



SMALL GROUP STUDY

Divine Editorial

Chronicles is a history of a nation from a spiritual perspective. Although we are not entirely sure of the author, it is believed by many to be written by the prophet Ezra. This is really a book about David and his ancestry--it is 3000 years of history from Adam through the twelve tribes of Israel all the way through the dynasty of David. It's an encouragement for the people to show them that God has a plan for their future--a pep talk to encourage the people who had come back from the Babylonian captivity to rebuild their nation. The major themes of 1 Chronicles are God's Blessing, God's judgment, God's covenant.

David's Rightful Ancestry (1 Chronicles 1-9)

The genealogies go all the way back through Adam-3000 years! In this book we have the most extensive chronological list to be found in the pages of the Bible. They are highly selective; the author is drawing the attention through Adam, the tribe of Benjamin and Judah and David's ancestry. This is post-captivity and the author is trying to encourage them by showing that God has had a plan in the past and has a plan for the future. Genealogies were important because of 1) the land, 2) the priesthood, and 3) the Messiah.

Discussion Questions:

- a. What is the shortest verse in the Old Testament?
- b. Why were genealogies important for land?
- c. Why were genealogies important for the priesthood?
- d. Why were genealogies important for the Messiah?

David's Royal Activity (1 Chronicles 10-29)

David was described as "a man after God's own heart." He wanted to fulfill God's plan and purpose. God sees David very different than we see David. 1 Chronicles preserves the thought that David is the king of Israel who will bring forth the Messiah. Several things in David's life are omitted. The focus is not on the failures of the past, it is on "let's get up and rebuild the future." We get an insight into King David through his prayer life--he inquired of God before battle. Chapter 17 is the pivotal chapter of 1 Chronicles. God promises that David will have a lineage that will last forever and ever. Part of the promise will be fulfilled in David's son Solomon who will sit on the throne and who will build the temple. But the majority of it will be fulfilled through the Messiah, Jesus Christ.

Discussion Questions:

- a. What is the scarlet thread of redemption found in chapter 17?
- b. Examine your heart: what would your life look like if you were a man/woman after God's own heart?
- c. What priorities would you have to make or adjust in order to make this happen?
- d. What is the people's response to David's request for an offering to build the temple?
- e. What makes a great leader of a nation?
- f. How many years did King David reign over Israel?