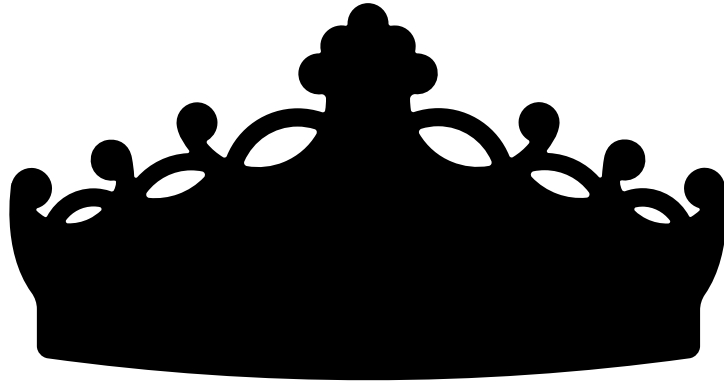


The Chronicles



Self-Study Workbook by Nathan Combs

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Chronicles Introduction

Although 1 & 2 Chronicles sits in the middle of our modern Old Testaments, Chronicles (for it was originally one united work) is actually the last book of the Hebrew Bible. This is fitting, since it retells the entire scope of Biblical history from creation to the Jewish return from Babylonian exile. The first word of the book is “Adam” and the last verses record the decree of the Persian king, Cyrus. The Hebrew name for the book is simply: “Events of the days.” Whoever composed this book lived many years after the exiles first began to return. David’s genealogy in 1 Chronicles 3 records six generations past the time of Zerubbabel’s return in the 530’s B.C. Therefore, Chronicles was probably written somewhere between 450-425 B.C.

The timing of the book helps us identify its purpose. At this point in their history, the Jews needed help refocusing their spiritual priorities. After laying the temple foundations in 536 B.C., the construction site lay dormant for decades before its eventual completion at the urging of the prophets Haggai and Zechariah. In subsequent decades, the Jews failed to worship at the temple with purity and reverence, a problem the prophet Malachi forcefully addressed. Foreigners continued to rule over God’s people, even though they now lived in their own land. David’s descendants still lived, but the king’s throne sat empty. In a time of moral laxity and political turmoil in Judah, the Chronicler wrote this book in response to questions like: “Are we still the people of God?” “Has God ended his covenant with us?” “Are his promises about the Messiah and a new temple still coming true?” The message of the entire book centers on 1 Chronicles 17.10-14, where God promises David that a son of his would rule forever and build a house for God. In light of this dual promise, the Chronicler retells the stories of David and Judah’s kings in a way that models the greater king who was coming to fulfill everything foretold. In the words of The Bible Project, Chronicles “reshapes the stories of Israel’s past to rekindle hope for the future.”

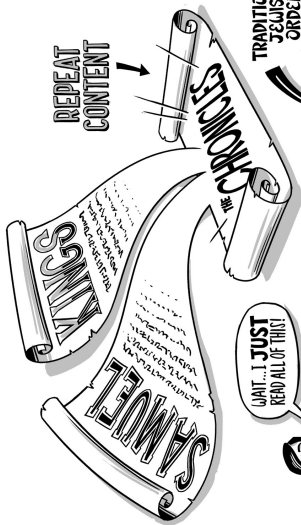
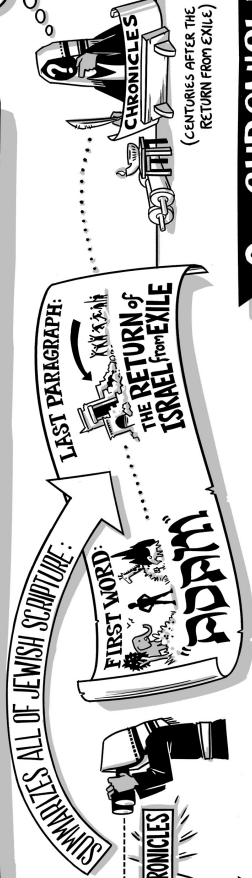
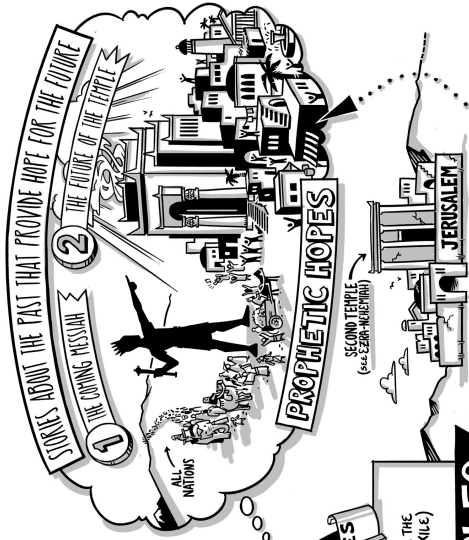
Thus, Chronicles is not a repetitive younger brother to the other historical books. It does not merely exist to supplement the information in Samuel and Kings. Chronicles tells a unique story and deserves to be studied in its own right because, like all other Biblical books, it has the ability to train and equip its readers for every good work (2 Timothy 3.16-17). As Christians eagerly awaiting the future coming of David’s Son, this book is relevant to us modern disciples, not just Old Testament Jews.

Outline of Chronicles (Taken from ESV Study Bible)

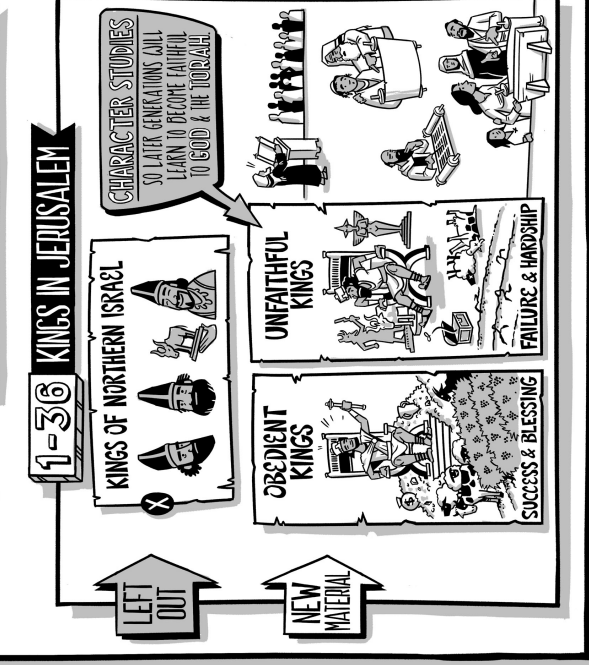
- I. A Genealogical Presentation of the Tribes of Israel (1 Chron. 1:1–9:44)
 - A. Adam to Esau (1:1–54)
 - B. The sons of Israel (2:1–2)
 - C. The tribe of Judah (2:3–4:23)
 - D. The tribe of Simeon (4:24–43)
 - E. The Transjordanian tribes (5:1–26)
 - F. The tribe of Levi (6:1–81)
 - G. Other northern tribes (7:1–40)
 - H. The tribe of Benjamin (8:1–40)
 - I. The resettlement of Jerusalem (9:1–34)
 - J. The genealogy of Saul (9:35–44)
- II. The United Kingdom of David and Solomon (1 Chron. 10:1–2 Chron. 9:31)
 - A. David's rise to power over Israel (1 Chron. 10:1–12:40)
 - B. David's transfer of the ark of the covenant to Jerusalem (13:1–16:43)
 - C. The dynastic promise to David (17:1–27)
 - D. David's wars (18:1–20:8)
 - E. David's census and preparation for the temple (21:1–29:30)
 - F. Solomon's temple preparations (2 Chron. 1:1–2:18)
 - G. Solomon's building of the temple (3:1–5:1)
 - H. The dedication of the temple (5:2–7:22)
 - I. Solomon's other accomplishments (8:1–16)
 - J. Solomon's international relations and renown (8:17–9:31)
- III. The Kingdom of Judah down to the Exile (2 Chron. 10:1–36:23)
 - A. Rehoboam (10:1–12:16)
 - B. Abijah (13:1–14:1)
 - C. Asa (14:2–16:14)
 - D. Jehoshaphat (17:1–21:1)
 - E. Jehoram and Ahaziah (21:2–22:12)
 - F. Joash (23:1–24:27)
 - G. Amaziah (25:1–28)
 - H. Uzziah (26:1–23)
 - I. Jotham (27:1–9)
 - J. Ahaz (28:1–27)
 - K. Hezekiah (29:1–32:33)
 - L. Manasseh (33:1–20)
 - M. Amon (33:21–25)
 - N. Josiah (34:1–35:27)
 - O. The last four kings (36:1–21)
 - P. Restoration (36:22–23)

THE CHRONICLES

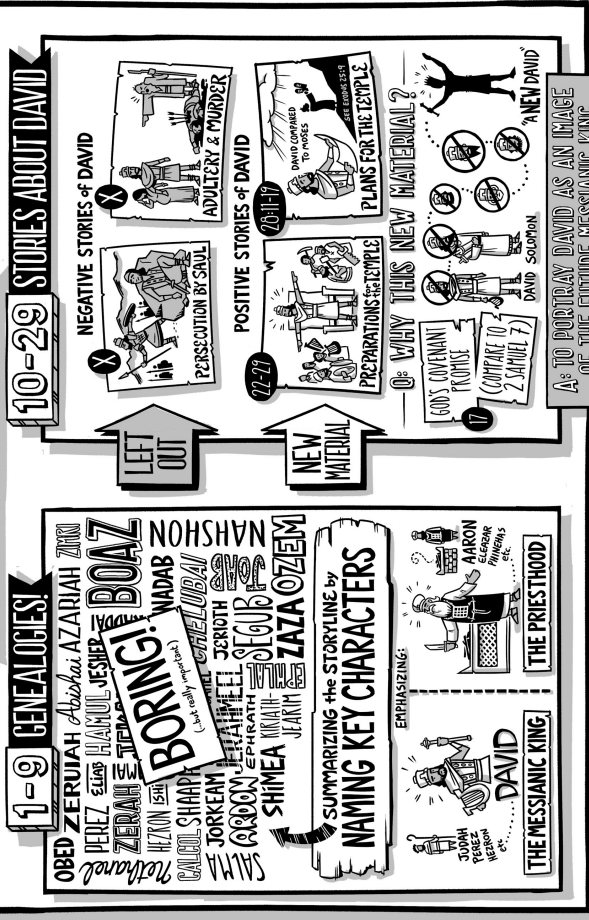
A STORY IN SEARCH OF AN ENDING



2ND CHRONICLES



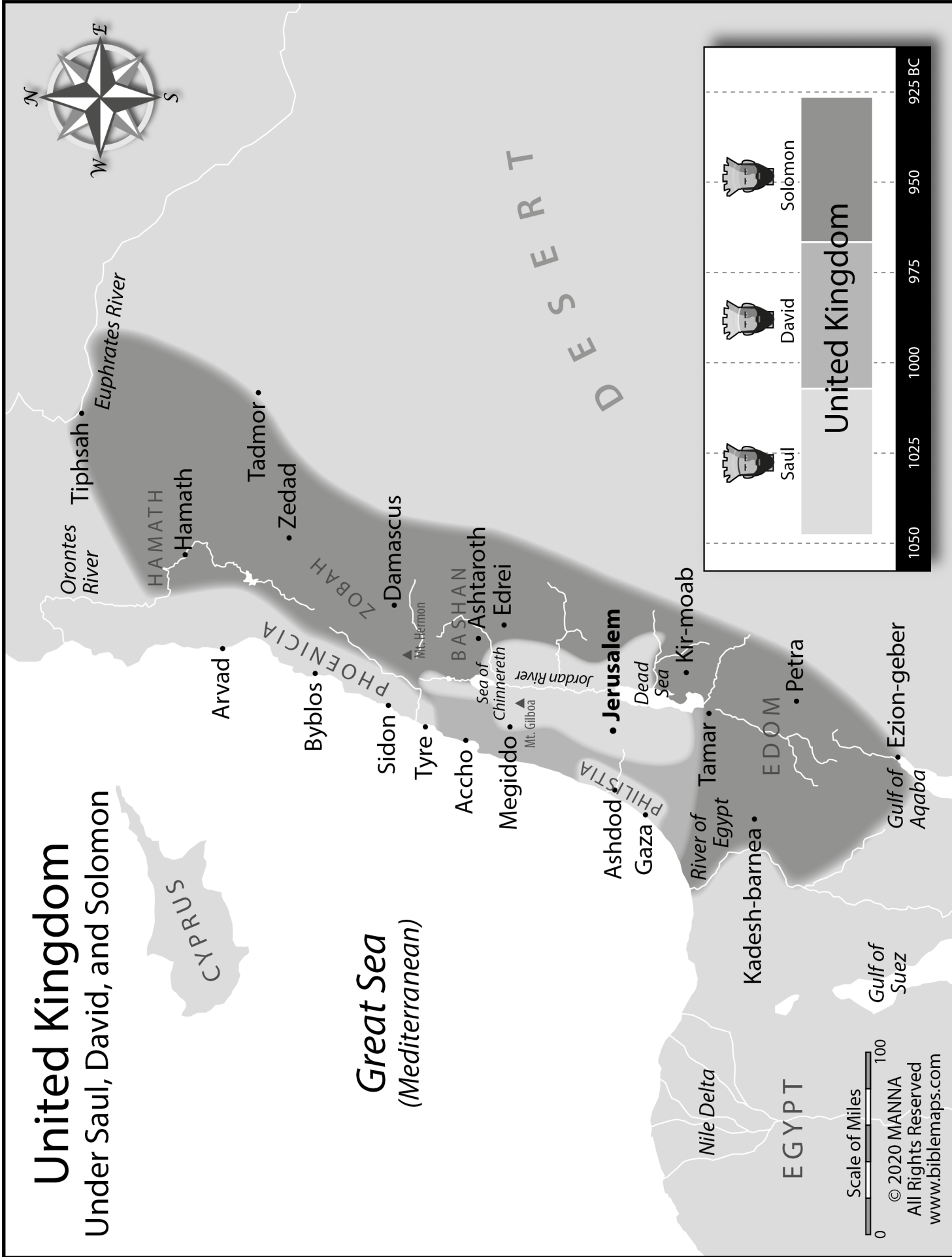
1ST CHRONICLES



created by
The Bible Project

United Kingdom

Under Saul, David, and Solomon

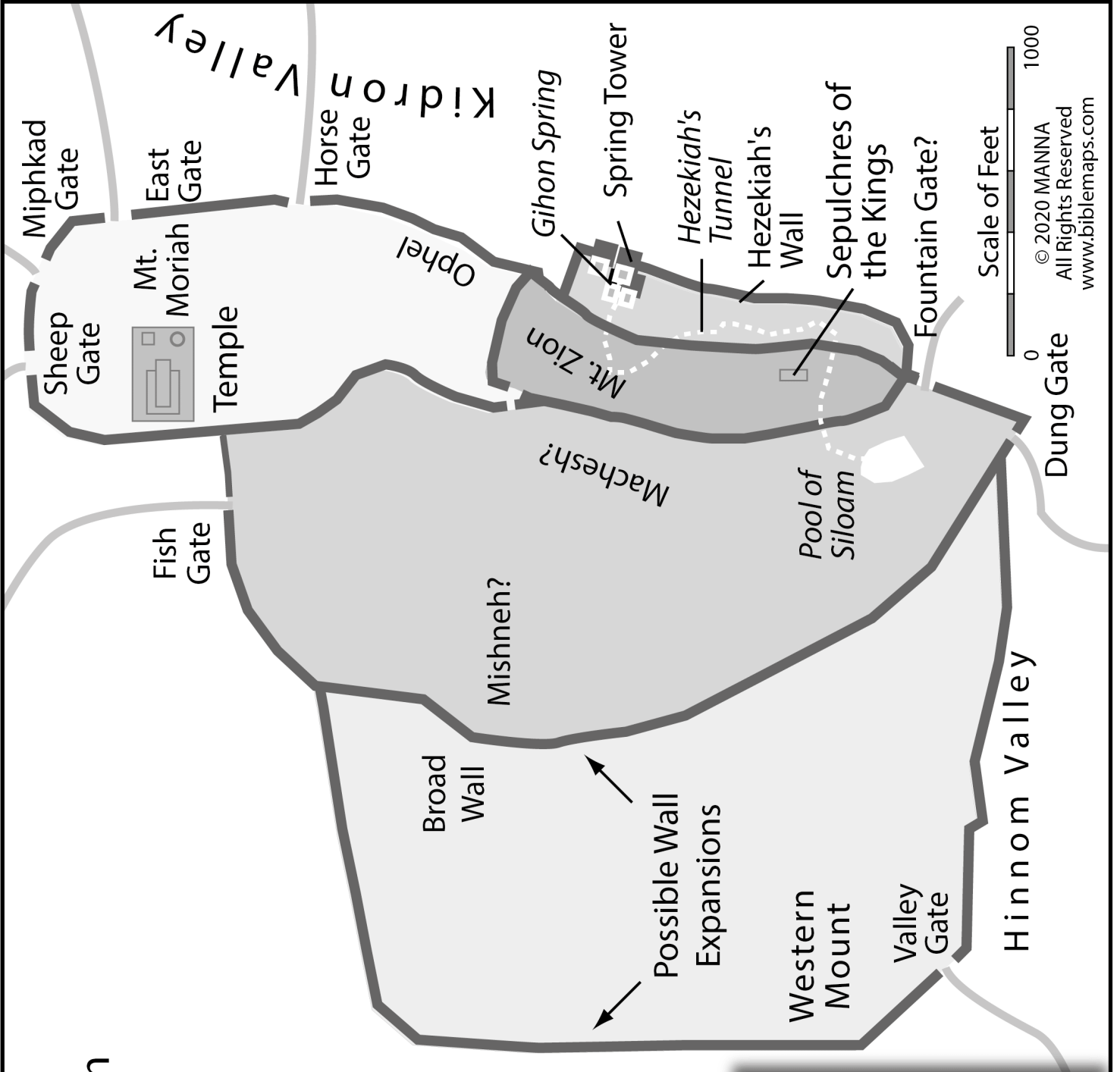


Jerusalem

Rebuilt by Nehemiah
circa 440 B.C.

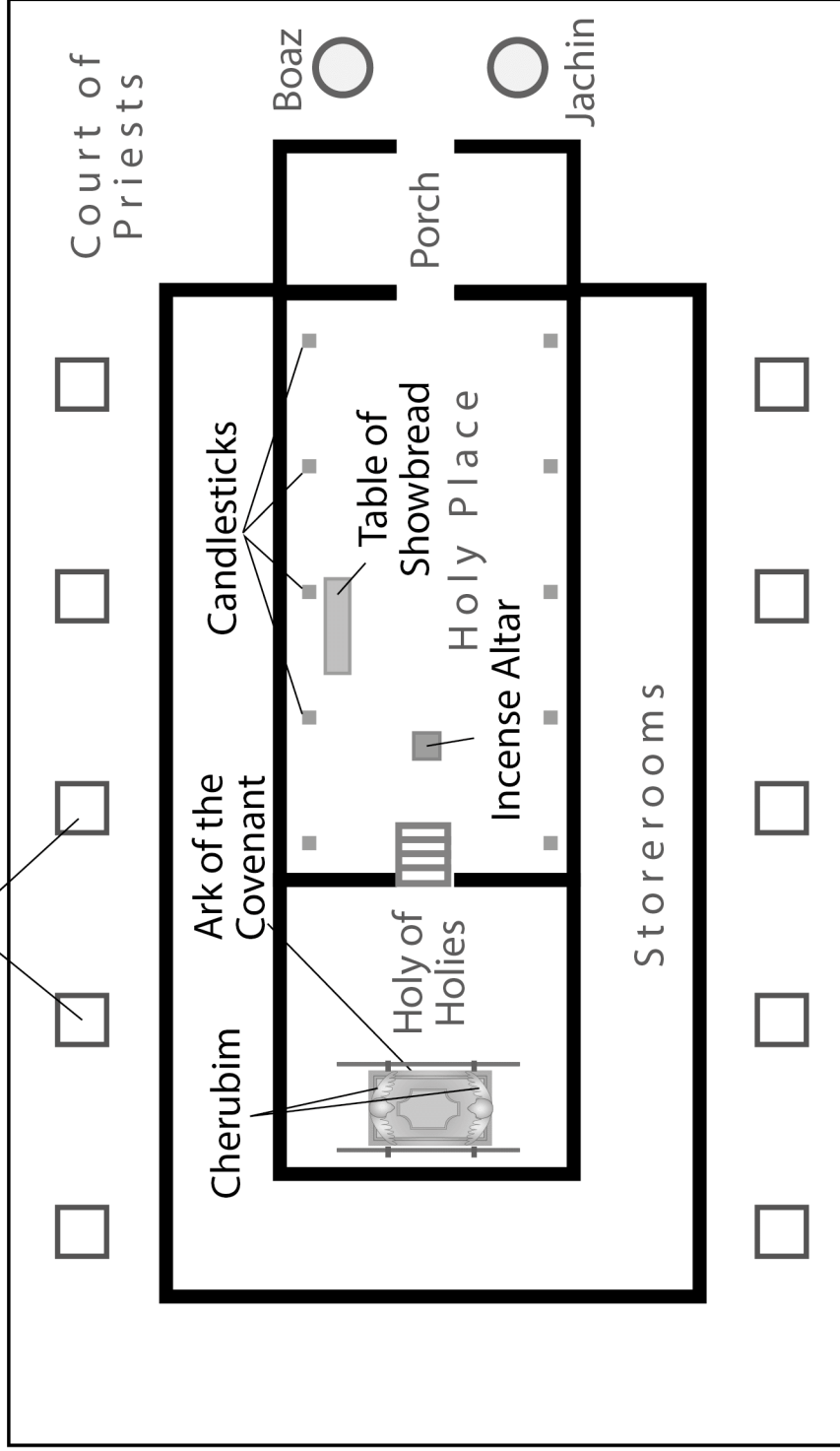


- City of David
- Solomon Additions
- Hezekiah Additions
- Hasmonean Additions

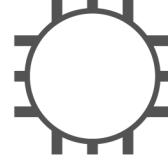


Solomon's Temple

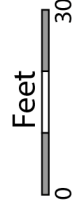
Lavers



Altar



Bronze Sea



Court of Israelites

The Genealogies (Part 1)

1 Chronicles 1-9

1. Read through the first nine chapters. Why are they filled with genealogies? Why did God provide the returned exiles with this record?

2. Notice that the Chronicler begins his record with Adam and concentrates on Noah and his sons before focusing on Abraham and his descendants. What is God defining in this first part of chapter 1?

3. Fascinatingly, we're told about the kings of Edom who reigned before any of the Israelite kings (1.43-54). Why is the Chronicler drawing attention to this record? Hint: look for a big difference between this record and the rest of the book's emphasis on Judah's kings.

4. Judah is not the firstborn of his family (he's the fourth son!), yet his genealogy is mentioned first and in greater depth than the other tribes. What are some reasons for this?

5. Notice the references to Er (2.3) and Achan (2.7) in the family of Judah. Why does the Chronicler make sure that we're reminded of their sins?

The Genealogies (Part 2)

1 Chronicles 1-9

1. Why is it surprising that Simeon is listed here amongst the tribes (see Joshua 19.1-9 and Judges 1.2-3 - the last time Simeon is mentioned before Chronicles)? How does Simeon's addition fit one of the purposes of Chronicles?

2. At the time Chronicles was compiled, the northern tribes have been scattered by the Assyrians (722 B.C.) and a remnant of Judah is living in the land. Why is the Chronicler recording the descendants of tribes from Reuben, Gad, etc.?

3. What is the contrast between the descendants of Gad (5.18-22) and Manasseh (5.25-26)? What is the point to the returned exiles (and us)?

4. Why does God devote so much space to the Levite tribe in chapter 6? How does this genealogy differ from the records of the other tribes?

5. Notice what is said about Ephraim and his family (7.20-29). Why are the exiles told about these details?

6. What points are brought out in the text about why Judah fell and how the return happened (9.1-3)?

The Ark Enters Jerusalem

1 Chronicles 13-16

1. Why did God kill Uzzah during the ark's transportation? What were the original instructions in the law of Moses about how to do it (Numbers 4.15, 7.6-8). What principles do we take from this whole event?

2. What is the message for the returned exiles from chapter 13 and what are principles we can use?

3. Why are we told about David's palace, wives, and children at the beginning of chapter 14?

4. How does chapter 13 contrast with the defeat of the Philistines in chapter 14 (Perez-uzza vs. Baal-perazim)?

5. What principles do we learn from the way David and the Israelites correct their mistakes in chapter 15?

David's Covenant and Wars
1 Chronicles 17-20

1. What was relevant to the returned exiles in God's unexpected revelation to David (17.4-14)? What do we learn about God from this wonderful text?

2. What does David's prayer in 17.16-27 say about his character? Why does he consider God worthy of praise?

3. What is the point of chapter 18? Why are we told about all these battles and treasure?

4. Notice that the Ammonite conflict is given much more space than the other battles. How did the Ammonites act foolishly, leading to the downfall of their nation? What do we learn from this?

5. Why are we given a record of several wars with the Philistines (20.4-8)? What's the point of this?

David's Sin
1 Chronicles 21

1. Why is this event recorded in Chronicles as David's great sin and the story of Bathsheba is not mentioned?

2. 2 Samuel 24.1 says "the anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel, and he incited David against them." How do we reconcile this with 1 Chronicles 21.1? Why the difference in the records?

3. What's so unusual about how God chose to handle David's sin?

4. What lessons do we learn here about sin and how we should respond to it when we realize what we've done?

5. What's significant about the location of the altar David built at the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite?

David Charges Israel and His Son 1 Chronicles 28-29

1. As David opens his address to all the leadership of Israel in vss. 1-8, what does he want them all to understand about God, the future temple, and Solomon?

2. In the next part of the chapter, David turns to Solomon in front of everyone and addresses him personally. Look carefully at vss. 9-10 and 20-21. What does this godly father want his son to do?

3. What does David give Solomon in vss. 11-19? What is the critical message of that section?

4. What do we learn about motivating others by seeing what David does in 29.1-9?

5. In David's prayer (29.10-19), how does he praise God and what does he ask Him to do?

Solomon Prepares to Lead

2 Chronicles 1-2

1. What does the Chronicler emphasize about the very beginning of Solomon's reign (vss. 1-6) that should be imitated by his original readers (and us)?

2. What do we learn from the way Solomon responds to the Lord's invitation to ask him for a gift?

3. From Solomon's message to the King of Tyre, what do we learn about the temple's purpose? What role would it serve? How do we apply this to ourselves?

4. What does King Hiram's do in his response to Solomon in vss. 11-12? How does this fit into God's long-term plan for his true temple (us!)?

5. What are some interesting details that you notice about Hiram-abi? What is his background and what is he capable of? Who does this remind you of (see 1.5)?

Temple Building

2 Chronicles 3-5

1. What's significant about the location of the temple at "Mt. Moriah" in 3.1? Also notice Gen. 22.2.

2. Carefully notice the details of the temple in 3.5-14. What do these details communicate?

3. It's interesting that the two pillars at the front of the temple had names: Jachin ("he establishes") and Boaz ("in him is strength"). What message does this send?

4. Why would the Chronicler provide a detailed list of the temple furnishings in chapter 4?

5. Why are we told about the meager contents of the ark of the covenant in 5.10? What was originally in the ark (see Hebrews 9.4). What does that imply about the covenant of Moses?

Temple Dedication 2 Chronicles 6-7

1. In 6.1-11, Solomon blesses the people. What does he draw attention to about the Lord and his work?

2. Solomon prays before the temple in 6.12-42. What does he emphasize to God about this new building and the people?

3. What's significant about the Lord's response to his prayer in 7.1-2? What do we learn about worship from the people's response in the next verse?

4. How do the people worship God in 7.4-10? What is the result of this magnificent ceremony?

5. In 7.11-22, God responds to Solomon's prayer. What did he emphasize to the king? What is the message to the original readers of Chronicles?

Solomon's Reign 2 Chronicles 8-9

1. Why are we told about Solomon's cities, his territorial expansion, and his forced laborers in 8.1-10?
2. What are the messages of 8.11-18, in which we're told about Pharaoh's daughter, the completion of the temple and the ships of gold?
3. Why are we told about the Queen of Sheba's trip to Jerusalem? How does Jesus use her story (Luke 11.31)?
4. Why are we told about Solomon's gold supply, his throne, drinking vessels, etc, in the second half of chapter 9?

Rehoboam 2 Chronicles 10-12

1. What caused the division of Israel in chapter 10? What do we learn from the example of Rehoboam here?

2. Why didn't Rehoboam go to war against the rebellious tribes? What's the lesson for us here?

3. What point is made about Rehoboam in 11.5-23? Why are we told about his cities and the godly refugees from the northern tribes?

4. What do we learn by looking at Rehoboam's family? See 11.18-23, 12.13-14.

5. Notice how much space the Chronicler devotes to the narrative of Shishak's attack of Jerusalem in chapter 12. What are the messages here for the original readers (and us)?

Abijah
2 Chronicles 13

1. How was Abijah at a disadvantage when he came into the conflict with Jeroboam?

2. What points does Abijah make in his courageous address to the opposing army?

3. How does this chapter remind us of Psalm 2?

4. How did the battle go for Judah and what does the Chronicler identify as the reason for the result?

5. What happened to Jeroboam and Israel after the battle was over?

Jehoshaphat
2 Chronicles 17-20

1. We're told that the Lord was with Jehoshaphat (17.3). Why? How did that affect his reign (looking at 17.1-6)?

2. What did Jehoshaphat do to strengthen his country in 17.7-19?

3. How did the attitudes of Jehoshaphat and Ahab differ from one another in chapter 18? What happened to each of them as a result of their decisions? What is the message to the original readers and us?

4. After Jehu's message of judgment, what did Jehoshaphat do to reform the country in chapter 19?

5. Jehoshaphat and Judah "seek the Lord" when they learn of the massive invading army in chapter 20. How does Jehoshaphat's prayer (20.6-12) reflect his faith?

Joash
2 Chronicles 23-24

1. How did Jehoiada remove Athaliah and place a 7 yr. old on the throne of David? Why did he take this dramatic step?

2. Describe the various reforms Jehoida ushered into Judah. What do we learn about the process of bringing reforms to God's people?

3. How did Joash go about repairing the temple (24.4-14)? What resulted from this?

4. How could Joash murder the son of the man who raised him? What steps led to this wicked deed?

5. How did Joash's final days reflect his (and his nation's) spiritual condition?

Jotham and Ahaz
2 Chronicles 27-28

1. What kind of king was Jotham? How did he improve on the reign of his father? What can we learn from his relatively short time on David's throne?

2. How did Ahaz depart from the Lord (27.1-4)? How did he explicitly violate the Law of Moses (Deuteronomy 18.9-10)? What do we learn from studying his abominations?

3. After God responds to Ahaz's sins by defeating him in battle, how does He show His mercy to Judah? What do we learn by looking at the commendable actions of the northern Israelites?

4. How does the final record about Ahaz (28.16-25) contrast with the response of Ephraim to the Lord's words? How should we apply this to ourselves?

The Last Kings and the Restoration

2 Chronicles 36

1. Note the actions and events during the reigns of the last four kings of Judah. Do you notice any patterns?
2. What lessons do we learn from the summary statement in 36.15-16?
3. Considering the enormous significance of the temple in Chronicles, carefully notice the record of its' destruction (36.17-21). What did it mean for the original readers to read this account?
4. Why does the book of Chronicles end with the words of Cyrus in 36.23-24? What is the message here?