

# good NEWS BIBLE

The books of

# 1 & 2 CHRONICLES



Bible Society  
Trinity Business Centre  
Stonehill Green, Westlea  
Swindon SN5 7DG  
biblesociety.org.uk

First published 2023 by The British and Foreign Bible Society  
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The books of 1 & 2 Chronicles  
ISBN: 978-0-56-403473-4

Typesetting and production management by Bible Society Resources Ltd, a wholly-owned subsidiary of The British and Foreign Bible Society

Cover design by Colin Hall

BSRL/2023/1M  
Printed in Great Britain

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# The first book of CHRONICLES

## **The golden age of David**

**What's it about?** 1 Chronicles revisits the history of Israel already told in 2 Samuel and 1 Kings. It opens with lists of names, from Adam to David, then continues with the story of David himself.

**Who wrote it?** The names of the authors have been lost, but 1 and 2 Chronicles were probably written by priests after the Jews returned from exile in Babylon.

**Why read it?** 1 Chronicles gives a different perspective on the events of David's life, describing it as a golden age.

**What's it to me?** Reading the life of David from a new viewpoint helps us to see things differently. We can ask ourselves why the writers included one story and not another, or why they ignored a negative story about David.

# Chapter 1

## **From Adam to Abraham**

<sup>1</sup> Adam was the father of Seth, Seth was the father of Enosh, Enosh the father of Kenan, <sup>2</sup>Kenan the father of Mahalalel, Mahalalel the father of Jared.

<sup>3</sup> Jared was the father of Enoch, who was the father of Methuselah; Methuselah was the father of Lamech, <sup>4</sup>who was the father of Noah. Noah had three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

<sup>5</sup>The sons of Japheth — Gomer, Magog, Madai, Javan, Tubal, Meshech, and Tiras — were the ancestors of the peoples who bear their names.

<sup>6</sup>The descendants of Gomer were the people of Ashkenaz, Riphath, and Togarmah.

<sup>7</sup>The descendants of Javan were the people of Elishah, Spain, Cyprus, and Rhodes.

<sup>8</sup>The sons of Ham — Cush, Egypt, Libya, and Canaan — were the ancestors of the peoples who bear their names.

<sup>9</sup>The descendants of Cush were the people of Seba, Havilah, Sabtah, Raamah, and Sabteca. The descendants of Raamah were the people of Sheba and Dedan.

<sup>10</sup> (Cush had a son named Nimrod, who became the world's first great conqueror.)

<sup>11</sup>The descendants of Egypt were the people of Lydia, Anam, Lehab, Naphtuh, <sup>12</sup>Pathrus, Casluh, and of Crete (from whom the Philistines were descended).

<sup>13</sup>Canaan's sons — Sidon, the eldest, and Heth — were the ancestors of the peoples who bear their names.

<sup>14</sup>Canaan was also the ancestor of the Jebusites, the Amorites, Girgashites, <sup>15</sup>Hivites, Arkites, Sinites, <sup>16</sup>Arvadites, Zemarites, and Hamathites.

<sup>17</sup>Shem's sons — Elam, Asshur, Arpachshad, Lud, Aram, Uz, Hul, Gether, and Meshek — were the ancestors of the peoples who bear their names.

<sup>18</sup>Arpachshad was the father of Shelah, who was the father of Eber.

<sup>19</sup>Eber had two sons; one was named Peleg,<sup>a</sup> because during his time the people of the world were divided, and the other was named Joktan.

<sup>20</sup>The descendants of Joktan were the people of Almodad, Sheleph, Hazarmaveth, Jerah, <sup>21</sup>Hadoram, Uzal, Diklah, <sup>22</sup>Ebal, Abimael, Sheba, <sup>23</sup>Ophir, Havilah, and Jobab.

<sup>24</sup>The family line from Shem to Abram is as follows: Shem, Arpachshad, Shelah, <sup>25</sup>Eber, Peleg, Reu, <sup>26</sup>Serug, Nahor, Terah, <sup>27</sup>and Abram (also known as Abraham).

### **The Descendants of Ishmael**

<sup>28</sup>Abraham had two sons, Isaac and Ishmael.

<sup>29</sup>The sons of Ishmael became the heads of twelve tribes: Nebaioth (from the name of Ishmael's eldest son), Kedar,

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<sup>a</sup> *Peleg*: This name sounds like the Hebrew for "divide".

Adbeel, Mibsam, <sup>30</sup>Mishma, Dumah, Massa, Hadad, Tema, <sup>31</sup>Jetur, Naphish, and Kedemah.

<sup>32</sup>Abraham had a concubine named Keturah, who bore him six sons: Zimran, Jokshan, Medan, Midian, Ishbak, and Shuah. Jokshan had two sons: Sheba and Dedan.

<sup>33</sup>Midian had five sons: Ephah, Epher, Hanoch, Abida, and Eldaah.

### **The Descendants of Esau**

<sup>34</sup>Abraham's son Isaac had two sons, Esau and Jacob.

<sup>35</sup>Esau's sons were Eliphaz, Reuel, Jeush, Jalam, and Korah.

<sup>36</sup>Eliphaz became the ancestor of the following tribes: Teman, Omar, Zephi, Gatam, Kenaz, Timna, and Amalek.

<sup>37</sup>And Reuel became the ancestor of the tribes of Nahath, Zerah, Shammah, and Mizzah.

### **The Original Inhabitants of Edom**

<sup>38-42</sup>The original inhabitants of Edom were descended from the following sons of Seir:

Lotan, who was the ancestor of the clans of Hori and Homam. (Lotan had a sister named Timna.)

Shobal, who was the ancestor of the clans of Alvan, Manahath, Ebal, Shephi, and Onam.

Zibeon, who had two sons, Aiah and Anah. Anah was the father of Dishon, and Dishon was the ancestor of the clans of Hamran, Eshban, Ithran, and Cheran.

Ezer, who was the ancestor of the clans of Bilhan,  
Zaavan, and Jaakan.

Dishan, who was the ancestor of the clans of Uz and  
Aran.

### **The Kings of Edom**

<sup>43-50</sup>The following kings ruled the land of Edom one after the other, in the time before there were any kings in Israel:

Bela son of Beor from Dinhabah

Johab son of Zerah from Bozrah

Husham from the region of Teman

Hadad son of Bedad from Avith (he defeated the  
Midianites in a battle in the country of Moab)

Samlah from Masrekah

Shaul from Rehoboth-on-the-River

Baal Hanan son of Achbor

Hadad from Pau (his wife was Mehetabel, the  
daughter of Matred and granddaughter of  
Mezahab).

<sup>51</sup>The people of Edom were divided into the following tribes: Timna, Alvah, Jetheth, <sup>52</sup>Oholibamah, Elah, Pinon, <sup>53</sup>Kenaz, Teman, Mibzar, <sup>54</sup>Magdiel, and Iram.

## Chapter 2

### **The Descendants of Judah**

<sup>1</sup>Jacob had twelve sons: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun, <sup>2</sup>Dan, Joseph, Benjamin, Naphtali, Gad, and Asher.

# The second book of CHRONICLES

## **Solomon's glory and the exile of Judah**

**What's it about?** 2 Chronicles tells the story of Solomon, then the kings of Judah, also recorded in 1 and 2 Kings.

**Who wrote it?** Probably priests who worked in the Temple.

**Why read it?** 2 Chronicles shows God's promise to David in action, despite the people getting things wrong.

**What's it to me?** 2 Chronicles gives us pictures of good rulers, bad rulers and those in between. These stories show us how to live for God (and how not to).

# Chapter 1

## **King Solomon Prays for Wisdom**

<sup>1</sup> Solomon, the son of King David, took firm control of the kingdom of Israel, and the LORD his God blessed him and made him very powerful.

<sup>2</sup> King Solomon gave an order to all the officers in charge of units of a thousand men and of a hundred men, all the government officials, all the heads of families, and all the rest of the people, <sup>3</sup> commanding them to go with him to the place of worship at Gibeon. They went there because that was where the Tent of the LORD's presence was located, which Moses, the LORD's servant, had made in the wilderness.

<sup>4</sup> (The Covenant Box, however, was in Jerusalem, kept in a tent which King David had set up when he brought the Box from Kiriath Jearim.)

<sup>5</sup> The bronze altar which had been made by Bezalel, the son of Uri and grandson of Hur, was also in Gibeon in front of the Tent of the LORD's presence. King Solomon and all the people worshipped the LORD there.

<sup>6</sup> In front of the Tent the king worshipped the LORD by offering sacrifices on the bronze altar; he had a thousand animals killed and burnt whole on it.

<sup>7</sup> That night God appeared to Solomon and asked, "What would you like me to give you?"

<sup>8</sup> Solomon answered, "You always showed great love for my father David, and now you have let me succeed him as king.

<sup>9</sup>O LORD God, fulfil the promise you made to my father. You have made me king over a people who are so many that they cannot be counted, <sup>10</sup>so give me the wisdom and knowledge I need to rule over them. Otherwise, how would I ever be able to rule this great people of yours?"

<sup>11</sup>God replied to Solomon, "You have made the right choice. Instead of asking for wealth or treasure or fame or the death of your enemies or even for long life for yourself, you have asked for wisdom and knowledge so that you can rule my people, over whom I have made you king.

<sup>12</sup>I will give you wisdom and knowledge. And in addition, I will give you more wealth, treasure, and fame than any king has ever had before or will ever have again."

### **King Solomon's Power and Wealth**

<sup>13</sup>So Solomon left<sup>a</sup> the place of worship at Gibeon, where the Tent of the LORD's presence was, and returned to Jerusalem. There he ruled over Israel.

<sup>14</sup>He built up a force of 1,400 chariots and 12,000 cavalry horses. Some of them he kept in Jerusalem, and the rest he stationed in various other cities.

<sup>15</sup>During his reign silver and gold became as common in Jerusalem as stone, and cedar was as plentiful as ordinary sycamore.

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<sup>a</sup> Some ancient translations *left*; Hebrew *came to*.

<sup>16</sup>The king's agents controlled the export of horses from Musri<sup>b</sup> and Cilicia,<sup>c</sup> <sup>17</sup>and the export of chariots from Egypt. They supplied the Hittite and Syrian kings with horses and chariots, selling chariots for 600 pieces of silver each and horses for 150 each.<sup>d</sup>

## Chapter 2

### Preparations for Building the Temple

<sup>1</sup>King Solomon decided to build a temple where the LORD would be worshipped, and also to build a palace for himself.

<sup>2</sup>He put 70,000 men to work transporting materials, and 80,000 to work quarrying stone. There were 3,600 others responsible for supervising the work.

<sup>3</sup>Solomon sent a message to King Hiram of Tyre: “Do business with me as you did with my father, King David, when you sold him cedar logs for building his palace.

<sup>4</sup>I am building a temple to honour the LORD my God. It will be a holy place where my people and I will worship him by burning incense of fragrant spices, where we will present offerings of sacred bread to him continuously, and where we will offer burnt offerings every morning and evening, as well as on Sabbaths, New Moon Festivals, and other holy

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<sup>b</sup> Probable text *Musri*; Hebrew *Egypt*.

<sup>c</sup> *Musri and Cilicia*: Two ancient countries in what is now south-east Turkey which were centres of horse breeding in Solomon's time.

<sup>d</sup> Verses 16–17 in Hebrew are unclear.

days honouring the LORD our God. He has commanded Israel to do this for ever.

<sup>5</sup>I intend to build a great temple, because our God is greater than any other god.

<sup>6</sup>Yet no one can really build a temple for God, because even all the vastness of heaven cannot contain him. How then can I build a temple that would be anything more than a place to burn incense to God?

<sup>7</sup>Now send me a man with skill in engraving, in working gold, silver, bronze, and iron, and in making blue, purple and red cloth. He will work with the craftsmen of Judah and Jerusalem whom my father David selected.

<sup>8</sup>I know how skilful your woodmen are, so send me cedar, cypress, and juniper logs from Lebanon. I am ready to send my men to assist yours <sup>9</sup>in preparing large quantities of timber, because this temple I intend to build will be large and magnificent.

<sup>10</sup>As provisions for your workmen, I will send you 2,000 tonnes of wheat, 2,000 tonnes of barley, 400,000 litres of wine, and 400,000 litres of olive oil."

<sup>11</sup>King Hiram sent Solomon a letter in reply. He wrote, "Because the LORD loves his people, he has made you their king.

<sup>12</sup>Praise the LORD God of Israel, Creator of heaven and earth! He has given King David a wise son, full of understanding and skill, who now plans to build a temple for the LORD and a palace for himself.