

Things Omitted

Chapter 15

Audio Lesson: Old Testament Survey lesson 41



Objective: To understand why Chronicles repeats the history of the two Hebrew kingdoms and to learn from its perspective.



"If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

—2 Chronicles 7:14

The books of Chronicles cover the same period of history that the books of Samuel and Kings cover. The Greek name for Chronicles means "Things Omitted." The books spotlight the kings who were instrumental in bringing about revival, restoration, and reformation. Some kings in the southern kingdom of Judah were good and obeyed God, but there were no good kings in the northern kingdom of Israel. Chronicles tells us many of the details of the good kings that are not told in Samuel and Kings. None of the wicked kings of either kingdom are mentioned in Chronicles. Neither are the sins of David and Solomon.

The key to understanding the different ways in which Chronicles describes this period of Hebrew history is this: God's ways are not our ways, and His thoughts are not our thoughts. *"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."* (Isaiah 55:8-9). If we want to have a divine perspective, to align the way we think and do things with the way God thinks and does things, we will learn much from the Chronicles. It is a tremendous message in values and perspective as we see Hebrew history from God's point of view.



1. True or false? God never hears the prayer of wicked people.

2. True or false? There are many signs of the mercy of God in the books of Kings and Chronicles.
3. True or false? The books of Chronicles repeat the same period of history described in the books of Samuel and Kings.

Unless otherwise noted, choose one answer for each question.

4. Why does God give us a repetition of this period of history? (*choose all that apply*)
 - a. Repetition is a key to education.
 - b. Scribes disagreed on the facts, so they wrote two versions.
 - c. The earlier books were lost and then rediscovered after Chronicles was written.
 - d. God wants to emphasize important kingdom truths for us.
 - e. God wants to show us His perspective on these events.
 - f. The whole story had not yet been told.
 - g. One version was written for Hebrew people and the other for Greeks.
5. What do many Bible scholars believe about the time of the captivities?
 - a. It shows that God gave up on His kingdom.
 - b. It began an era called “the times of the Gentiles.”
 - c. It shows God’s favor on Assyria and Babylon.
 - d. It proves that God cannot control history.
6. Where is God’s kingdom now located?
 - a. Asia
 - b. North America
 - c. Africa
 - d. In the hearts of people
7. Which of the following are differences between Kings and Chronicles? (*choose all that apply*)
 - a. Chronicles omit David’s and Solomon’s sins because God forgave them.
 - b. Chronicles omit the story of the northern kingdom.
 - c. Kings emphasize the victory of God’s people.
 - d. Kings honor the good works of Babylonian kings.
 - e. Chronicles emphasize Judah’s wicked kings.
 - f. Kings emphasize Judah’s good kings.
 - g. Chronicles tell stories of the faithfulness of kings not found in the books of Kings.
 - h. Chronicles were written after the time of Jesus.
 - i. Kings were written before the captivity and Chronicles afterward.
 - j. Kings were written by men and Chronicles by the Holy Spirit.
 - k. Chronicles emphasize worship.
8. According to Chronicles, why was David not allowed to build a house for God?
 - a. Because of his sin with Bathsheba
 - b. Because he did not know how to worship
 - c. Because of all the blood he had shed
 - d. Because he did not have enough money or laborers

9. What does God promise to people who humble themselves, repent, and pray?
 - a. He will forgive them and heal their land.
 - b. He will make them wealthy.
 - c. He will solve all their problems.
 - d. He will help them conquer their enemy nations.

10. How much difference is there between the way we naturally think and the way God thinks?
 - a. There is no difference because we are made in His image.
 - b. There is a slight difference.
 - c. There is a significant difference.
 - d. The difference is as great as the difference between heaven and earth.

11. According to Chronicles, what was David and Solomon's worst sin?
 - a. Their sin of having more than one wife
 - b. Their sin of not worshiping God in the right way
 - c. Their sins are not mentioned because God totally forgave them
 - d. Their sin of killing innocent people



What sins and mistakes do you wish God would omit from your life? What blessings would you like Him to add?

“If we say we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and refusing to accept the truth. But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us and to cleanse us from every wrong.”
—I John 1:8-9

*“We are made right in God's sight when we trust in Jesus Christ to take away our sins. And we all can be saved in this same way, no matter who we are or what we have done. For all have sinned; all fall short of God's glorious standard. **Yet now God in his gracious kindness declares us not guilty.** He has done this **through Christ Jesus, who has freed us by taking away all our sins.**”*
—Romans 3:22-24

*“You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ. **He forgave all our sins.** He canceled the record that contained the charges against us. He took it and destroyed it by nailing it to Christ's cross.”*
—Colossians 2:13-14



If you have never accepted God's forgiveness, do so now. Confess your sins like kings David and Solomon did. Thank God that from His perspective on your life, your sins are all forgiven and omitted from His record, that now He delights in you. Ask Him to help you see yourself from His perspective and to write your “story” the way He wants to.



Going Deeper

1. Give three reasons why the two books of Chronicles repeat the same period of Hebrew history that are covered in the books of Samuel and Kings. _____

2. Give three examples of how the values of God differ from the values of man, in the way they each perceive this period of Hebrew history. _____

3. What are five differences between the values of God and the values of man today? _____

4. Relate the good news that the sins of David and Solomon are not mentioned in Chronicles, to the root meaning of the word *justified* found in the parable of Jesus in Luke 18:9-14, and in the letter of Paul to the Romans. _____

5. If God treats your confessed sins as if they never happened, what should your attitude be toward your sins once you have confessed them to God? _____

6. If the people of God will humble themselves and pray and seek the face of God, what does He promise He will do for them, and how does this apply to us today?

7. According to Jesus, where is the Kingdom of God today? How can that be? _____
