

~ Have you ever actually read the genealogies in first Chronicles? Did you find them exciting and thrilling to your heart? Most people find these historical books very uninteresting; and they usually skip right over these sections of Scripture without a second look. Well, I don't find them thrilling, either - but we're not going to neglect them entirely. We will examine three universal spiritual facts of truth concerning mankind in these first nine chapters of our first report from the first book of Chronicles.

Our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God came down from the dizzying mountaintops of doctrine to the city streets of Rome in our previous report; and in this leg of our expedition, we leave the Roman roads to find ourselves in the middle of a dry, dusty and deadly desert! I am personally delighted Samuel and Kings received much more readership than it did in our first safari; but it was also much more than Romans in this second safari; about which I am not encouraged.

Anyways, Chronicles was likely written by Ezra during the Babylonian captivity. It may have been a compilation assembled by Ezra; comprised of the diaries and journals of the priests and prophets. These two books of Chronicles were originally one book that also included Ezra and Nehemiah; which also lends support to an authorship by Ezra. There is a very definite similarity in the Hebrew writings of all four books. Chronicles may be considered the least interesting of all the books in the entire Bible; but I, personally, find this record extremely interesting and very important to the overall Word of God. Even so, we're going to move through this book much more rapidly than we have any book before.

Chronicles and Kings are very similar in content in many ways. Many treat them as "*cabbages and kings*;" and some simply consider Chronicles a duplication of Kings because they cover the same historical ground from Saul to Zedekiah! Well, as we will see, they are *NOT* the same. Greek translators gave Chronicles the subtitle of "*Things Omitted*." That's partially

true, but it doesn't cover the entire spectrum of this book; therefore, it isn't quite adequate because there is a whole lot more here than that which does not occur in the other historical books.

This will be another instance of the law of recurrence – or the law of recapitulation; which we called attention to way back when we began considering Genesis chapter two. There, the second chapter goes back over the entire creation but lifts out and focuses on the creation of man. That's pretty important because we belong to that race; and that race will also be emphasized here. We also have something similar to that which we learned in Deuteronomy. Most people assume Deuteronomy is a repetition of the giving of the law in Exodus; and Deuteronomy means "*second law*," by the way. As we saw then, it was not repetition, but the interpretation of the light of the law after the nation Israel had forty years of experience with it in the wilderness. Some new laws and precepts were added, and deeper interpretations were given. Others were expounded on.

Examples are that David is the subject and emphasis of first Chronicles; and the house of David will be prominent in second Chronicles. The history of Judah is all-important in Chronicles. Israel's history after the division of the kingdom is practically ignored. David's sin is not even *mentioned* here because when God "*remembers no more*," friends – *He remembers no more!* When God says He removed our sins as far as the east is from the west, well, I can't even begin to explain that distance. I can tell you it is so far that even God won't bring it back together again!

The temple in Jerusalem is prominent in Chronicles; where the history of the nation Israel was the theme of Kings. In Kings, the history was given from the throne of Israel; here, in Chronicles, that same history is given from the altar of the temple in Jerusalem. The palace was the central subject in Kings, but the temple is the center of discussion in Chronicles. We're going to have many things to say about the temple that we didn't even approach in Kings. In Kings, we considered the political history; but in Chronicles we examine the religious history. Chronicles can be considered an interpretation of Kings; which is why we had constant references to

Chronicles in Kings. Kings gave us *man's* viewpoint; Chronicles gives us *God's* viewpoint!

The program and procedure of the Holy Spirit in teaching the Word of God is to initially provide a tremendous expanse of truth covering large areas of factual territory; and then to come back and extract from that the spiritual things He desires to enlarge upon. It's as if we viewed the history of the nation Israel with a telescope in Samuel and Kings, picked out those things we wanted to place under the microscope, and shall proceed forth accordingly in Chronicles. Details will be revealed that were not recognized previously; and they are the things God considers important. Even so, you are going to find these first few chapters of Chronicles to be very uninteresting, I can assure you of that. Even so, read the first nine chapters carefully. They are nothing but genealogies, of course. In many ways, however, they are some of the most remarkable passages in Scripture....

I

¹ ***Adam, Sheth, Enosh,***

² ***Kenan, Mahalaleel, Jered,***

³ ***Enoch, Methuselah, Lamech,***

⁴ ***Noah, Shem, Ham, and Japheth.***

~ Alright, those first four little verses cover a huge expanse of time. Those are the names of the beginning of mankind. From here, we pick up the sons of Japheth – then Ham – then Shem. We have the same outline as the Book of Genesis used; the rejected line is given first, and then the line that leads to the Lord Jesus follows. These first nine chapters span from Adam to Christ. In Matthew, the lineage begins with Abraham, and continues to Christ; in Luke, it begins with Adam, and leads to Christ, also. Here, in chapter one, the lineage of Shem is given, and it leads to Abraham. Following that, the sons of Ishmael are given, and the sons of Keturah; then the sons of Esau and the early kings and dukes of Edom....

II

~ Chapter two begins with the sons of Jacob through Judah. It continues through the posterity of Jesse, who was the father of David. The descendents of Caleb are traced to the offspring for whom the cities of Bethlehem, Beth-gader and Kirjath-jearim are named....

III

~ In chapter three, the lineage of David is traced through his sons; where we find many sons who weren't even mentioned before. It seems David had six children by six different wives within seven and a half years in Hebron. God doesn't bless that behavior, friends; and He didn't bless it in David's family life. He also had nine children from *OTHER* wives and concubines in Jerusalem. After all that information is given, *then* Solomon's line of the royal family is followed....

1 Chronicles 3:⁵ *And these were born unto him in Jerusalem; Shimea, and Shobab, and Nathan, and Solomon, four, of Bathshua the daughter of Ammiel ~*

~ We knew about Solomon, but we never heard about Shimea, Shobab or Nathan. Well, the genealogy in Luke tells us the line that leads to the Lord Jesus Christ goes through Nathan – *NOT* through Solomon. In Matthew, Jesus gets the legal title to the throne of David; and in Luke, Jesus receives the blood title. That's somewhat confusing - but critical - information to understand.

1 Chronicles 3:¹⁷ *And the sons of Jeconiah; Assir, Salathiel his son ~*

Jeremiah 22:²⁴ *As I live, saith the LORD, though Jeconiah the son of Jehoiakim king of Judah were the signet upon my right hand, yet would I pluck thee thence ~*

From chapter three, the line is followed through the seventy-year captivity:

1 Chronicles 3:19 *And the sons of Pedaiah were, Zerubbabel, and Shimei: and the sons of Zerubbabel; Meshullam, and Hananiah, and Shelomith their sister ~*

Matthew 1:12 *And after they were brought to Babylon, Jechonias begat Salathiel; and Salathiel begat Zorobabel ~*

1 Chronicles 3:22 *And the sons of Shechaniah; Shemaiah: and the sons of Shemaiah; Hattush, and Igeal, and Bariah, and Neariah, and Shaphat, six ~*

Ezra 8:2 *Of the sons of Phinehas; Gershom: of the sons of Ithamar; Daniel: of the sons of David; Hattush ~*

IV, V, VI, VII, VIII and IX

~ This begins the longest genealogical table in Scripture, and it concerns the families of the twelve tribes of Israel. These are all Adam's children. There is nothing quite like this in literature or in the history of the world! Everyone from Adam to Christ is covered; from the first Adam to the Last Adam! This genealogy was in existence in the temple until the temple was destroyed in seventy AD by Titus; so, there is no one who can trace their genealogy all the way back to Adam - although many of us can discern the route by which we go back. Some go back through Ham, some through Shem and some through Japheth; either way, all of us are in this same family!

One interesting aspect is the glaring omissions; such as Cain and his family — who aren't even mentioned! Cain's line ran out and ended, friends — destroyed in the flood! Actually, there are omissions in every genealogy — even in Genesis! I don't think the Spirit of God ever intended to give us the entire collection; after all, what we have is monotonous enough! Reading this roll call just doesn't happen to be easy nor interesting! However, it does shed some light on the question of how old mankind really is. I am positive man is *much* older than six thousand years, by the way! I think man

has been on this earth a long, long time. Either way, what we do know is that when man was created, he was Adam – a man – not a monkey!

There is an old cartoon with two monkeys sitting in a tree surveying a world that has been annihilated by nuclear bombs. One monkey looks at the other and says, “... *now we have to go over all of this again!*” Friends, it doesn’t get any more ridiculous than that. Now, some of you who think your parents were monkeys probably were; but not mine. If you think you descended from a gibbering ape, a mimicking parrot or a mindless sea animal – then I believe you – but you aren’t in *MY* family – the family of God.

So, this genealogy can be interesting, but it is not thrilling; it has a lot of information and a very real message for us today, though. These nine chapters are as inspired as John three sixteen is. Things have come to pass *EXACTLY* as God said they would. Psychology makes an attempt to tabulate and classify mankind according to intelligence quotient, mainly; then according to achievement and aptitude. That’s nothing but a mechanical device and mechanical devices are going to fall apart – it’s scientific! In the middle of the chart they wrote “*normal*” – at one end they wrote “*subnormal*” and at the other end they wrote “*supernormal*” or “*genius.*” Well, God’s psychological evaluation of mankind is a little bit different. God says *NONE* of them are normal. *ALL* have sinned; *ALL* come short of the glory of God. *NONE* are righteous and *NONE* seek after Him!

There are two universal facts that hold true without exception or deviation in relationship to mankind:

(1) Adam and all of his children must die in the flesh. God did *NOT* create man to die, and we know that because we are told “*by man came death!*” Death is passed upon all men; in Adam all die! It is appointed unto man once to die. The earth on which we live is nothing but one massive graveyard. David said he went the way of all the earth! Every road you travel on leads to a cemetery. Walking through the shadow of the valley of death is just a picture of mankind making his way through life. Death stalks this earth like a psycho-killer! Further, there are three kinds of death:

physical, spiritual and eternal. Eternal death is hell; and that's a place where God never goes. There is neither blessing, mercy nor the love of God in hell.

(2) Adam and all of his children are sinners! That's an undeniable picture of mankind – *ALL* have sinned. All sinned in Adam so all died. Abraham was a good man, but Abraham was a sinner; Ishmael is direct evidence of that! Caleb was a good man, but he had all those concubines. Sin is what has driven man from God and man is in open rebellion against God today. Man has gone out from the presence of God just as Cain was driven out.

Isaiah 59: ² *But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear ~*

Make no mistake: Adam and his children are all sinners who are separated from God. Sin is a scourge, a sickness and a plague that has infected the entire race of human beings. Cancer is bad, but only a few have that disease. *ALL* have sinned! That is the picture we are left with in this section of Scripture. Thankfully, Adam and all of his children have obtained mercy. Enoch walked with God, and he was translated – saved – by faith. I have to believe Enoch will be one of the two witnesses. I don't want to be overly dogmatic about that, but in Adam all die; and the two witnesses will also die, you will recall. Noah did what he did, and he was only saved by faith; even though he was a good man. Abraham believed God, and that was counted to him for righteousness. The problem in the near and middle east today is that Abraham was a sinner. If that little Egyptian maid Hagar hadn't been part of Abraham's account, we wouldn't have the Arab running around right now. I think everyone agrees David was a sinner, too.

The third universal fact of mankind is that the *ONLY* exception to the sin of man is the Lord Jesus Christ – and that means He didn't have to die. No one convicted Jesus of sin. Jesus said, "*... no man taketh My life from Me but I lay it down of Myself!*" Jesus had the power to lay down His Own life and He had the power to take it up again. God is rich in mercy as Paul told the Ephesians. Peter said God had "*abundant*" mercy! God has made it possible for the children of Adam to obtain mercy today. Have *YOU*

received mercy from the Hand of God yet? It's there for you if you will receive it. That's just *PART* of the message we find in the first *EIGHT* chapters of first Chronicles. We're all fallen and we're all in equality as far as sin is concerned. I'm going to leave it at that in this report, but we will pick up right here in the ninth chapter in the next leg of our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God ~

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