

1 CHRONICLES - A STUDY GUIDE

THE CENTRAL QUESTION:

What does this book/story say to us about God?

This question may be broken down further as follows:

- a. Why did God do it/allow it?
- b. Why did He record it for our study?

1. Who do you think wrote 1 & 2 Chronicles? (1 Chronicles 29:29; Compare 2 Chronicles 32:32; 33:18-20) Do these books have a significantly different perspective than 1 & 2 Samuel and 1 & 2 Kings? Do 1 & 2 Chronicles look like a “biased” report? Why should there be so much repetition? How do you explain the differences? Is there any value in these small differences? What about the Gospels? How did Luke get the information for writing his book? (Luke 1:1-4) Does God “inspire” people to “compile” books to put in Scripture?
2. What is the purpose of all the genealogies in 1 Chronicles 1-9? Who kept track of all these names of the earlier generations when they became scattered all over the world?
3. What is the meaning of “in Peleg’s time the earth was divided” (1 Chronicles 1:19; Genesis 10:25)?
4. **It is clear that Saul committed suicide. (1 Samuel 31:3,4; 1 Chronicles 10:3,4) How could the Bible writer say, “thus God slew Saul?” (1 Chronicles 10:13,14) Do you think this same writer if he were to describe the death of Judas Iscariot would say, “thus God slew Judas?” Could this statement throw any light on all the other statements about God killing people—for example, Er and Onan (Genesis 38:6-10; 1 Chronicles 2:3), Nadab and Abihu (Leviticus 10:1-11), or Korah, Dathan, and Abiram? (Numbers 16:23-35)**
5. Who was it that actually made David’s kingdom strong? (1 Chronicles 11:9,10)
6. Notice the position of Uriah the Hittite. (1 Chronicles 11:41 Compare 2 Samuel 23:39) If God treated David so generously after what he did to one of his best friends and supporters, do we have any need to have Someone intercede with Him—either the Father or the Son—on our behalf? (2 Chronicles 7:17,18; 1 Kings 11:4,6; John 16:25-27)
7. Why was there so much joy and celebration when David became king? (1 Chronicles 12:38-40)
8. Note David’s comments about why Uzzah died. “David was angry because the Lord’s wrath had broken out against Uzzah.” (1 Chronicles 13:10-12) In what sense could it be said that God was “angry” with Uzzah? Did David learn anything from the Uzzah experience? (1 Chronicles 15:2)
9. Why do you think the Philistines started carrying their “gods” into battle? (1 Chronicles 14:8-12; compare 2 Chronicles 13:8; 1 Samuel 4:1-11; 2 Chronicles 28:22,23)
10. How do you explain God’s statement to David about Solomon as recorded in 1 Chronicles 17:13 (NIV)? “I will be his father, and he will be my son. I will never take my love away from him, as I took it away from your predecessor (Saul).” Did God actually stop loving Saul? Look at 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12 (GNB) “They will perish because they did not welcome and love the truth so as to be saved.” Is this what happened to Saul? Compare Romans 1:18-32. Didn’t Solomon do things that were just as evil as what Saul did? Compare this with the statement “I have loved Jacob and his descendants, and have hated Esau and his descendants.” (Malachi 1:2,3, GNB) Do these statements suggest that God only loves His good children? Or does He love His bad children as well? Or is it that when they reach the place where He cannot tolerate their behavior anymore, or He gets tired of working with them, then He becomes angry and punishes them? Or do they reach a place where there is nothing more He *can* do, so He weeps as He lets them go? (Hosea 11:1-8) Why did John call himself the “beloved?” (John 13:23; 20:2; 21:7,20) Were the others not beloved, or was John just being very

proud?

11. **1 Chronicles 21:1 (NIV) says, "Satan rose up against Israel and incited David to take a census of Israel." 2 Samuel 24:1 (NIV) says, "Again the anger of the Lord burned against Israel, and he incited David against them, saying, <Go and count Israel and Judah." Is there any way in which these two statements could be compatible? Do we have to reject one in order to accept the other? Can you think of parallel passages elsewhere? (Matthew 4:1; Mark 1:12,13; Luke 4:1,2) Could both 2 Samuel 24:1 and 1 Chronicles 21:1 be right? What about the hardening of Pharaoh's heart (Exodus 9:34-10:1), or "thus God slew Saul?" (see above #4) In most cases who actually causes us to sin? (James 1:13-15) Why do you think David was numbering Israel? We need to look through the eyes of someone at that time to understand how they would understand this passage. Naomi said, "Almighty God has made my life bitter" (Ruth 1:20, GNB), but she obviously loved God and led Ruth to do the same. Job said, "The Lord gave and now he has taken away. May his name be praised," (Job 1:21, GNB) but look more carefully at Job 1 & 2 to see who did the taking away. "Job did not sin by blaming God." (Job 1:22, GNB) How should we explain passages that state "God did this or that" when elsewhere we have confirmation that actually Satan or someone else did it?**
12. Why did the census totals for the fighting men come out different in 2 Samuel 24:9 and 1 Chronicles 21:5? There are other apparently different numbers in these books. Does this mean that the "Chronicler" wasn't very careful about numbers? Shouldn't the Bible writers be consistent in reporting such details?
13. How and why would the Lord "repent of the evil" (RSV) of destroying Israel and Jerusalem? (1 Chronicles 21:14,15)? Since the main cause of the "plague" was the sins of the people in Jerusalem, why did God spare that city?
14. How do you explain 1 Chronicles 21:30, "David...was afraid of the sword of the angel of the Lord?" Was this the response that God wanted as a result of His punishment of David and the people of Israel?
15. What did all those Levites actually do each day? Notice their duties. (1 Chronicles 23:2-5)
16. Why was David choosing "prophets?" Doesn't God choose prophets? What was the relation between these "prophets" and the harp-players (1 Chronicles 25:1)?
17. Look at David's magnificent prayer (1 Chronicles 29:10-19) as he handed over the government and the materials for the temple to Solomon his son. Do these words sound familiar? Why do many of our modern translations not have the doxology at the end of the Lord's prayer in Matthew 6:9-13? (Compare Luke 11:2-4)
18. Look at 1 Chronicles 29:17 (RSV)—"in the uprightness of my heart I have given these gifts to you". How could David make such a statement in front of all the people of Israel after what he did to Uriah and Bathsheba and with Solomon standing next to him? David repeatedly mentions doing things with the (whole) heart. (1 Chronicles 29:9,17,18,19; compare Psalms 51:10) Had David finally learned what God really wants? Notice how much different the end of David's life was compared to the end of Saul's.
19. Why wasn't David allowed to build the temple? (1 Chronicles 22:8; 28:3)

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Last Modified: February 28, 2006
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