

1 and 2 Chronicles
1 Chronicles 23:2-6; 28:6-9; 2 Chronicles 7:1-3; 30:1-9
April 19, 2023

I. Introduction

II. Thought to be a second-class book

- A. Not part of lectionary
- B. Starts with genealogies
- C. Rehashes 2 Samuel-2 Kings
- D. Most people don't read

III. Major sections

- A. 1 Chr. 1-9: Genealogies
- B. 1 Chr. 9-2 Chron 9: David and Solomon
- C. 2 Chr. 10-28: Divided kingdom, mostly Judah
- D. 2 Chr. 29-32: Restored kingdom under Hezekiah
- E. 2 Chr 35-36: Fall and exile

IV. Dating: 4th century BC, later perspective

- A. Initial genealogies extend to 4th century BC
- B. Written after Ezra (2 Chr. 36:22-23 vs. Ez. 1:1-2)
- C. Many Levite personnel in temple (1 Chr. 9:14)

V. Themes

- A. Different from Samuel and Kings by inclusion and exclusion
 - 1. Inclusions
 - 2. Exclusions
- B. Growth of the Levites' roles (1 Chr. 23:2-6)
- C. Forever (1 Chr. 28:6-9; 27 times in Chr., 16 times to David and temple)
- D. *Hesed*, steadfast love (2 Chr. 7:1-3; 6 times)
- E. Joy in regular worship (2 Chr. 30:1-9)
- F. Inclusiveness of the people of God (2 Chr. 30:10-13)
- G. Homily before history

VI. Applications

- A. Find your story/models in the story of the Bible
- B. Take the long view—forever
- C. Find joy in worship
- D. Be inclusive

VII. What else is applicable for us?

VIII. LET US PRAY!

Next time: May 3?

1 Chronicles 23:2-6

David assembled all the leaders of Israel and the priests and the Levites. ³ The Levites, thirty years old and up, were counted, and the total head count of men was thirty-eight thousand. ⁴ “Twenty-four thousand of these,” David said, “shall have charge of the work in the house of the LORD, six thousand shall be officers and judges, ⁵ four thousand gatekeepers, and four thousand shall offer praises to the LORD with the instruments that I have made for praise.” ⁶ And David organized them in divisions corresponding to the sons of Levi: Gershon, Kohath, and Merari.

1 Chronicles 28:6-9

⁶ He said to me, ‘It is your son Solomon who shall build my house and my courts, for I have chosen him to be a son to me, and I will be a father to him. ⁷ I will establish his kingdom **forever**, if he continues resolute in keeping my commandments and my ordinances, as he is today.’ ⁸ Now therefore in the sight of all Israel, the assembly of the LORD, and in the hearing of our God, observe and search out all the commandments of the LORD your God, that you may possess this good land and leave it for an inheritance to your children after you **forever**. And you, my son Solomon, know the God of your father, and serve him with single mind and willing heart, for the LORD searches every mind and understands every plan and thought. If you seek him, he will be found by you, but if you forsake him, he will abandon you **forever**.

2 Chronicles 7:1-3

When Solomon had ended his prayer, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and the glory of the LORD filled the temple. ² The priests could not enter the house of the LORD because the glory of the LORD filled the LORD’s house. ³ When all the people of Israel saw the fire come down and the glory of the LORD on the temple, they bowed down on the pavement with their faces to the ground and worshiped and gave thanks to the LORD, saying, “For he is good, for his **steadfast love** endures forever.”

2 Chronicles 30:1-9

Hezekiah sent word to all Israel and Judah and wrote letters also to Ephraim and Manasseh, that they should come to the house of the LORD at Jerusalem, to keep the Passover to the LORD the God of Israel. ² For the king and his officials and all the assembly in Jerusalem had taken counsel to keep the Passover in the second month ³ (for they could not keep it at its proper time because the priests had not sanctified themselves in sufficient number, nor had the people assembled in Jerusalem). ⁴ The plan seemed right to the king and all the assembly. ⁵ So they decreed to make a proclamation throughout all Israel, from Beer-sheba to Dan, that the people should come and keep the Passover to the LORD the God of Israel, at Jerusalem, for they had not kept it in great numbers as prescribed. ⁶ So couriers went throughout all Israel and Judah with letters from the king and his officials, as the king had commanded, saying, “O people of Israel, return to the LORD, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, so that he may turn again to the remnant of you who have escaped from the hand of the kings of Assyria. ⁷ Do not be like your ancestors and your kindred, who were faithless to the LORD God of their ancestors, so that he made them a desolation, as you see. ⁸ Do not now be stiff-necked as your ancestors were, but yield yourselves to the LORD and come to his sanctuary, which he has sanctified forever, and serve the LORD your God, so that his fierce anger may turn away from you. ⁹ For as you return to the LORD, your kindred and your children will find compassion with their captors and return to this land. For the LORD your God is gracious and merciful and will not turn away his face from you, if you return to him.”