

## THEMES IN CHRONICLES

1. **Instructive, inspiring lessons from Israel's history** (*examples from Israel's history illustrating how obeying God resulted in blessing*)
2. **Important role of individuals in God's kingdom** (*genealogies; private citizens; individual palace personnel and Levites*)
3. **Key role of leaders** (*priests, Levites, kings*)
4. **Importance of trusting, depending on God** (e.g., *Jehoshaphat, Hezekiah*)
5. **Importance of honoring, obeying God's laws** (e.g., *Uzziah; Hezekiah; Josiah*)
6. **Importance of respecting God's Temple** (*David and Solomon; Jehoiada; Josiah*)
7. **Omnipotence of God** (e.g., *Jehoshaphat; Hezekiah*)
8. **Patience, tenaciousness of God for his people** (*2 Chr. 36:15-16*)
9. **Forgiving nature and love of God** ("*His mercy endureth forever*"; *2 Chr. 33:10-13*)
10. **Repentance as the way back to God** (*humbling oneself, turning from evil, turning to God; e.g., 2 Chr. 12:6-7; 34:27-28; 7:14*)

## ENCOURAGING, INSPIRING STORIES IN CHRONICLES That Are Not Found in Kings

### David

1. David's extensive preparations for the building of the Temple, his reorganization of the divisions and responsibilities of the Levites and priests, his provision for singing and music at the Temple by the Levites, and his organization of the Levitical gatekeepers and treasurers (1 Chronicles 22-26, 28-29).

2. David's inspiring charge to Solomon, to be a ruler of integrity, devotion to God, and to build God's Temple according to God's directions that he had given to David, with the cooperation of the priests and Levites (1 Chr. 28:8-21).

3. Account of the gifts that David and the people of Israel voluntarily gave for the building of the Temple (1 Chr. 29:1-9).

4. David's inspiring prayer dedicating to God the gifts he and the people have given for the building of the Temple (1 Chr. 29:10-20).

### Rehoboam

5. The story of how Levites, priests, and godly people left the rebellious northern kingdom of Israel to join with the faithful tribe of Judah and worship at the Lord's Temple, at the beginning of the divided monarchy (2 Chr. 11:13-17).

6. Repentance of Rehoboam and the leaders of Judah at the encouragement of the prophet Shemaiah, and the shields of the Temple treasury (2 Chr. 12:5-12) *(no positive stories about Rehoboam in Kings)*.

### Abijah

7. Abijah's inspiring speech on Mt. Zemarim, encouraging the people of the northern kingdom to follow the good example of the priests, Levites, and people of Judah, who have remained faithful to God's covenant and his Temple (2 Chr. 13:4-12).

8. God's rescue of Abijah and the Judean army, when they cried out to God for help, and the priests blew their trumpets (2 Chr. 13:13-19) *(no positive stories about Abijah in Kings)*.

### Asa

9. Asa's religious reforms and repair of the Temple's altar, in response to the inspiring challenge of the prophet Azariah son of Oded, and the resulting blessing from God upon Judah (2 Chr. 15:1-15).

10. The challenge of Hanani the prophet, reprimanding Asa for not relying on the Lord, who "strengthens those whose hearts are fully committed to him" (2 Chr. 16:7-9).

### Jehoshaphat

11. The story of Jehoshaphat's early prosperity because of his faithfulness to God, and his sending priests out to teach the Law to the people of Judah (2 Chr. 17:3-12).

12. Jehoshaphat's legal reforms, involving the priests and the Levites (2 Chr. 19:4-11).

13. The wonderful story of how God delivered Jehoshaphat and Judah from invading Transjordanian armies, defeating the enemy armies without Judah's involvement, and the key role played by the Levites (2 Chr. 20:1-30) *(no positive stories about Jehoshaphat's reign in Kings)*.

### Joash

14. The courageous stand of the priest Zechariah, son of Jehoida, against King Joash (2 Chr. 24:15-22) *(no positive stories in the Kings account of Joash)*.

### Amaziah

15. The story of how God gave Amaziah victory without the mercenaries from the rebellious northern kingdom (2 Chr. 25:5-12) *(no positive stories about Amaziah in Kings)*.

### Uzziah

16. The account of how God blessed Uzziah during his early years when he was obedient and faithful to God ("as long as he sought the Lord, God gave him success"; 26:5), and how God honored the sanctity of his Temple and priests when Uzziah tried to usurp the priestly duties (2 Chr. 26:5-21) *(no positive stories about Uzziah in Kings)*.

### Jotham

17. The brief account of how God gave Jotham, who was careful to respect the sanctity of the Temple, prosperity and a military victory against the Ammonites ("Jotham grew powerful because he walked steadfastly before the LORD his God" (2 Chr. 27:2, 5-6) *(no positive stories about Jotham in Kings)*.

### Hezekiah

18. The inspiring, detailed story of Hezekiah's happy purification and rededication of the Temple, with the willing help of the priests and Levites (2 Chronicles 29)

19. The story of the great and joyful celebration of Passover at the Temple, with the participation of the priests and the Levites; and the purging of all Judah's pagan installations (2 Chr. 30:1-31:1).

20. Hezekiah's provisions for the financial support of the priests, Levites, and Temple services (2 Chr. 31:2-19).

### Manasseh

21. The inspiring story of Manasseh's repentance, while imprisoned in Babylon (2 Chr. 33:11-13).

22. Manasseh's religious reforms, including the cleansing of the Temple (2 Chr. 33:15-16) *(no positive stories about Manasseh in Kings)*.

### Josiah

23. The grand celebration of the Passover at the Temple, with a detailed account of how the priests and Levites carefully followed all God's laws regarding the celebration and the Temple (2 Chr. 35:2-17).

### End of Judah's Exile

24. Brief account of how Cyrus, in fulfillment of God's words through Jeremiah, proclaimed that the Jews could return to Judah and rebuild the Lord's Temple (2 Chr. 36:21-23).