

Outline of 2 Chronicles

1-9 Solomon's Reign
10-36 Davidic Dynasty

Overview

2 Chronicles records the history of the Southern Kingdom of Judah. It covers from the reign of Solomon to the conclusion of the Babylonian exile. The Northern Kingdom is not mentioned as they worshiped false gods and refused to acknowledge the Temple in Jerusalem. The book ends with the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple.

The writer desires the reader to evaluate each generation of the past to discern why each were blessed for obedience or punished for wickedness. The book was written to encourage the returning exiles. The material selected was chosen to show God's continual grace even during times of Judgment. The theme of God returning the exiles back to the land as He promised should not be missed. The Jewish traditions and laws, known as the Mishnah, included the Chronicles to be read by the High Priest the night before Yom Kippur with the purpose of keeping him awake. Clearly the ancient Rabbis found these readings stimulating and exciting. The message is one of hope, and great expectation. The intent is to lead the children of Israel to repentance, restoration and salvation. The writer spends much time with

2 CHRONICLES

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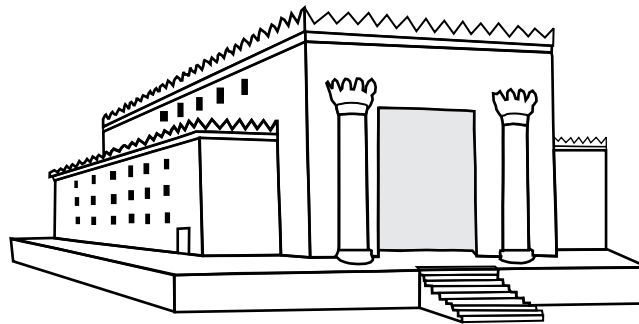
David and Solomon because it is through David that God's Kingdom will be realized (2Ch. 20:20, 22).

Like 1 Chronicles, it is written from the viewpoint of a priest. He wrote emphasizing the spiritual perspective. The book is more about teaching Godly principles than historical facts.

The Lord's mercy is declared in the last verses of the book (1Ch.36:22). Cyprus, the King of Persia said that the remnant of Israel will return to Jerusalem, "that the word of the LORD spoken by the mouth of Jeremiah might be accomplished".

The Temple

Solomon's Temple lasted for 410 years. The Temple was destroyed by King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon in 586BC.



2 Chronicles 7:14 Application

Recurring theme in its context: The Temple. As a rule, "a text without a context is a pretext." This passage is in response to


HISTORY

BOOK 14
2Ch.
2 CHRONICLES
36 CHAPTERS

Solomon's prayer during the dedication of the Temple (2Ch.6). Solomon prayed that God would honor prayers of His people

2 CHRONICLES 7:14 MISAPPLICATION			
"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." - 2 Chronicles 7:14			
ASSUMPTIONS	"My people"	"Called by my name"	"I... will heal their land"
	Americans.	Christians.	America.
	Were we not a Christian nation?	Are we not called by Christ's name?	God will heal our country.

toward "this place" (used 13 times in this prayer). God's response to Solomon used "this place" (referring to the Temple) 6 more times. The nation of Israel had a covenant (special) relationship with God. Israel was to be a theocracy. So 2 Chronicles 7:14 was for Israel a promise of punishment for disobedience and restoration for obedience. The requirements and promises here apply to the covenant people of Israel, not modern nations. God will in the future restore the literal nation of Israel to whom this promise was made.

 **CHRIST IN 2 CHRONICLES**

- The throne of David has been destroyed, but the line of David remains in Christ.
- The Temple prefigures Christ (see Mt. 12:6; Jn.2:19). In the future Christ replaces the Temple (Re.21:22).

Generation Notes

The idea of a generation often comes up in Scripture in a genealogical and prophecy context. What is used to measure a generation ranges from the full life of a man, 40 years, 70 years, etc. Another measurement would be from the birth of a man till the birth of his first son. This is generally 25 years or less. Chronicles demonstrates a selective genealogical list that highlights God's sovereignty in history. God chooses to lift up or cast down people in every generation. Those that respond favorably God can use. The fact that the author wrote 9 chapters worth of genealogies (1Ch. 1-9) shows their importance to the purpose of the book. They show that the promises and purposes of God continue. They show the detail of God's election, and the extent of His grace.

2 Chronicles 7:14

For us today as modern nation-states such as the US, England, or even the modern political state of Israel, do not have the same covenant relationship with God as OT Israel had. None of these are a theocracy.

Plus none as a nation meets the qualifications as "God's people." The promises here may apply to us as God's people, not to a nation as a whole. However, The Temple is prophetic of Christ (Jn.2:21, temple of His body; Mt.7:2-27, house on the rock; 16:18, on this rock I will build my church). Prayer once made in the earthy temple are now made to Christ.