build a house for My name, because you have been a man of war and have shed blood' (28:3).

David did, however, prepare the materials needed to build the temple, and prayed that God would "give my son Solomon a

loyal heart to keep your commandments ... and to build the temple for which I have made provision" (29:19).

Chapter 29 includes a wonderful prayer of David which starts with these words:

Blessed are You, LORD God of Israel, our Father, forever and ever. Yours, O LORD, is the greatness, the power and the glory ... Yours is the kingdom, O LORD, and You are exalted as head over all (29:10, 11).

There are echoes of this in the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9–13).

So David died, "in a good old age, full of days and riches and honour; and Solomon his son reigned in his place" (29:28).

Norman Owen

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Some interesting links with other parts of the Bible

- ◆ 1 Chronicles 16:29–33 – see Psalm 96:9–13; 110:3.
- ◆ 1 Chronicles 17:11–14 – see Isaiah 9:6–7; Luke 1:32,33.
- ◆ 1 Chronicles 28:5; 29:23 – see 2 Chronicles 13:8; Acts 1:6.

