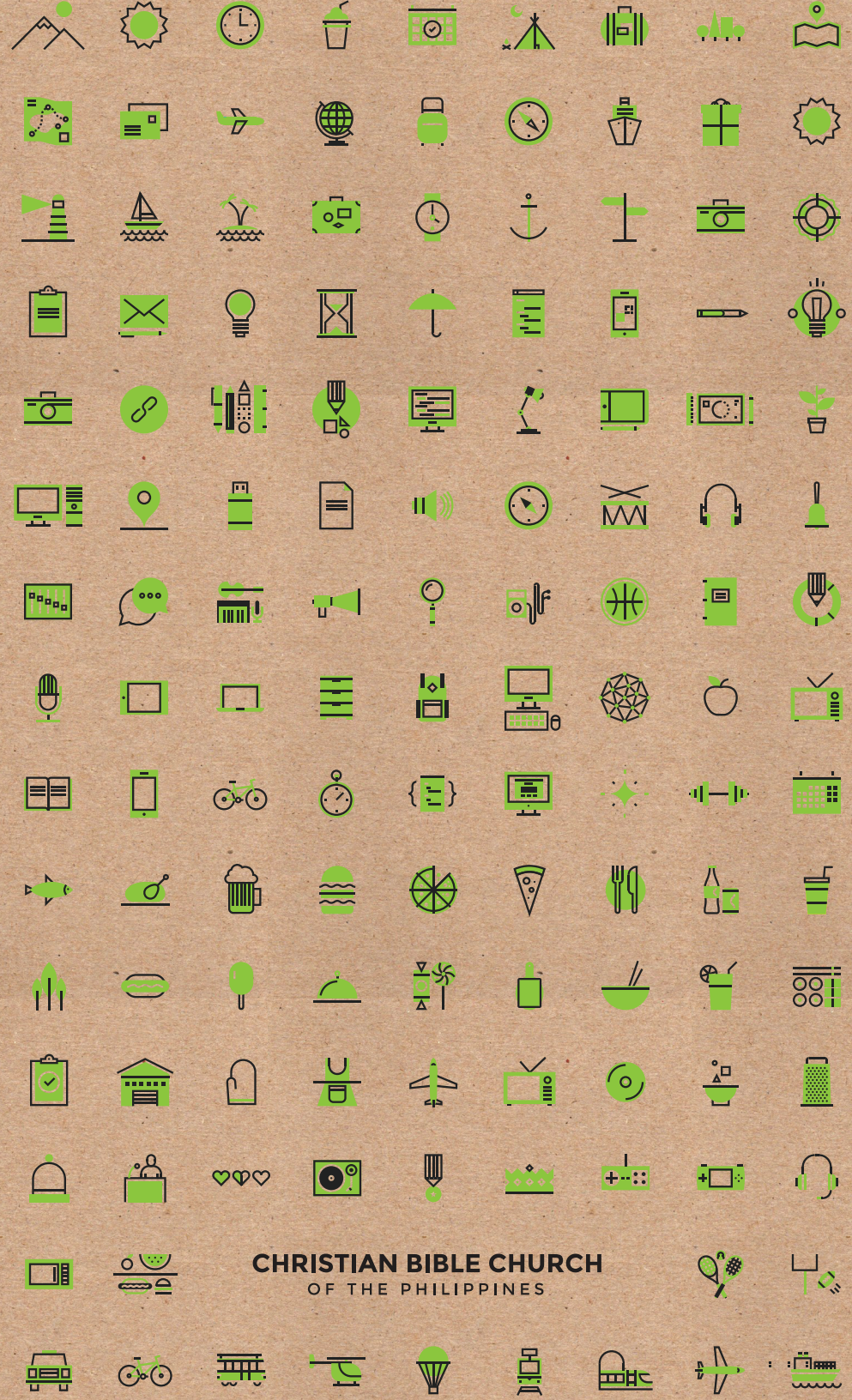


DIG DEEP

A BIBLE STUDY GUIDE

CHRISTIAN BIBLE CHURCH
OF THE PHILIPPINES



With the mission to “know God, love people, and make disciples”, we strive to study the Word of God to know Him and follow His ways.

DIG DEEP is the 3-Year Bible Reading program of Christian Bible Church. By following this schedule, you will finish the whole Bible within 3 years.

This is the third **DIG DEEP** booklet where we will be studying two books per month – from the book of Judges to Job – over 6 months. This guide provides insight and context to understand each book and is available in both English and Chinese.

For earlier volumes of Dig Deep, you may ask for free copies from the church office.

JUDGES

TITLE OF THE BOOK

This book is called the *Book of Judges* because it records the story of the many judges God raised up to govern His people and rescue them from the hands of their enemies.

THE JUDGES

The period after Joshua's death until the end of King Saul's reign can be called the period of the judges. During this period, the Israelites gradually abandoned the Lord and followed the customs of the pagan nations, marrying Gentiles and worshipping other gods; and so God delivered them into the hands of the Gentiles just as he had warned them earlier. Yet every time they repented, God would answer their prayers and deliver them through the judges. This is the pattern in this book: forsaking God – being handed over to the Gentiles – repentance – deliverance – forsaking God. This pattern was repeated at least seven times. There are 13 judges mentioned in this book, namely: Othniel, Ehud, Shamgar, Deborah, Barak, Gideon, Tola, Jair, Jephthah, Ibzan, Elon, Abdon, and Samson.

AUTHOR

The author of this book is unknown. The last few chapters mention that in those days, Israel had no king four times (17:6, 18:1, 19:1, 21:25), so it is highly possible that the book was written only after Israel had a king; possibly during the time of the last judge, the prophet Samuel.

CHARACTERISTICS

This book is a record of the painful history of Israel upon their settlement in the land of Canaan. They repeatedly offended God and repeatedly experienced subjugation by their enemies. It is a volume on the dark history of Israel's betrayal of God, worship of idols, civil wars,

tribal conflicts and disputes, and how each man did whatever he thought was right. It can be said that this was the darkest moment in the history of Israel.

MESSAGE

This book illustrates the inclination of man to turn away from God; the Israelites being a perfect example. They were delivered from Egypt by the mighty power of God, led miraculously to possess the land of Canaan, and yet they turned away from God and betrayed Him. The book also explains God's righteousness – He has to deal with sin because of His righteousness. It also shows the grace and faithfulness of God; that as long as the Israelites sincerely repented and cried out to God, He would listen to their prayers and save them from the hands of their enemies, even after seven times of betrayal, seven times of enslavement, seven times of repentance, and seven times of deliverance.

KEYWORD

“Salvation” (*Judges 2:18*)

KEY VERSES

Judges 21:25

“In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as they saw fit.”

OUTLINE

- | | |
|--|----------------|
| A. Introduction – Trusting in God | 1:1–2:5 |
| B. History of Corruption – Forsaking God | 1:6–16 |
| C. Appendix | 17–21 |
| 1. Religious Turmoil | 17–18 |
| 2. Moral Turmoil | 19 |
| 3. Tribal Turmoil | 20–21 |

JUDGES

✓ JAN JUDGES

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|----|-------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 1 | 1-2 | Background of the Judges |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 | 3 | Othniel, Ehud, and Shamgar |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 3 | 4-5 | Deborah |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 4 | 6 | Call of Gideon, the Hesitant Hero |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 5 | 7 | Defeat of Median |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 6 | 8 | Rest for Israel |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 7 | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 8 | 9 | Gideon's Son: Abimelech |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 9 | 10 | Tola and Jair |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 10 | 11 | Jephthah's Vow |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 11 | 12 | Jephthah's Vengeance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 12 | 13 | Manoah's Prayer, Birth of Samson |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 13 | 14 | Samson's Power |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 14 | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 15 | 15 | Samson's Passion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 16 | 16 | Samson's Passing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 17 | 17 | Spiritual Degradation of a Nation: Man-made Religion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 18 | 18 | Spiritual Degradation of a Nation: Idolatrous Religion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 19 | 19 | Moral Degradation of a Nation: Violent Immorality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 20 | 20-21 | Moral Degradation of a Nation: Violent Vengeance |

RUTH



TITLE OF THE BOOK

This book records the story of a Moabite woman named Ruth, thus its title. There are two books in the Bible named after a woman, one is the *Book of Ruth* and the other is the *Book of Esther*. Both are historical books. Ruth was a Gentile married to an Israelite. Esther was an Israelite married to a Gentile.



AUTHOR

It is not clear as to who the author of this book is. From Ruth 1:1, "In the days when the judges ruled..", and Ruth 4:22, "...and Jesse the father of David", we can conclude that this book, just like the *Book of Judges*, was written after Israel already had a king and it could most possibly have been written by the prophet Samuel.



DATE & PLACE WRITTEN

The story spans across a period of about 11 years, starting from 1322 B.C. to 1312 B.C. This story happened in the lands of Moab and Canaan.



MESSAGE

The message of this book: "only through salvation and unity can man find true rest".

RUTH



KEYWORDS

“Rest”
“Salvation”

KEY VERSES

Ruth 1:16

“But Ruth replied, “Don’t urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God.”

Ruth 4:17

“The women living there said, “Naomi has a son!” And they named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David.”



OUTLINE

According to the keyword ‘rest’, this book can be sectioned into 4 parts: losing rest, hoping for rest, seeking rest, and finding rest.

- | | |
|--------------------|--------|
| A. Losing Rest | 1:1-5 |
| B. Hoping for Rest | 1:6-22 |
| C. Seeking Rest | 2-3 |
| D. Finding Rest | 4 |

RUTH

✓ JAN RUTH

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|----|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 21 | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 22 | 1 | Ruth's Decision to Go with Naomi |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 23 | 2 | Ruth's Devotion to Naomi |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 24 | 3 | Ruth's Deliverer: Boaz |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 25 | 4 | Ruth's Delight: Marriage & Home in Bethlehem |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 26 | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 27 | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 28 | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 29 | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 30 | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 31 | | |

1 SAMUEL



AUTHOR

Most of the book (*chapters 1-24*) was written by Samuel and the last part was written by the prophets Nathan and Gad. Because Samuel is the author and main character in this book, it was entitled the *Book of Samuel*.



CHARACTERISTICS

This book is a record of history starting from the days of Eli until the death of Saul in a battle. It covers a period of approximately 115 years, beginning from 1171 to 1056 B.C.



MESSAGE

The main message of this book is consistent with the meaning of its title, *Samuel*, which means prayer. Samuel means God answers prayers. This book is full of stories about prayer: Hannah's prayer and how God answered her prayer (*1:1-28*); Samuel's prayer for the victory of the Israelites (*7:5-10*) and for when the people clamored for a king to govern them (*8:5-6*). He sees it as a sin not to pray for God's people (*12:23*). A psalmist and a prophet both acknowledged that Samuel was a man of prayer (*Psalms 99:6; Jeremiah 15:1*).



KEYWORD

"Prayer" (*1 Samuel 7:5*)

KEY VERSES

1 Samuel 12:23

"As for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord by failing to pray for you."

1 Samuel 15:22-23

"Does the Lord delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the Lord? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams. For rebellion is like the sin of divination, and arrogance like the evil of idolatry."



OUTLINE

This book can be divided into three sections, according to three important characters: Samuel, Saul, and David.

- | | |
|---------------------|-------|
| A. Regarding Samuel | 1-7 |
| B. Regarding Saul | 8-15 |
| C. Regarding David | 16-31 |

1 SAMUEL

✓ FEB 1 SAMUEL

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|----|-------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 1 | 1-3 | The Birth and Boyhood of Samuel |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 | 4-6 | Defeat in the Nation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 3 | 7-8 | Revival in the Nation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 4 | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 5 | 9-11 | Saul Chosen as King |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 6 | 12 | Samuel's Caution |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 7 | 13-14 | Saul's Impatience & Impulsiveness Rebuked |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 8 | 15 | Saul's Incomplete Obedience & Rejection |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 9 | 16 | The Anointing of David |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 10 | 17 | David Defeats Goliath |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 11 | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 12 | 18-19 | David Runs Away from Saul |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 13 | 20 | Jonathan: David's Faithful Friend |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 14 | 21-23 | David's Distraught Flight |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 15 | 24-26 | David Spares Saul Twice; Abigail Spares Nabal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 16 | 27-31 | David's Exile; Saul's Death and Defeat |

2 SAMUEL



ORIGIN

Although this book is called second Samuel, it was not written by Samuel. Its authors are Nathan and Gad. In the original Hebrew form, the books of first and second Samuel were within one compilation; that book composed the records of the prophet and seer Samuel...the records of the prophet Nathan and that of the seer Gad (*1 Chronicles 29:29*). Later on, this was divided into two books – the books of 1 Samuel and 2 Samuel.



DATE & PLACE WRITTEN

The content of this book span a period of about 38 years, beginning from 1056 B.C. to 1018 B.C.



CONTENT

This book records the most important part of David's life story. 1 Samuel records David's early years, his calling, his sufferings, and his years as a fugitive, etc. The books of 1 and 2 Kings record his later years. Only this book records his ascension to the throne and God's dealings with him. The Bible records in detail his biography because of the following: **1.** He is the ancestor of Christ. The covenant God made with him was to be fulfilled in Christ; **2.** He is the typology of Christ; **3.** He is a man after God's own heart. (*1 Samuel 13:14; Acts 13:22*); **4.** His life is an important and valuable lesson for today's believers, a source of comfort and help; **5.** He was God's mouthpiece (*2 Samuel 23:2*). Almost half of the Psalms was written by David, in fact all are related to his life experiences.

2 SAMUEL

MESSAGE

The message of this book is: **1.** Those who want to prosper according to God's promises must be patient and trust in Him alone (*2 Samuel 2:1-4, 5:1-3*). **2.** David became king by God's grace, and when he forsook God, he fell. **3.** God's righteousness demands that sin must be dealt with. Saul's death and the killing of the young Amalekite, the killing of Abner, the violence in David's family after he sinned, his sons' mutiny, disorder among his servants and officers, the 3-year famine in the nation, the 3-day plague among the people... These all show that because of God's righteousness, He cannot tolerate sin. He has to deal with sin. But praise the Lord! We must never forget that aside from righteousness, God is also full of grace and loving kindness (*Psalms 30:5*). As long as we sincerely repent, we will receive purification and forgiveness; yet we cannot avoid the punishment that is due (*2 Samuel 12:13*).



KEYWORD

"Shepherd"
(*2 Samuel 5:2; 7:7*)

KEY VERSES

2 Samuel 5:12

"Then David knew that the Lord had established him as king over Israel and had exalted his kingdom for the sake of his people Israel."

2 Samuel 8:14

"The Lord gave David victory wherever he went."



OUTLINE

This book is clearly divided into three sections: David's success; David's failure; and the appendix.

A. David's Success	1-10
B. David's Failure	11-20
C. Appendix	21-24
1. David's Prayer to God	21
2. David's Song of Thanksgiving	22
3. David's Last Words	23
4. David's Sin of Counting the Fighting Men	24

2 SAMUEL

✓ FEB 2 SAMUEL

- 17 1 David Mourns Saul's Death
- 18
- 19 2-4 David Fights Saul's House
- 20 5-7 David's Reign Over a United Nation
- 21 8-10 David's Growing Kingdom
- 22 11-12 David's Sin and Nathan's Rebuke
- 23 13-14 David's Regret - Divided Family
- 24 15-16 Absalom Starts a Rebellion
- 25
- 26 17-18 Halt of the Rebellion
- 27 19-20 David's Return to Throne
- 28 21-24 David's Final Words and Acts

1 KINGS



ORIGIN

This book is a narrative on the reigns of the kings of Judah and the kings of Israel. In the original Hebrew Bible, the books of 1 Kings and 2 Kings are found in just one volume. The author is unknown. Some Bible interpreters say that it was written by the scribe Ezra, while some say it was written by the prophet Jeremiah.



CONTENT

This book covers: David's latter years, Solomon's ascension to the throne, the building of the temple, Solomon's latter years and decline, the kingdom's division, and the reigns of the kings of Judah (from Rehoboam to Jehoram) and the kings of Israel (Jeroboam to Ahaziah).



DATE & PLACE WRITTEN

This book's narrative covers a period of about 118 years, from 1015 B.C. to 897 B.C.



MESSAGE

The main message of this book is about the reason for the rise and fall of the nation which belonged to God. When God's people revered Him, the nation prospered; when the people forsook God, their nation declined. Note how the phrase "as David his father did" describes the minimum standard for the kings (3:14, 9:4, 11:4, 11:33, 11:38, 14:8, 15:11). It is a pity that, among the kings, only a handful was able to attain this standard.

1 KINGS



KEYWORDS

“What was right” (15:11)
“What was evil” (15:26)

KEY PHRASE

“...did as David his father did.”

KEY VERSE

1 Kings 8:23–26

“Lord, the God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth below—you who keep your covenant of love with your servants who continue wholeheartedly in your way. You have kept your promise to your servant David my father; with your mouth you have promised and with your hand you have fulfilled it—as it is today. “Now Lord, the God of Israel, keep for your servant David my father the promises you made to him when you said, ‘You shall never fail to have a successor to sit before me on the throne of Israel, if only your descendants are careful in all they do to walk before me faithfully as you have done.’ And now, God of Israel, let your word that you promised your servant David my father come true.”



OUTLINE

This book can be divided into four sections based on the nation’s history: the nation’s prime, glory, division, and decline.

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------|
| A. The Nation’s Prime | 1–2 |
| B. The Nation’s Glory | 3–10 |
| C. The Nation’s Division | 11–12:24 |
| D. The Nation’s Decline | 12:25–22 |

1 KINGS

✓ MAR 1 KINGS

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|----|-------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 1 | 1 | Solomon as the New Anointed King |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 | 2–4 | Solomon's Rule: Justice and Wisdom in the Palace |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 3 | 5–6 | Builders and Blueprint for the Temple of God |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 4 | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 5 | 7–8 | Construction and Consecration of the Temple |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 6 | 9–10 | Solomon Receives a Warning: Fame & Wealth |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 7 | 11 | Solomon's Failure: Pagan Wives |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 8 | 12–13 | Reign of Jeroboam in Israel |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 9 | 14 | Reign of Rehoboam in Judah |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 10 | 15–16 | Reigns of Eight Kings in Israel and Judah |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 11 | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 12 | 17–18 | King Ahab's Battle with Elijah |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 13 | 19 | Elijah and the Fear of Queen Jezebel |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 14 | 20–21 | Ahab's Life |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 15 | 22 | Ahab's Death |

2 KINGS



ORIGIN

This book is a continuation of the *Book of 1 Kings* and thus its name. In the original Hebrew Bible, 1 and 2 Samuel are in one volume, 1 and 2 Kings are also in one volume; these were not separate books. Therefore, the events recorded in 1 Kings and 2 Kings follow closely after one another, there is no time gap as well as change in location. It begins with King David's story and ends with the king of Babylon's. It begins with the construction of the holy temple and ends with the temple being destroyed. It begins with David's successor ascending the throne and ends with David's last successor being released from captivity.



CONTENT

This book is like the previous one; it chronicles the reigns of the kings of Judah and the kings of Israel. It also includes a great prophet's biography. Its record of Judah's kings began with Ahaziah and ends with Zedekiah, while its record on the kings of Israel began with Joram and ends with Hoshea.



DATE & PLACE WRITTEN

The events in this book covers about 309 years, starting from 896 B.C. to 587 B.C. years.



MESSAGE

When God saw how His people turned away from Him, forsook Him, and served pagan idols, He sent 'men of God' to warn them hoping they would repent and return to Him. So when the 'men of God' came, they said, "This is what the Lord says." If they refuse to obey, the wrath of God would come upon them and he would hand them to their enemies, so that their nation will be destroyed and they will be taken into captivity.



KEYWORDS

"**Man of God**" – In this book, this term appears 36 times, more than in any other book in the Bible

"**Anger**" (13:3, 17:17, 23:26, 24:20)

KEY PHRASE

'This is what the Lord says', 'The word of the Lord' and other similar phrases. In this book, these phrases appear at least 49 times. The grievous phrase, 'did evil in the eyes of the Lord,' appears 21 times. But praise the Lord, 'did what was right in the eyes of the Lord' appears too, for at least 8 times.

KEY VERSES

2 Kings 10:10

"Know, then, that not a word the Lord has spoken...will fail. The Lord has done what he announced through his servant..."

2 Kings 17:23

"until the Lord removed them from his presence, as he had warned through all his servants the prophets. So the people of Israel were taken from their homeland into exile in Assyria, and they are still there."



OUTLINE

According to its content, this book can be divided into three sections:

- | | |
|---|-------|
| A. The Rise and Fall of the Northern Kingdom | 1-10 |
| B. Narratives on the Northern and Southern Kingdoms | 11-17 |
| C. The Rise and Fall of the Southern Kingdom | 18-25 |

2 KINGS

✓ MAR 2 KINGS

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|----|-------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 16 | 1-2 | Elijah's Last Prophetic Utterance: Ahaziah's Death |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 17 | 3 | The Beginning of Elisha's Ministry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 18 | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 19 | 4 | Elisha and the Shunammite Woman |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 20 | 5 | Elisha and the Aramean Commander |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 21 | 6-8 | Elisha and the Aramean King |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 22 | 9-10 | Jehu's Ministry of Judgement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 23 | 11-12 | Joash's Ministry of Reform |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 24 | 13-14 | Decline in Israel |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 25 | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 26 | 15 | Dispersion in Israel: Anarchy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 27 | 16-17 | Dispersion in Israel: Assyria Prevails |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 28 | 18-19 | National Reforms of Hezekiah |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 29 | 20-21 | Hezekiah's Personal Problems |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 30 | 22-23 | Josiah's Reform: Recovery of the Law |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 31 | 24-25 | Siege & Fall of Jerusalem |

1 CHRONICLES



ORIGIN

The books of 1 Chronicles and 2 Chronicles, just like 1 Samuel & 2 Samuel and 1 Kings & 2 Kings, were originally one volume in the Hebrew Bible. The original name of this book meant 'diary' or 'notes.' Its contents are all chronicles on the ancient kings.



ABOUT THE BOOK

At first reading, one would tend to find the books of 1 & 2 Chronicles boring, especially the lengthy genealogy, the priestly ministry assignments, and the repetitive stories. All these can hardly keep a reader's interest. But remember that when we feel dry and tasteless when reading any book in the Bible, it only shows that we have not yet found the nature of the book.



CHARACTERISTICS

1. The author is unknown. But many authorities on the Bible claim that it was written by the scribe Ezra because its literary style, genre and sentence structures are like those in the books of Ezra and Nehemiah.
2. The Book of Chronicles is a history book, but its nature is different from other history books. The books of Samuel and Kings are factual narratives of history, while Chronicles record and explain history through the perspective of God and His word.
3. The purpose of this book is to make the people who returned to their homeland after captivity know the Lord God, return to Him, worship Him, and serve Him.



DATE WRITTEN

In addition to genealogy, the book covers a period of about 41 years of the nation's history, beginning from 1056 B.C. to 1015 B.C.

1 CHRONICLES

MESSAGE

From beginning to end, the Book of Chronicles shows us the greatness of God and His eminence in His people's kingdom. Though man often strays and turns away from Him, He remains the exalted Lord governing the whole earth (29:11-12). His ways and thoughts are completely different from mankind's. This book opens our eyes to see that God shows favor to those who trust in Him and seek Him. The book also tells us God is the judge, and at the same time, He's the one who forgives our sins. It also shows us that in whatever situation, God will be glorified on His throne.

KEY VERSE

1 Chronicles 29:11-12

"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."

OUTLINE

This book can be divided into four sections according to its content: genealogy, Saul, David, and the preparations for building the temple.

- | | |
|---|----------------|
| A. Genealogy | 1-9:34 |
| B. Saul | 9:35-10 |
| C. David | 11-20 |
| D. Preparations for Building the Temple | 21-29 |

1 CHRONICLES

✓ APR 1 CHRONICLES

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------|-------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 1 | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 | 1-3 | David's Ancestors: Genealogy from Adam to the Exile |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 3 | 4-8 | David's Ancestors: Genealogy from the 12 Tribes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 4 | 9 | David's Ancestors: Genealogy after the Exile |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 5 | 10-12 | David's Accession and Army |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 6 | 13-16 | David Returns the Ark of the Covenant |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 7 | 17-18 | David's Kingdom and Covenant (I) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 8 | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 9 | 19-21 | David's Kingdom and Covenant (II) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 10 | 22-24 | David's Preparations for the Temple (I) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 11 | 25-27 | David's Preparations for the Temple (II) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 12 | 28-29 | David's Final Words and Deeds |

2 CHRONICLES



ORIGIN

This book is a continuation of 1 Chronicles' historical narrative on the kings of Judah; it begins with Solomon's ascension to the throne, Zedekiah's captivity and concludes with the Persian King Cyrus' proclamation.



CHARACTERISTICS

This book is similar in nature to that of 1 Chronicles: a narrative on the history of Judah interpreted according to God's perspective and God's word. Its purpose is also to bring the people who returned to their homeland a knowledge of the works of God and to turn them back to Him.



DATE WRITTEN

The contents of this book span a period of about 479 years, starting from 1015 B.C. to 536 B.C.



DIFFERENCE BETWEEN 1 & 2 KINGS AND 1 & 2 CHRONICLES

Because the Book of Kings records the histories of two nations, Judah and Israel, its narratives are shorter compared to that of the Book of Chronicles. The Book of Chronicles, which records only Judah's history, permits it to have more detailed narratives. And because the Book of Kings is merely a historical narrative, it records only facts. Meanwhile, since the Book of Chronicles records history through God's word and His perspective, it records not only the facts but also the reasons behind matters and events.



KEY PHRASE

"Seek the Lord" (7:14, 11:16, 14:4, 14:7, 15:2, 15:4, 15:12-13, 15:15, 17:4, 19:3, 20:3-4, 22:9, 26:5, 30:19, 31:19, 31:21, 34:3) - Seeking God brings blessing, success and victory. Not seeking God brings curses and failures. (12:14, 16:12)

KEY VERSE

2 Chronicles 20:20

"Listen to me, Judah and people of Jerusalem! Have faith in the Lord your God and you will be upheld; have faith in his prophets and you will be successful."



MESSAGE

Those who want a vibrant faith and victorious life must fulfill the condition: seek, believe, serve, and love the Lord.



OUTLINE

This book can be divided into two sections: Solomon and the other kings of Judah.

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------|
| A. Solomon | 1-9 |
| B. Other Kings of Judah | 10-36 |

2 CHRONICLES

✓ APR 2 CHRONICLES

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|----|-------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 13 | 1-3 | Solomon & the Temple of God: Fashioned |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 14 | 4-5 | Temple of God: Furnished and Filled |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 15 | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 16 | 6-7 | Solomon's Prayer and God's Promise |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 17 | 8-9 | Solomon's Fame, Fortune, and Funeral |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 18 | 10-12 | Rebellion Against Rehoboam |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 19 | 13 | Abijah's Civil Struggles |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 20 | 14-16 | Reign of Asa |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 21 | 17-18 | Jehoshaphat's Reform: Revival in the Cities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 22 | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 23 | 19-20 | Jehoshaphat's Reform: Reform in the Courts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 24 | 21-22 | Reigns of Jehoram, Ahaziah, and Athaliah |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 25 | 23-25 | Reigns of Joash and Amaziah |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 26 | 26-28 | Reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, and Ahaz |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 27 | 29-31 | Hezekiah's Rapid Reforms and Passover Preparations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 28 | 32 | Hezekiah's Divine Deliverance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 29 | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 30 | 33-36 | Reigns of Judah's Last Kings |

EZRA

ABOUT THE BOOK

The Book of Ezra is the first volume in a series of historical books about God's people after their captivity. In the Bible, there are 8 volumes of post-captivity books: Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Ezekiel, Daniel, Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi; the first 3 books are post-captivity history while the other 5 are prophetic books. The author of this book is Ezra and the book is named after him. 'Ezra', in the original text, means 'help' or 'helper'; Ezra truly looked to God as his helper all his life.

DATE WRITTEN

The contents of this book span about 80 years, beginning from 536 B.C. to 457 B.C.

CHARACTERISTICS

Ezra's mission was to rebuild the temple, to bring the people back to God so that they may know Him, serve Him, and learn His Law. He also resolutely dealt with the issue of the people marrying Gentiles. Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther are all records on the latter history of God's people.

KEY PHRASE

"The word of the Lord" – In this book, this phrase includes:

- (1) the word of the Lord spoken by the prophet (Ezra 1:1)
- (2) the Law (3:2)
- (3) the command of God (6:14)
- (4) the Book of Moses (6:18/7:6)
- (5) the Law of the Lord (7:10)

EZRA



KEY VERSE

Ezra 1:5

“Then the family heads of Judah and Benjamin, and the priests and Levites—everyone whose heart God had moved—prepared to go up and build the house of the Lord in Jerusalem.”



MESSAGE

God’s children must remember these things: God’s word, God’s temple, and the testimony that God wants us to keep, and that of being set apart unto holiness.



OUTLINE

This book narrates how the people of God returned to their nation in two batches after their exile, thus it can be divided into two major sections: the first batch of returnees (about 50,000 people), and the second batch of returnees (about 2000 people).

- A. The Return of the 1st Batch **1-6**
- B. The Return of the 2nd Batch **7-10**

EZRA

✓ MAY EZRA

<input type="checkbox"/>	1	1	Commission of the Temple Builders
<input type="checkbox"/>	2	2	Catalog of Temple Builders
<input type="checkbox"/>	3	3	Commencing to Build the Temple
<input type="checkbox"/>	4	4	Opposition – Restraining the Builders
<input type="checkbox"/>	5	5	Resolution – Reinstating the Builders
<input type="checkbox"/>	6		
<input type="checkbox"/>	7	6	Completion of the Temple Project
<input type="checkbox"/>	8	7	Preparation for Ezra's Return to Jerusalem
<input type="checkbox"/>	9	8	Protection During the Return
<input type="checkbox"/>	10	9	Spiritual Reforms in the Polluted City
<input type="checkbox"/>	11	10	Purging Demanded for Jerusalem

NEHEMIAH

ABOUT THE BOOK

Fourteen years after the second group of Israelites returned to their nation, Nehemiah led the rebuilding of Jerusalem's walls. He also led the revival of their lost practice of worshipping and serving the Lord. This book records these things. Nehemiah is the author of this book as can be seen at the beginning of the book: "The words of Nehemiah son of Hakaliah" (1:1). Also, in the book he often uses the pronouns 'I/me.' In the original text, the name 'Nehemiah' means 'The Lord comforts'. We see many times in this book that when this servant of God met troubles and persecutions, he sought the Lord for comfort.

DATE WRITTEN

The content of this book covers a period of 12 years, beginning from 446 B.C. to 434 B.C.

CHARACTERISTICS

This book is a biography (Nehemiah's autobiography) and is also a historical book. This book is the last volume of history on God's chosen people, and no other history book follows it (although the *Book of Malachi* comes after Nehemiah, it is a prophetic book). This book records the situation of God's chosen people in the latter days, no other book on their history comes after this one.

MESSAGE

Prayer, hard work, and patience are the secrets to success in doing God's work.

KEYWORD

"Pray" (Neh. 1:4)
"Work" (Neh. 4:6)

KEY VERSES

Nehemiah 1:9-10

"but if you return to me and obey my commands, then even if your exiled people are at the farthest horizon, I will gather them from there and bring them to the place I have chosen as a dwelling for my Name." "They are your servants and your people, whom you redeemed by your great strength and your mighty hand."

Nehemiah 2:18

"I also told them about the gracious hand of my God on me and what the king had said to me. They replied, "Let us start rebuilding." So they began this good work."

OUTLINE

This book can be divided into seven major sections: the return to their nation, the difficulties in building the city walls, surveying the genealogy, solemn assembly, survey of the priests' genealogy, dedication of the city wall, and rectification and restoration.

A. Return to the Nation	1-2:16
B. Difficulties in Building the City Walls	2:17-7:4
C. Survey of the Genealogy	7:5-7:73
D. Solemn Assembly	8-11
E. Survey of the Priests' Genealogy	12:1-26
F. Dedication of the City Wall	12:27-47
G. Rectification and Restoration	13

NEHEMIAH

✓ MAY NEHEMIAH

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|----|----|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 12 | 1 | Broken Walls & Nehemiah's Broken Heart |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 13 | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 14 | 2 | Nehemiah's Building Plans |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 15 | 3 | Wall Plans Commenced |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 16 | 4 | The Work Interrupted |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 17 | 5 | Usury Abolished |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 18 | 6 | Nehemiah Averts Danger & Completes the Walls |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 19 | 7 | Jerusalem Population Assigned |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 20 | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 21 | 8 | Reading & Restoring the Law |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 22 | 9 | Responding to the Law |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 23 | 10 | Resolving to Keep the Law |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 24 | 11 | Resettling the People |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 25 | 12 | Recognizing the People |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 26 | 13 | Reforming the People |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 27 | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 28 | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 29 | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 30 | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 31 | | |

ESTHER

ABOUT THE BOOK

In the Bible, Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther are three of the books that record the history of Israel after its exile. The first two books record Israel's history in the land of Judah, while this book records their history in a Gentile nation. The first two books narrate how God watched over those who returned to their nations. This book narrates how God preserved those who were scattered among the Gentile nations.

DATE WRITTEN

This book's contents span over a period of about 12 years, beginning 486 B.C. to 474 B.C.

CHARACTERISTICS

In the whole book, God is not mentioned at all yet traces of God working is all over the book. Even in the most ordinary matter, His work can be seen. For example, Esther 6:1 records the incident on how King Ahasuerus could not sleep. At first glance, it seems trivial and not worthy of mention at all. However, this was God's orchestration to prevent Haman from succeeding with his conspiracy against Mordecai. The wicked Haman was an Amalekite descendant of Agag. The Amalekites had been cursed by God. God had determined to blot out these people from under heaven (Exodus 17:14). Haman's ancestor was most likely King Agag whom Samuel put to death. Because Saul refused to obey God's will to kill all the Amalekites, he died by the hand of an Amalekite in the end.

KEYWORDS

There are two key words in this book but they are not mentioned in the whole book at all: (1) God and (2) prayer.

ESTHER



KEY VERSE

Esther 4:14

“For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father’s family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?”



MESSAGE

In both big and small matters, whether obvious or hidden, God keeps watch over His people and protects them.



OUTLINE

All the events in this book happened in three different feasts, so this book can be divided accordingly into: King Ahasuerus’ feast, Esther’s feast, and the Purim feast.

- | | |
|--------------------------|------|
| A. King Ahasuerus’ Feast | 1-2 |
| B. Esther’s Feast | 3-7 |
| C. The Purim Feast | 8-10 |

ESTHER

✓ JUN ESTHER

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|---|------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 1 | 1-2 | Esther's Exaltation as Queen of Persia |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 | 3-4 | Haman's Cunning Plot |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 3 | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 4 | 5-7 | Haman's Humiliation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 5 | 8-10 | Mordecai's Exaltation |

JOB

ABOUT THE BOOK

The Book of Job is a poetic book. In the Bible, the following five books are books of poetry: Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Songs. The contents of these books of poetry are the spiritual experiences of God's people, as touched by the Holy Spirit, poured out through the verses. So biblical poetry is not abstract, utopian, nor impractical.

STRUCTURE

Hebrew poetry is unique; its structure does not focus on rhyme, syllables, tones or such, but on parallelism, repetition, and overlap.

- 1. The same idea is expressed in parallels using positive and negative verses:** “Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.” (*Proverbs 3:5*)
- 2. The same idea is repeated through similar verses:** “The LORD is a refuge for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble.” (*Psalms 9:9*)
“Let the wise listen and add to their learning, and let the discerning get guidance” (*Proverbs 1:5*)
- 3. Opposite thoughts are expressed through contrasting verses:**
“The name of the righteous is used in blessings, but the name of the wicked will rot.” (*Proverbs 10:7*)
- 4. Different concepts are laid atop one another, building up towards the ultimate idea:** “The eye that mocks a father, that scorns an aged mother, will be pecked out by the ravens of the valley, will be eaten by the vultures.” (*Proverbs 30:17*)
“Praise the Lord from the earth, you great sea creatures and all ocean depths, lightning and hail, snow and clouds, stormy winds that do his bidding, you mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars, wild animals and all cattle, small creatures and flying birds, kings of the earth and all nations, you princes and all rulers on earth, young men and women, old men and children.” (*Psalms 148:7-12*)

TITLE & AUTHOR

Since the main character is Job, the book is called *The Book of Job*. The original meaning of the name ‘Job’ is ‘hated’ or ‘persecuted.’ Because he was blameless and upright, careful to avoid evil, Job incurred Satan’s hatred and persecution. Bible interpreters vary on their view as to who the author of this book is. Some say it is the prophet Isaiah, some say it is Moses and some say it is Job himself. However, it is likely that Elihu is the author because, in his speech, he referred to himself with the pronoun ‘I’.

DATE & PLACE WRITTEN

Bible interpreters agree that Job lived during an early era, most probably during the time of Abraham, Isaac, or Jacob and not later than Moses’ time. He lived in the land of Uz, which is located east of Arabia, west of the desert of Arabia, and connected to the Chaldees. The land of Uz belongs to Edom. (*Lamentations 4:21*)

MESSAGE

The good will of God may include allowing godly men to be attacked by Satan with the purpose of bringing deeper growth to their lives. Many things happen that we cannot understand, but we can be certain that all things work together for good, and as long as we love God, we will benefit from them. (*Roman 8:28*)

JOB



KEY VERSES

Job 1:1

"The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; may the name of the Lord be praised."

Job 42:5-6

"My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you. Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes."



OUTLINE

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------|
| A. Introduction | 1:1–2:10 |
| B. Job's Three Friends | 2:11–31 |
| C. Job and Elihu | 32–37 |
| D. Job and God Meet Face to Face | 38–42:9 |
| E. Job's Outcome | 42:10–17 |

JOB

✓	JUN	JOB
<input type="checkbox"/>	6	1-2 Disaster in the Life of Job
<input type="checkbox"/>	7	3 Job's Agony
<input type="checkbox"/>	8	4-5 First Debate with Eliphaz
<input type="checkbox"/>	9	6-7 Job's Sorrow and Self-Analysis
<input type="checkbox"/>	10	
<input type="checkbox"/>	11	8 First Debate with Bildad
<input type="checkbox"/>	12	9-10 Job's Concession & Confusion
<input type="checkbox"/>	13	11 First Debate with Zophar
<input type="checkbox"/>	14	12-14 Job's Response & Defense for His Integrity
<input type="checkbox"/>	15	15 Eliphaz's Broken Record
<input type="checkbox"/>	16	16-17 Job's Broken Heart and Hope
<input type="checkbox"/>	17	
<input type="checkbox"/>	18	18-19 Bildad's Taunts and Job's Thoughts
<input type="checkbox"/>	19	20-21 Zophar's Insistence and Job's Innocence
<input type="checkbox"/>	20	22 Eliphaz's Accusation
<input type="checkbox"/>	21	23-24 Job Turns to God for Vindication
<input type="checkbox"/>	22	25-28 Job's Optimism Against the Prosecution's Pessimism
<input type="checkbox"/>	23	29-30 Job Longs for the Past in Contrast to the Present
<input type="checkbox"/>	24	
<input type="checkbox"/>	25	31 Job Reexamines His Personal and Public Life
<input type="checkbox"/>	26	32-34 Elihu's Request & Response
<input type="checkbox"/>	27	35-37 Elihu's Exhortation & Explanation
<input type="checkbox"/>	28	38-39 A Bigger Picture of Job's God
<input type="checkbox"/>	29	40-41 God's Challenge to Job
<input type="checkbox"/>	30	42 Job's Repentance and Reward from God