

Mornings: Chronicles

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“UP!”

586BC	538BC	536BC	520BC	515BC	458 – 430BC	450 – 400BC
Exile	Cyrus Edict	Temple Foundation	Zerubbabel	Temple Dedication	Ezra/Neh	1&2 Chronicles

The Book

Part One 1 Chronicles 1 – 9 The Concerns of the Kingdom

Part Two 1 Chronicles 10 – 2Chronicles 9 The Ideal Kingdom

Part Three 2 Chronicles 10 – 28 The Divided Kingdom

Part Three 2 Chronicles 29 – 36 The Reunited Kingdom

The Method

The Purpose

The Value

PART ONE: THE CONCERNS OF THE KINGDOM

1 Chronicles 1 – 9

Introduction

1. A Connected People

2. A Concerned People

1:1 – 54 The distant past

2:1 – 4:23 Royalty - Judah

4:24 – 5:26 Other Tribes

6:1 – 81 Levi

7:1 – 40 Other Tribes

8:1 – 40 Royalty – Benjamin

9:1 – 44 The Immediate Past

- Royalty

- Divinity

- Unity

3. A Committed People

Conclusion

Questions for Personal Reflection

1. The aim

Read 2 Chronicles 36:20 – 23.

- a) What do we learn about God?
- b) What clue do these verses give as to the author's aim?

2. The Connections

Look at 1 Chronicles 1 – 27. The verses move rapidly from Adam, to Abraham, to Jacob/Israel

- a) What does the author achieve by making these connections?

Look at 1 Chronicles 9:1 – 2 and scan forwards. The verses focus on those who have returned and particularly the priests, Levites, and temple servants.

- b) What does this focus suggest is the author's concern?

3. The Concerns

1 Chronicles 2 – 8 have three major concerns:

The King (2:1 – 4:23)

The Temple (6:1 – 81)

The other tribes (4:24 – 5:26 & 7:1 – 40)

What does each of these tell us about the major concerns of the Chronicler?

4) The Original Readers

a) read 2 Chronicles 36:22 – 23. What can we know about the Chronicler's original readers?

b) read 2 Chronicles 3:19 – 24. What does this tell us about the Chronicler's original readers? (see dates table and Zerubbabel).

5) The New Testament

Read Luke 2:22 – 38. How does what we have learned help us to understand what Simeon and Anna were looking for when they were waiting for the 'consolation' and 'redemption' of Israel?

Group Questions

- 1) How does what we have considered this morning help us understand God and His purposes better?
- 2) Now that Jesus has arrived, how does what we have looked at help us focus in on some of His key achievements?
- 3) In this 'connected, yet disconnected world' with 'mass communication, yet fundamental isolation' how does what the Chronicler shows us about the people of God help to 'connect' us?
- 4) Given the Chronicler's final command (UP!), what three aspects of God's eternal purposes should we have our sights set on?

PART TWO: THE IDEAL KINGDOM I

1 Chronicles 10 – 29

Introduction

1. The King and his Kingdom Chapter 10 - 12

Ed's Office Sliced/slashed Saul's Decline and Fall (1 Sam 9 – 31) Post-Saul Struggle 7 year rule in Hebron	Spliced The mighty men: moved and expanded
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The King

The Shepherd

The City

The mighty men

2. The King and God's presence Chapter 13 – 16

2 Samuel A) Philistine battle B) The ark and Uzzah C) The ark to Jerusalem (4 verses)	1 Chronicles B) The ark and Uzzah A) Philistine Battle C) The ark to Jerusalem (22 verses)
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3. The King and God's Temple

Sliced Bathsheba Ammon and Tamar Absalom	Spliced From chapter 22 – 29 the largest section of uninterrupted addition
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Conclusion

'UP!'

Personal Study

1. The King

a) Look at 1 Chronicles 10:13 - 11:9. What marks out David as God's ideal King?

b) Look at 12:18 how should God's people respond? What encouragements do you find from the different descriptions of the mighty men? 11:18/11:22/11:26f/ 12:8/ 12:38

2. God's Presence

Look at 15:12 – 15. What is the King's chief concern?

Look at 16:8 – 13. How are his people to respond?

Pause and pray using aspects of 16:8 – 36 to fuel your praise.

3. God's Place

Look at 29:1 – 5. What is the King's chief concern? With what cost?

Look at 29:9. How do his people respond?

So what would it have meant to the original readers to 'GO UP!' (2 Chronicles 36:23)

GROUP QUESTIONS

1. How have the three elements of today's study helped you understand and appreciate Jesus more?

(Look at each in turn.)

2. What responses do the three elements of today's study demand from the Chronicler's original readers? And from us? What will it look like for us to respond to Jesus in this way? (Look at each in turn).

PART TWO: THE IDEAL KINGDOM II

2 Chronicles 1 – 9

Introduction

a) Chapter 1 and 8 – 9. The Golden Age!

His wealth and prosperity

His strength and stability

The nations! (Genesis 12)

b) His primary concern: David's Temple.

1. In the Golden Age, God dwelt amongst His people

2. In the Golden Age God's people knew His steadfast love

Spliced 5:11 – 13 6:41 – 42 7:1 – 3 7:6	
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Conclusion: 'UP!'

Revelation 21:3, 22

1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:16; 2 Corinthians 6:16

Personal Study Questions

- 1) What human longings does the author tap into by stressing the coming of the nations to Solomon and Solomon's wealth, weaponry and wisdom?
- 2) Re-read 2 Chronicles 6:4 – 11. What is to be the distinct purpose of the temple?
- 3) Re-read 6:18-21 & 36-42 (note 23, 25, 27,30). What is it that will flow from the temple?
- 4) Re-read 5:11 – 13 (note 6:41-42; 7:1-3,6). What do these unique verses tell us about how the temple blessings are guaranteed?
- 5) Solomon's kingdom really did deliver 'the Golden Age'. Can you explain what made this possible?
- 6) Look up John 1:14 and 4:21-23. What is Jesus claiming when he promises to replace the temple? How does he do this?
- 7) Spend some time in prayer a) seeking forgiveness for sin b) thanking him for his presence c) praising him for the Golden Age of his new creation

For Group Discussion

In what ways did the Golden Age of Solomon's kingdom deliver on the things we all desire.

How was this made possible?

In what ways has this study helped you appreciate more what Jesus has achieved?

Why do you think the repeated (unique) phrase of 5:13b; 6:14; 6:42b; 7:3c would have been of such comfort to the original reader in 400BC? How does it comfort you?

How would this passage have motivated the original reader to 'Go up' and build the temple?

1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:16 and 2 Corinthians 6:16 tell us that we are the temple of God. How is this so? How does today's passage encourage us to give ourselves to the work of God in establishing his temple?

PART THREE: THE DIVIDED KINGDOM I

10 – 12 Rehoboam: the binary option

Spliced 11:5 – 12:8 (most of) 12:12 – 14	
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Abandon the Lord ... disaster

Humble yourself ... success

What should we seek?

13 Abijah: the futile rejection

Spliced 1 verse (1 Kings 15:6) = 1 chapter (13:1 – 22)	Sliced <i>Abiyam= Abijah</i>
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Different king – you'll never make it!

Different god – you'll never make it!

Divided people – you'll never make it!

What should we seek?

14 – 16 Asa: the costly compromise

Spliced 14:2 – 15 'we have sought', 'we rely' 15:1 – 15 'seek...but if'. 'All Judah...all their heart ...sought him ... whole desire ... rest all around' 16:7 – 10 'because you relied ...and did not rely' 16:12b 'he did not seek'
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Rejection

Reformation

Recommitment

BUT ...

What should we seek

Conclusion

Questions for personal reflection

1) Re-read 12:5-7, 12. What is the lesson to learn from Rehoboam's success? What kind of king should the Chronicler's readers seek? How should we respond?

2) Re-read 14:3 – 4, 7; 15:2, 12-15. What is the lesson to learn from Asa's success? What kind of king should the Chronicler's readers seek? How should we respond?

3) Re-read 13:11. What is the lesson to learn from Asa's success? What kind of king should the Chronicler's readers seek? How should we respond?

4) What will it look like in practise for you and me to 'humble ourselves', 'seek the Lord', and 'rely on Him'?

5) Re-read 12:1-5. What is the lesson of Rehoboam's failure? Re-read 13:8 – 10. What is the lesson from Jeroboam's failure? Re-read 16:7 – 10, 12b. What is the lesson from Asa's failure?

6) What will it look like in practise for you and me to 'abandon the Lord', 'forsake him', and 'fail to rely on him'?

Questions for group discussion

1) The issues of abandonment of God, failure to seek God, and not seeking God are very obvious. What causes Rehoboam, Jeroboam, and Asa to do this?

2) What kind of King would the Chronicler's readers have been seeking? In what ways did Jesus fulfil their hopes? What has He achieved by doing this?

3) What kind of things cause us to 'forsake', 'fail to rely', 'abandon'. Try to use examples that match the principles in the text.

4) Discuss your answers to question 4 with particular reference to your hopes and dreams for your work-place (personal ambitions, and ministry goals); to your life circumstances (hopes and dreams for yourself/family, and life goals).

PART THREE: THE DIVIDED KINGDOM II

2 Chronicles 18 – 28

Introduction

Jehoshaphat	Jehoram	Ahaziah
Athaliah	Joash (Jehoiada)	Amaziah
Uzziah	Jotham	Ahaz

The Royal Summit: when unity appears enticing

1-3 The enticing proposal

4-7 The revealing exchange

8-13 The unyielding prophet

14-27 The authoritative word

28-34 The extraordinary capitulation

The Chronicler's purpose: when unity is at a premium

Ed's Office Spliced	Sliced
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The Chronicler's point: when unity makes God angry

Conclusion

Questions for personal reflection

- 1) Re-read 17:3-9 list some of Jehoshaphat's good points. How do we see some of these in the early part of chapter 18? Why did he respond the way he did in 18:7?

- 2) Read 19:1-3. What do these verses tell us about Jehoshaphat? About God? How does 18:7 help?

- 3) Can you make any sense of Jehoshaphat's response in 18:28? What came over him? 4) Miciah is the hero. What do we learn of him?

- 4) Read 20:17. What has Jehoshaphat learned? Read 20:35 – 37. Has he learned it?

- 5) In what ways are you tempted to repeat Jehoshaphat's error: at work, at the school gate, in life?

- 6) How does this study help you appreciate Jesus more?

- 7) How do these chapters help us as we seek to 'Go up'.

Questions for group study

- 1) In what ways are we tempted to 'help the wicked and love those who hate the Lord'?

- 2) How has this study helped you to appreciate Jesus more?

- 3) What would you say is the key lesson for this study for you personally?

- 4) How does Jehoshaphat's battle briefing (20:17, 20) help?

- 5) In an age where 'being reasonable' and 'not standing apart from the herd' is so valued, what lessons are there for us as Christian groups at work?

PART FOUR: THE REUNITED KINGDOM

2 Chronicles 29 – 32

Overview

Four Kings Hezekiah 29 – 32. Manasseh 33:1- 20. Amon 33:21 – 25. Josiah 34-35

And four more Jehoahaz: Jehoiakim: Jehoiachin: Zedekiah

Sliced	Spliced
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2 Chronicles 36:23 – “UP”

HEZEKIAH Chapter 29 - 32

Spliced 29, 30, 31 expand 2 Kings 18:4	Spliced Massive reduction of Sennacherib’s invasion Significant reduction of Hezekiah’s illness
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1. Consecrate yourselves and consecrate the house of the Lord!

The summons

The Survey

The strategy

2. Return to the Lord!

The command

The Promise

Conclusion

Questions for Personal Study

Chapter 29: Consecrate Yourselves!

- 1) What is the substance of the King's command? 29:3 – 5

- 2) What is it that God's people have got wrong? 29:6 – 7

- 3) With what effect? 29:8 – 11

- 4) Re-read 29:20 – 24. What is the purpose of all this sacrifice? Why is it necessary?

- 5) What does the writer achieve by making the observation he does in 29:35 – 36?

- 6) Given that Jesus has replaced the temple and we are now his dwelling place, where does that leave us today?

Chapter 30: Turn!

- 1) Re-read 30:6 – 9. What do the couriers' have to say about the people? About God?

- 2) What does the writer achieve by telling us what he does in verse 10 – 13?

- 3) What is the impact of this Passover celebration? Read 30:25 – 27

- 4) Given that Jesus has now fulfilled the Passover sacrifice, where does that leave us today?

Group Discussion

What has been the Chronicler's desire for his reader? Look at 36:23

From today's passage, what are his readers to do when they 'Go up'?

How does what we have seen help us to understand better what Jesus has achieved?

What does this tell us about 'revival' today?