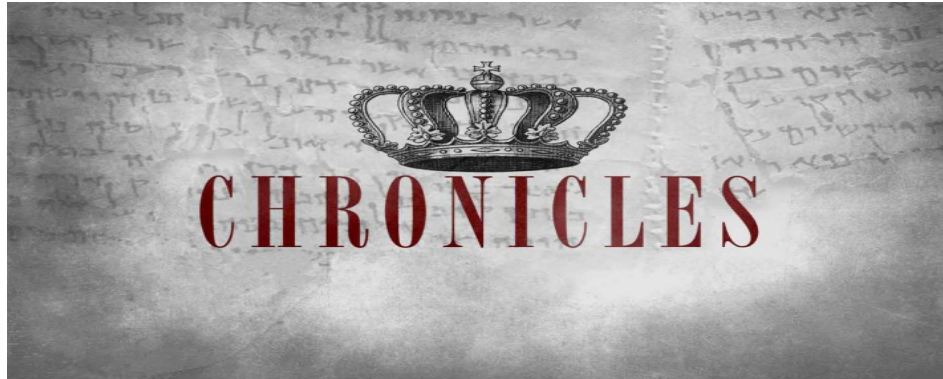


(100) Adult Sunday School Class  
Jonah, chpts. 1-7  
1-2 Chronicles, pp. 1-14



## Part 1 of 4 – Introduction

1-2 Chronicles, like 1-2 Samuel and 1-2 Kings, was also originally written as one book. It was later split into two books simply because when it was translated into Greek (the Septuagint) required more space than Hebrew and the entire content could no longer fit on one scroll. Simple pragmatics...

1-2 Chronicles basically retell the same history of Israel that was covered in 1-2 Samuel and 1-2 Kings but with a different emphasis and a different theological purpose. Unlike 1-2 Kings, the Chronicler (author unknown but Jewish tradition credits Ezra) does not focus on Israel's failure and resulting judgment (exile) but has a forward-looking orientation.

Two major themes of 1-2 Chronicles are God's divine Covenant with David, and the construction of the Temple and proper worship. The former explains why the author ignores the many kings of the northern kingdom (Israel), for they are all non-Davidic, instead the focus is on the line of David, the kings who ruled over Judah. Also, since the author tries to focus on the positive aspects of the Davidic monarchy, he skips over many of the terrible sins and failures of the kings, including David (Bathsheba affair) and Solomon (foreign wives and idol worship). *Side note... the Septuagint titled this book, "Things left out," implying that this book contains additional information not included in 1-2 Samuel and 1-2 Kings.*

Most scholars believe 1-2 Chronicles was written about 400 BC. This is well after the terrible destruction of Jerusalem and the exile to Babylon in 587 BC. By 400 BC, several groups of exiles had returned to Jerusalem and the rebuilt nation is struggling to move forward while still under Persian domination (empire that defeated the Babylonians). *More in two weeks...*