



## 1 Chronicles: God of Praise

**Memory Verse:** 1 Chronicles 29:10-13 "David praised the Lord in the presence of the whole assembly, saying, 'Praise be to you, Lord, the God of our father Israel, from everlasting to everlasting. Yours, Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, Lord, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all. Wealth and honor come from you; you are the ruler of all things. In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all. Now, our God, we give you thanks, and praise your glorious name.' "

### Background

The book of 1 Chronicles is the 13th book in the Bible and the 8th book of history in the Old Testament. First and Second Chronicles were originally one book but were separated in the Greek Septuagint. The Hebrew title for this book is *Dibere Hayyamim*, which means "The Words (accounts, events) of the Days." While the book of Chronicles has no identified author, Jewish tradition suggests that Ezra the priest wrote Chronicles in addition to the book of Ezra. Indeed, Chronicles has many similarities to the book of Ezra and the last few lines of 2 Chronicles are repeated almost verbatim in the beginning of Ezra.

First Chronicles was written between 450 to 430 BC when a small remnant of Jews had returned to Jerusalem following their captivity and exile by the Babylonians. Written to the returning remnant, the time period covered in the book is the same as that found in 2 Samuel and 1 Kings chronicling the reign of King David although told from a different perspective. The first nine chapters consist of genealogies from Adam to David; the tenth chapter covers King Saul, while the rest of 1 Chronicles concentrates on King David's reign over the united kingdoms of Israel and Judah including some events not mentioned in 2 Samuel or 1 Kings and omitting others that were.

### The Short Story

The royal lineage and reign of David are detailed and discussed.

### What's the Big Idea?

While 1 and 2 Chronicles retells the history of 2 Samuel through 2 Kings, it is told from a much different perspective. The history in Samuel and Kings focused more on the political history of the monarchies told from a prophetic and moral viewpoint, describing the sins of the people which led to their captivity and exile. Chronicles is written after that exile to the returning Remnant and focuses more on the religious history of Israel told from a priestly and spiritual perspective. In 1 Chronicles, David's devotion to God is emphasized as seen in properly moving the ark of the covenant back to Jerusalem, his desire to build the temple for God, and all of his preparations for the building of this temple including his purchase of land designated as the temple's future site. Proper worship of the Lord, the Law, and the blessings that come from obedience to it are also highlighted in 1 Chronicles.

### So What? Why is this book so important? What was God's purpose for the book?

The Jewish Remnant returning to Jerusalem is reminded and encouraged in 1 Chronicles of their true spiritual heritage and foundation. They are the chosen people of God in covenant relationship with Him and He is faithful. Even though the temple built by Solomon had been destroyed, God was going to enable them to rebuild. Even though the throne of David was gone, the lineage of David still stood and the Israelites could look forward to the promise of a future King from David's line who would reign forever. God is faithful to His people and He keeps His promises. In 1 Chronicles 29:11, we see David praising the Lord saying "*Yours, Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, Lord, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all.*" God is worthy of praise. First Chronicles was an encouragement to the Jewish Remnant of their rich spiritual heritage and relationship with a God so amazing and praiseworthy. May it also be encouragement and reminder to us of how wonderful it is to worship a God who is great, powerful, glorious, majestic, and full of splendor. God is truly worthy of our praise.

*\*Material taken from various sources.*

## Teaching Text

1 Chronicles 16:1-36, “They brought the ark of God and set it inside the tent that David had pitched for it, and they presented burnt offerings and fellowship offerings before God. After David had finished sacrificing the burnt offerings and fellowship offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the LORD. Then he gave a loaf of bread, a cake of dates and a cake of raisins to each Israelite man and woman. He appointed some of the Levites to minister before the ark of the LORD, to extol, thank, and praise the LORD, the God of Israel: Asaph was the chief, and next to him in rank were Zechariah, then Jaaziel, Shemiramoth, Jehiel, Mattithiah, Eliab, Benaiah, Obed-Edom and Jeiel. They were to play the lyres and harps, Asaph was to sound the cymbals, and Benaiah and Jahaziel the priests were to blow the trumpets regularly before the ark of the covenant of God.

## Sermon-Based Discussion Questions

- What concern do you have for the American church? What seems to be missing?
- Why should the focus of the church be vertical instead of horizontal?
- What is the difference between the tabernacle of Moses and David?
- What does it mean to “...before the ark of the Lord, to exalt, thank, and praise the Lord?”
- What are we to remember? What are we to declare?

## Practical Application

- What can you/we do to make a greater impact on our culture?
- Describe what it feels like when you are captivated by the glory of God in a moment of worship.
- When and where could you participate in giving the Lord more praise?
- Where do you need to remind yourself of all the good things God has done for you?
- Why is it so hard to actually engage the Lord in praise?
- Where do you need to show more thanks to God in your life?

## Hitting the Highpoints

- 1 Chron. 11:1-2, “You will shepherd my people Israel, and you will become their ruler.”
- 1 Chron. 13:7-14, “David was afraid of God and asked, “How can I ever bring the ark of God to me?”
- 1 Chron. 15:1-3, “No one but the Levites may carry the ark of God, because the Lord chose them...”
- 1 Chron. 16:7-13, “Give praise to the Lord... make known among the nations what he has done.”
- 1 Chron. 16:27-28, “Give praise to the Lord, proclaim his name...”
- 1 Chron. 17:16-19, “Who am I, Lord God, and what is my family, that you have brought me this far?”
- 1 Chron. 29:6-13, “The people rejoiced at the willing response of their leaders...”

## Bonus Features

We often see in the lives and choices of the people of Israel and their kings a parallel to our own lives as we try to follow the Lord. We have seasons where our hearts are burning with passion for God, and seasons where we might wonder if we even know Him (as would those watching us!). In the end our hope in the one faithful and true King, Jesus. Through our faith and trust in Him our wandering hearts are redeemed. Revelation 1:5+6 says “...Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father—to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.”

## Personal Takeaways and Notes