

Chronicles Discussion Qs

1. What sketch can we give of the contents of Chronicles?

- Genealogy (from Adam to the returnees from exile) 1 Chr. 1-9
- Saul 1 Chr. 10 [why and how of his death]
- David 1 Chr. 11-29 [shepherd king in city of David, death]
- Solomon 2 Chr. 1-9 [mainly building of temple]
- Kings of Judah to the exile 2 Chr. 10-36 [all attention is on the South]

2. Based on this sketch, how can we outline the book?

- Genealogies 1 Ch 1-9
- Monarchy 1 Ch 10-2 Ch 9
- Postschism southern kingdom, exile, and proclamation of return 2 Ch 10-36

3. The outline can help us reading (as a reading cue), but what is the reading cue that we get from the date of the book (determined by the returnees of 1 Ch 9.2 and the mention of Cyrus, 2 Ch 36)? We are to look back with the Chronicler at the entire history of redemption (back to Adam, 1 Ch 1-9) and at the kings “through post-exilic eyes.”

4. There is a very selective accounting of the history by the Chronicler. How can we explain this avoiding the idea of “revisionist distortion” of the events? It is selective “messianic historiography” (IOT, 174) that sifts the history to accent the glory in order to anticipate the coming of the true David and the greater than Solomon.

5. What is the purpose of the book (of 1 & 2 Chronicles)

The genealogies (1 Ch 1-9) bring us from Adam to the restoration community. They tie both Israel and Judah into this history and into the promise of Genesis 1. God's purpose of bringing his image through history to ultimate rest is being accomplished graciously (despite sin and judgment).

In summary, per Chronicles, God's rule comes to expression in direct actions as a divine warrior, in pursuing individual retribution (not simply based on the father's sins), in giving authoritative Scripture (the chronicler cites earlier OT books as divine authority, cf. La Sor, 646), and in calling for, guiding, and receiving worship.