

1 Chronicles

*This is part of an ongoing series of short articles designed to help us understand what scripture is and what is **in** each book of scripture. Previous articles can be found at www.openarms-communityofchrist.org.*

1 and 2 Chronicles were originally one book that provided the original ending to the Hebrew Scriptures. They cover the story of Israel from the creation of the world down to the beginning of the Persian Empire.

The first nine (9) chapters deal **very** briefly with Adam to the beginning of King Saul's reign, mostly giving the genealogies of the various kings. King Saul's reign is briefly touched on, with the story about his attack against the Philistines and the death of Saul and his sons.

The rest of the book deals with the reign of King David. Information is given about his building of alliances with the other kingdoms around Israel (or his attack and conquest of them). He began to bring the Ark of the Covenant back to Jerusalem, but because of an incident when someone touched it without the proper authority and was struck dead, the Ark remained outside the city for three months. When David was finally able to bring it inside, David danced in joy, and this created a rupture between him and his wife Michal (daughter of Saul).

David wanted to build a temple for worshiping the Lord, but because of some of his actions, the prophet Nathan told him the Lord did not allow that—but his son would be able to. So he spent much of the rest of his reign collecting materials for the building of that temple. 1 Chronicles ends with David's naming of his son Solomon as heir and a listing of the responsibilities of the various tribes.

Some of this material apparently came from 1 Samuel and 1 and 2 Kings as well as other books that we no longer have. However, the writer of these books rewrote and edited the material to suit his emphasis. So this is a parallel version of the history that is found in 1 and 2 Kings, but with a different theological emphasis.

The themes that this author wanted to focus on are

- the bond between God and Israel
- the kingship of David
- attentiveness to God's presence in temple service
- the importance of temple worship
- David's establishment of a divinely empowered kingdom with its center in God's sacred space (temple).