



## Overview for 2 Chronicles

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**Purpose:** To encourage God’s chosen people, the Jews, to keep their faith and traditions alive by emphasizing the righteous kings of Judah and the revival that took place during their reigns.

**Author:** No author is cited, but Jewish tradition holds that the priest and scribe Ezra was the author.

**Name:** The Hebrew name of this book, *Dibre Hayamim*, literally means “the words of the days,” or “daily matters.” In the Greek version of the Old Testament, the name of the book is *Paralipomena*, which means “omissions” (referring to matter not included in the Books of 1 and 2 Samuel and 1 and 2 Kings). From about the fifth century, the English name given to the book, *Chronicles*, refers to a chronological account of events. While all of these titles reflect portions of the book, none of them fully describe it.

**Time Period Covered:** Much of the material in 1 and 2 Chronicles repeats and adds to the historical record found in the Books of 1 and 2 Samuel and 1 and 2 Kings, and spans several centuries of the history of God’s chosen people. The Book of 2 Chronicles continues the historical record that began in chapter 10 of 1 Chronicles, opening with the onset of Solomon’s reign in 970 B.C., and continuing to 538 B.C. when the decree by Cyrus allowed the exiles in Babylon to return to their land.

**Date Written:** If the author is Ezra, he probably wrote 1 and 2 Chronicles, Ezra, and Nehemiah sometime after he came to Jerusalem around 457 B.C., likely between 450 to 425 B.C.

**Setting:** 1 and 2 Chronicles were written in the post-exilic era, after the Jews returned from Babylonian captivity. The remnant of God’s people

needed constant encouragement to keep their faith and traditions alive. They needed to have hope that the God of David had not forsaken them, and that a king from his royal line would some day rule once more. Following the example of prophets such as Jeremiah and Ezekiel, the author of Chronicles endeavored to help the people see that God had not forsaken them.

**Key People:** Solomon, the queen of Sheba, Rehoboam, Asa, Jehoshaphat, Joash, Uzziah, Hezekiah, Manasseh, and Josiah

**Unique Features:** The Books of 1 and 2 Chronicles were originally one book (as were Samuel and Kings); it was divided into two books in the fifteenth century. The Book of 2 Chronicles parallels and provides a commentary on 1 and 2 Kings.

As in 1 Chronicles, the author highlighted spiritual lessons and taught moral truths by focusing primarily on positive aspects of the Jewish nation’s history and leaders. In 2 Chronicles, little mention is made of the faithless kings of the Northern Kingdom of Israel, evidently to highlight that Judah was the nation which had remained somewhat faithful to God. This would have been significant to the exiles who returned to Jerusalem with the purpose of rebuilding the Temple there.

**Summary:** Like 1 Chronicles, the Book of 2 Chronicles has two main sections. The first nine chapters cover the reign of Solomon, whose most significant accomplishment was the building of the Temple in Jerusalem. Chapters 10 through 36 describe the reigns of selected kings of Judah, with emphasis given to the righteous kings and the revivals that took place during their reigns. The book concludes with a record of the decree of King Cyrus of Persia, which allowed the Jews to return from exile to Jerusalem to rebuild their Temple.

# Timeline

*Some dates are approximate, as reference materials differ.*

See “The Divided Kingdom” four-page timeline included in this unit.

## Outline

*Hannah's Bible Outlines used by permission per WORDsearch.  
A complete amplified outline of this book is available on our website at [www.apostolicfaith.org](http://www.apostolicfaith.org).*

- I. The reign of Solomon (1:1 — 9:31)
  - A. The wealth and wisdom of Solomon (1:1-17)
  - B. The construction of Solomon's Temple (2:1 — 7:22)
  - C. The character of Solomon's reign (8:1-9:28)
  - D. The death of Solomon (9:29-31)
- II. The division of the kingdom (10:1-19)
  - A. The folly of Rehoboam (10:1-15)
  - B. The secession of the ten tribes (10:16-19)
- III. The history of the kings of Judah (11:1 — 36:16)
  - A. The reign of Rehoboam (11:1 — 12:16)
  - B. The reign of Abijah (13:1-22)
  - C. The reign of Asa (14:1 — 16:14)
  - D. The reign of Jehoshaphat (17:1 — 20:37)
  - E. The reign of Jehoram (21:1-20)
  - F. The reign of Ahaziah (Jehoahaz) (22:1-9)
  - G. The usurpation of Athaliah (22:10-12)
  - H. The reign of Joash (23:1 — 24:27)
  - I. The reign of Amaziah (25:1-28)
  - J. The reign of Uzziah (26:1-23)
  - K. The reign of Jotham (27:1-9)
  - L. The reign of Ahaz (28:1-27)
  - M. The reign of Hezekiah (29:1 — 32:33)
  - N. The reign of Manasseh (33:1-20)
  - O. The reign of Amon (33:21-25)
  - P. The reign of Josiah (34:1 — 35:27)
  - Q. The reign of Jehoahaz (36:1-3)
  - R. The reign of Jehoiakim (Eliakim) (36:4-8)
  - S. The reign of Jehoiachin (36:9-10)
  - T. The reign of Zedekiah (36:11-16)
- IV. The captivity of Judah (36:17-23)
  - A. The destruction of Jerusalem (36:17-21)
  - B. The decree of Cyrus (36:22-23)