

# Summer Study -- A Bible Overview With A Jesus Focus

## Lesson 7: 1 & 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah

Note: an on-line site like <https://biblehub.com/> -- enables rapid navigation to listed texts

- 1 & 2 Chronicles focus on descendants of Judah & Levi, especially thru David's line; David was a *type* of Jesus & God protected the line until the Savior Messiah was born (Galatians 4:4-5)
- These books have a different focus than 1 & 2 Samuel and 1 & 2 Kings; they do not deny or obviate anything in those books, but provide a selective history of God's people

### Jesus in 1 Chronicles

- 1 Chronicles gave the Israelites returning from captivity links to their ancestors & to God; also connects us "grafted-in" children of God (**Romans 8:12-25; Galatians 3:26-4:7**) to Jesus (**Hebrews 2:10-18**)
- Chapters 1-9 list genealogies, which were extremely important for Jews: proved one's identity as a Jew, a partaker of blessings promised by God to the patriarchs & part of the nation chosen by God
  - Traceability of one's family history was required in order to inherit land within the allocated tribal area
  - To serve as a priest, one had to prove descent from Aaron
  - Genealogies emphasized the importance of the family unit in the culture & continuing the family line
  - The Messiah had to be from David's line (**Isaiah 11:10**)--Jesus was (**Matthew 1:1-16; Luke 3:23-38**)
  - Unknown names listed in God's Word give assurance that no one is unimportant in God's Kingdom
- Saul lost everything because he turned from God to do things his own way (**v10:13-14**); but "David became more and more powerful because the Lord was with him." (**v11:9**)<sup>1</sup>
  - The difference between Saul & David may be compared with that between Adam & Jesus: Adam listened to Satan's influence rather than God's; Jesus ("2<sup>nd</sup> Adam") was sent to correct the damage
  - Saul & David summarize the story of humanity; Saul reminds us of our own sin while David points forward to Jesus, who died to restore us to a right relationship with God (**Romans 5:19**)
- After careful prep (**v15:13-16**) David brought the ark of the covenant to Jerusalem (**v15:25-28; 16:1**)
  - After sacrifices & offerings, David blessed the people, fed them & appointed leaders to make petition, give thanks & praise to God (**v16:2-4**); Jesus also regularly thanked & glorified the Father (**Luke 10:21**)
  - We need to give thanks & praise to Jesus & the Spirit for always being with us (**1 Thessalonians 5:18**)
- David never forgot his background as a simple shepherd & believed God's promises (**v17:16-19**)
  - God promised the Messiah: 1) from his line (**v17:11; Matthew 1:1; 9:27**); 2) reign on his throne forever (**v17:12-13; Luke 1:32-33**); 3) be God's son (**v17:13; Hebrews 1:5**)
  - Like sheep, people need 1) *guidance*, lest they wander (**Judges 21:25**); 2) *protection* from enemies (**1 Samuel 17:34-37**); 3) to be *fed*--sheep physically, but people spiritually by God's Word (**Matthew 4:4**)
  - Jesus referred to Himself as the good shepherd (**John 10:11,14**) & filled all roles (**John 10:3-4,15,10**); also, shepherd of "those who have washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb." (**Revelation 7:14-17**)
- David led Israel in worship of God; one view--giving to God to express how much He is worth to us
  - Worship includes praise (**v29:10-13**); obedience (**Philippians 2:15-16**); talents/gifts (**Romans 12:6-8**); financial (**v29:2-6,9**): in sum, giving ourselves & all we do (**v29:18; 1 Peter 4:11; Romans 12:1-2**)<sup>2</sup>

### Jesus in 2 Chronicles

- Mount Moriah was where: Abraham took Isaac for sacrifice; David bought land for the temple (**1 Chronicles 21:18,25; v3:1**); Jesus was presented (**Luke 2:22**), cleansed (**John 2:13-16; Mark 11:15-17**) & often taught
  - Jesus' death removed our separation from God, as shown by tearing of the temple curtain (**Mark 15:38**)
  - We are "living Mount Moriah's"--the Holy Spirit dwells within us (**1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:19-20**)

<sup>1</sup> This section derived from *The Knowing Jesus Study Bible*, Edward Hinson, D.Phil. & Edward Dobson, Ed.D., Zondervan Publishing House, 1999

<sup>2</sup> For a deeper explanation, see [What is true worship? | GotQuestions.org](https://www.gotquestions.org/What-is-true-worship/)

- The LORD appeared to Solomon & warned him of consequences if he turned from God (**v7:19-22**)
  - Solomon & Israel did turn from God & suffered those very consequences (**v36:19**)
  - But God had also promised a Savior from David's line (**Isaiah 11:1; Jeremiah 23:5-6; Amos 9:11**)
  - Jesus was that saving "Son of David" (**Matthew 1:1; 12:22-23**); He did not come to save them politically from Rome's domination as they expected, but spiritually from sin's bondage (**Acts 13:38-39**)
- The queen of Sheba came to test Solomon's wisdom (**v1:10-12; 9:1**); Jesus cited this visit in condemnation of those who had the Son of God in their midst, yet rejected Him (**Luke 11:29-32**)
- Solomon's son Rehoboam listened to the voice of pride (**v10:13-15**) so the northern tribes left Judah (**v10:16**)
  - Though their complaint was valid, in rejecting the rule of David's line they rejected the Messiah
  - Many voices call us to follow; we must heed God's Word & listen to our Good Shepherd (**John 10:1-3**)
- There were many false prophets in Israel, but Micaiah spoke God's truth (**v18:7**) even at risk to his life
  - Like many today, Ahab wanted to choose his own way, yet wanted God's approval (**v18:16-17**)
  - People that rejected Jesus because of His "hard sayings" rejected God's life-giving truth (**John 6:60-66**); the 12 stayed loyal not because they understood what He said, but they knew who He was (**John 6:68-69**)
- Jehoshaphat referred to Abraham as God's friend (**v20:7**); Jesus was criticized for being friends with tax collectors & sinners (**Matthew 11:19**)--such friendship was based on Jesus' character, not theirs
  - Jesus says we are His friends "if you do what I command" & orders: "love one another" (**John 15:14,17**)
- Hezekiah brought Judah to revival in the LORD thru restored temple worship, feasts & offerings (**v29:24-36**)
  - Jesus set the standard for how we can truly worship God in offering ourselves (**John 13:15; 1 Peter 2:21**)
- Chapter 36 reports how the kings & people of Judah turned from God (**v36:13-14**) leading to captivity in Babylon (**v36:17-21**) in fulfillment of the curses of which the LORD had warned (**v7:19-22**)
  - God had not abandoned His people; after their "timeout," He would stir Cyrus to release them (**v36:22-23**)
  - Jesus will never abandon us either--He always keeps His promises (**Romans 8:38-39; Hebrews 13:5**)

#### Jesus in Ezra (in the Hebrew Scripture, Ezra & Nehemiah are together as one book)

- Ezra relates the story of the return of God's people from Babylon back to Jerusalem, as prophesied; Isaiah even gave the name "Cyrus" ~200 years before the return (**Isaiah 44:28; 45:1,13; Jeremiah 29:1-3**)
- Even when our world seems spinning out of control, our God is always in control! God can even use non-believers to carry out His purposes (**Proverbs 21:1**), just as Jesus told Pilate (**John 19:10-11**)
  - God moved the hearts of people to participate in/support the rebuilding of the temple (**v1:5-6**), as He disclosed the truth about Jesus to Peter (**Matthew 16:17**) & as He can move us in doing His work
- Zerubbabel, who was in the line from David to Jesus (**Matthew 1:12-13**) was appointed governor of Judah (**Haggai 1:1**) & began rebuilding the temple in Jerusalem (**v3:2-2**)
  - After the foundation was laid, Samaritan opposition held up further construction for 17 years until the prophets Haggai & Zechariah encouraged resumption (& effort to overcome the opposition) (**v5:1-2**)
  - Some thought this temple poor compared to the 1<sup>st</sup>, but 500 years later Jesus would fulfil prophecy of greater glory (**Haggai 2:3-9**) when He walked the grounds (**Luke 2:22,46; 20:1**)
- Ezra grieved over the compromises with the cultures around them (**v9:1-4**); his praying, confessing & weeping brought repentance & a return to God's commands that prophets rarely saw (**v10:1-4**)
  - Jesus also called people to repent (**Matthew 4:17**) & turn to God's way of living (**Matthew 5:1-7:29**)

#### Jesus in Nehemiah

- God called Nehemiah to Jerusalem to lead the rebuilding of the city wall (**v1:3-4; 2:5**)
  - The wall was rebuilt from the rubble, just as are we when we place our trust in Jesus (**Luke 15:11-32**)
- Nehemiah got angry that some were taking advantage of others during famine & took action (**v5:3-6,9-11**)
  - Jesus was always focused on the needy (**Luke 4:18**) & asks us to minister to them (**Matthew 25:35-40**)
- Ezra's reading of God's Word brought revival & zeal for the LORD (**v8:1-9**); it will do the same for you: "Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God." (**Matthew 4:4**)