## II CHRONICLES 1-4

## Introduction...

- The whole counsel of God
  - o Our desire to is to teach through the whole Bible Genesis to Revelation
  - o Acts 20:27 "For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God."
  - o We have finished I Chronicles and will continue on to the Book of II Chronicles...
  - o **II Chronicles** is the 9<sup>th</sup> of the 12 books of the History of Israel in the Old Testament
- Overview of the book of I Chronicles...
  - o 1st Who wrote the book of **II Chronicles** 
    - The name Chronicles was given to these books by the 5<sup>th</sup> century scholar Jerome...
    - The name literally means 'The events of the days' from the Hebrew Divrei Hayyamim
    - The author is unknown but it has been traditionally accredited to Ezra or Nehemiah...
    - Written after the Babylonian captivity 586 B.C. when the people returned to Judah
  - o  $2^{nd}$  The  $6^{th}$  of the 6 books of the Kings of Israel **I Samuel** through **II Chronicles**...
    - The Latin Vulgate labels the books the I / II / III / and IV book of Kings
    - The Hebrew Bible Tanak labels the books The Kings / and The Chronicles...
    - I Samuel concluded the time of the prophets / began the reign of the Kings King Saul...
    - II Samuel the life of King David from his coronation to his death...
    - **I Kings** the reign of Solomon in the first 11 chapters...
    - The rest of I Kings and II Kings follow the divided Kingdom...
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> There are 4 major sections to the books of **I and II Chronicles**...
    - I Chronicles 1-9 the genealogy of of Israel from Adam to the Captivity...
      - Genealogies were very important to the Jewish people proving their heritage...
      - But they become important for us because it becomes the line of Jesus Christ!
    - I Chronicles 10 II Chronicles 9 the United Kingdom
      - 1050 B.C Saul the first King of Israel began his 40-year reign over Israel...
      - 1010 B.C. David the second King of Israel began his 40-year reign...
      - 970 B.C. Solomon the third King of Israel began his 40-year reign...
    - II Chronicles 10-28 the divided Kingdom...
      - 930 B.C. After the death of Solomon the Kingdom of Israel was split in two...
      - The Northern 10 tribes called Israel ruled at first by Jeroboam...
      - Judah and Benjamin called Judah ruled at first by Rehoboam...
      - Israel would not be reunited as one nation until 1948 **Ezekiel 37:21-22**
      - 40 Kings would rule over the two kingdoms 20 in Israel / 20 in Judah...
      - It is one of the most important / yet unknown parts of the history of Israel...
      - All of the prophets from Isaiah-Malachi prophesied during the Divided Kingdom!
      - The period end with the Diaspora 722 B.C. the northern Kingdom falls...
      - 586 B.C. the southern Kingdom is taken captive to Babylon for 70 years!
    - II Chronicles 29-36 the post exile Kingdom...
      - The captives returned to Judah in waves Ezra / Zerubbabel / Nehemiah...
      - 515 B.C. the Jews returned to the Land Fulfilling the prophecy of **Jeremiah 29:10**!

## THE REIGN OF SOLOMON... (4 THINGS)

- 1<sup>st</sup> Wisdom from the Lord... vs. 1-17 Read: II Chronicles 1:1-12
  - o 1st As we pick up the story King David has died Solomon is the 3rd King of Israel... vs. 1-6
    - God was with Solomon and exalted him exceedingly...
      - Solomon gathered all the leaders of Israel to Gibeon to offer a sacrifice to God...
      - The Ark of the Covenant had been brought to Jerusalem II Samuel 6:17
      - David built a 'new Tabernacle' for the Ark there in the City of David...
      - But the original Tabernacle made by Moses stayed in Gibeon...
      - Solomon offered 1000 burnt offerings there and that night God spoke in a dream!
    - Solomon came to hear from the Lord and he got an answer…
      - Not because of how many animals he sacrificed / or because of where he was...
      - He got an answer because he was sincerely seeking the Lord!
      - People think if they give enough God will answer them but God cannot be bribed!
      - Or if they come to a 'holy place' God will hear them but God is everywhere!
      - If we are truly looking to find God He is always willing to answer...
      - **Jeremiah 29:13** "You will find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart."
  - o 2<sup>nd</sup> God offered to give Solomon ANYTHING... vs. 7-10
    - Solomon answered God showed mercy to David making him King of Israel...
      - And now the Lord had made Solomon King in his place...
      - But Solomon felt like a lost little child ruling a nation to numerous (*like dust*) to count!
      - So he asked for wisdom so he would be able to rule Israel well!
      - We have all felt the helplessness that comes from being overwhelmed in life...
      - Feeling like a lost little child not knowing what decision to make...
      - Looking for someone to guide us needed wisdom so we do not make a mistake!
    - Wisdom comes to those who ask for it from the Lord...
      - The wisdom of God is not the same thing as knowledge we learn in the world...
      - If you want knowledge you go to school and you will be taught...
      - But even the most educated people often lack wisdom in their lives!
      - Because wisdom is not learned it is a gift of the Spirit I Corinthians 12:8...
      - Knowing the best choices to make in life having Godly understanding...
      - And the way to get wisdom is simply to come to the Lord and ask for it!
      - **James 1:5** "If you need wisdom if you want to know what God wants you to do-ask him, and he will gladly tell you. He will not resent your asking."
  - o 4th God was VERY pleased with Solomon's request... vs. 11-12
    - Since Solomon did not ask for money / or long life / or revenge on his enemies...
      - God would make him the wisest man who ever lived or would EVER live!
      - God would also give to Solomon what he did not ask for great riches!
    - God granted the request of Solomon because is was a self-less request...
      - If your child asked you for \$20 to buy school supplies you would not hesitate...
      - If your child asked you for \$20 to buy candy and sweats you would not give it!
      - In the same way if we ask God for selfish things silence will be His only reply...
      - **James 4:3** "When you ask, you do not get it because your whole motive is wrong—you want only what will give you pleasure."
      - As we abide in Jesus we can ask for anything and God will give it John 15:7...
      - Because we are going to be asking for the things that God wants!

- God does not just want to give us what we need...
  - If your child asks you for ice cream do you just give them a spoon full...
  - No we want to give them LOTS of ice cream tell them to get a BIG bowl!
  - God does not just want to provide for our daily needs He has a far greater plan!
  - He wants to give us His whole kingdom bless us beyond imagination Luke 12:33
  - The only reason He would not give us something is He knows its not good for us!
- o 5<sup>th</sup> Solomon returned to Jerusalem and strengthened his army... vs. 13-17
  - Now this was an odd move because all Solomon reigned during a time of peace...
    - He added 1,400 chariots and 12,000 horsemen stationing them all over Israel...
    - He bought them from Egypt and even began to sell them to the Hittites and Syria!
    - But God had said kings were not to add horses **Deuteronomy 17:16**...
    - The concern was he would trust in his military might rather than the Lord...
    - **Psalms 20:7** "Some trust in chariots, and some in horses; But we will remember the name of the LORD our God."
  - It seemed a small compromise for the King it was his first but not his last...
    - Solomon would end up walking away from the Lord because of compromise!
    - We need to constantly be on guard watching even for little compromises in life...
    - Because we do not just wake up one day and decide to go and sin...
    - We are slowly pulled away from the Lord by the little choices we make!
- 2<sup>ND</sup> Preparing for the Temple... vs. 1-18 Read: II Chronicles 2:1-10
  - o 1st Solomon was determined to build a Temple for the Lord...vs. 1-2
    - Solomon raised a HUGE work force to build the Temple...
      - There were so many trees harvested Solomon hired 70,000 men to move them...
      - As well as 80,000 stone cutters who provided HUGE bocks for the Temple...
      - The stones were between 10-20m in length weighing over 50 tons each!
      - Overseeing the project were 3,600 foremen to organize the HUGE work force!
    - In all there were almost 200,000 men working on the project...
      - I once had a pastor tell me 'Many hands make for light work'...
      - One man can only accomplish so much but when many men work together...
      - There is no limit to what they can accomplish for the Lord!
  - o  $2^{nd}$  Then Solomon asked king Hiram of Tyre for supplies... vs. 3-18
    - He needed LOTS of cedar trees from Lebanon to use in building the Temple...
      - The Cedars of Lebanon were famous for their huge size and durability...
      - They could grow to be over 120' tall and could be up to 8' think!
      - A hard wood they were perfect for constructing large buildings!
    - King Hiram agreed to give Solomon as much wood as he wanted...
      - His men would cut the trees build them into rafts and float them to Israel...
      - Then from Joppa Solomon could bring them to Jerusalem...
      - In return Solomon provided food for the people of Tyre...
      - 1.2 million gallons each of wheat and barley / 120,000 gallons each of olive oil and wine...
      - The total cost of materials and labor for the Temple was in the billions!
      - Solomon took the great wealth God had given him and invested it in the Lord!
      - People work for years in order to afford bigger houses better retirement...
      - Things that only last for a short while but have no eternal benefit!
      - How much better to invest out time / talents / money in the Lord!

- 3<sup>RD</sup> THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE TEMPLE... vs. 1-17 Read: II CHRONICLES 3:1-17
  - o 1st In the 4th year of King Solomon's reign / 480 years after Egypt... vs. 1-9
    - King Solomon began to build the Temple of the Lord it took 7 years to complete...
      - The Temple was 90' long / 30' wide / and 45' high larger than the Tabernacle...
      - On the east there was a porch that extended out 15' from the front of the Temple...
      - The inside of the Temple was covered floor to ceiling in pure gold (*even the nails*)!
      - It was meant to be an awe-inspiring representation of heaven itself!
      - But as amazing as the Temple was it is nothing compared to heaven...
      - **I Corinthians 2:9 -** "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him."
      - Heaven is not the most amazing place we can imagine beyond our imagination!
      - It will take ages literally 1000s of years in heaven for God to reveal it all to us!
    - All of the stones for the Temple were cut away from the site I Kings 6:7-10
      - There was no hammer or chisel heard inside the Temple...
        - o All the stones were finished in the quarry then just assembled at the site...
        - o Each stone was a perfect fit they did not even need mortar between the stones...
        - o To this day you can still see the quarry where Solomon cut out the rocks...
        - o On the north side of Jerusalem by the Damascus gate!
      - When God builds His House He does not use wood and concrete....
        - o I Peter 2:5 "You also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house..."
        - o God uses something far more precious He uses us to build His house!
        - o Did you ever wonder why God did not take us right to heaven when we got saved...
        - o Why leave us here on earth where we got through trials and temptations...
        - o The reason is because we have a lot of 'rough edges' that need to be polished off...
        - o We are not going to be 'chiseled' / 'shaped' in heaven the work takes place here...
        - o God put us through trials to mold/shape us into the people He wants us to be...
        - o So that when we arrive in Heaven we will already be a perfect fit!
  - o 2<sup>nd</sup> The Holiest of All... vs. 10-17
    - Inside the Temple Solomon made a room 30' long for the Ark of the Covenant...
      - The Temple was divided inside into 2 parts the Holiest / the Holy of Holies...
        - o The Holiest was the 1st room inside the Temple only the priest were allowed...
        - o The Holy of Holies was the inner room where the presence of God dwelt...
        - o The walls were decorated with carvings fruits and flowers...
        - o Against the back wall were two gold Cherubim (angels) each 15' high...
        - o Their wings stretched 30' across the whole room over the Ark of the Covenant...
      - The Ark was a wooden box roughly 4' x 2' x 2' covered inside and out in gold...
        - o The Ark held the 10 commandments written on stone...
        - o It was meant to keep the most important of all treasures the Word of God!
        - o  $\,$  The cover for the Ark was called the 'Mercy Seat' the foot stool of God...
        - o It was there from on top of the Ark God would speak to the people of Israel...
        - o So how can we meet with God hear from the Lord today...
        - o Through His Word just like in the Ark God speaks to us from His Word!
    - Solomon also made two bronze pillars for the Temple each 40' tall / 7' wide…
      - Decorated on top with lilies each would have weighed over 25 tons!
      - They stood at the entrance to the Temple Jachin (God built) and Boaz (strength)...
      - Bronze in the Bible is a picture of the judgment of sin...
      - So before you came into the presence of the Lord you had to deal with your sin!

- 4<sup>TH</sup> HIRAM OF TYRE... vs. 1-22 READ: II CHRONICLES 4:1-10
  - o 1<sup>st</sup> Solomon hired a skilled bronze worker from Tyre... vs. 1-22
    - His name was Hiram his mother was from Israel his father from Tyre...
      - Hiram made 10 water carts / and various other bronze utensils...
      - Pots / shovels / bowls / forks the bronze pillars along with 400 bronze pomegranates...
      - The weight of all the bronze used was so great it could not be measured!
    - Hiram also made the Bronze Sea…
      - A HUGE bronze pool used by the Priests to wash their hands and feet...
      - 15' across 7 ½' deep it could hold about 18,000 gallons of water...
      - 12 full size bronze oxen 3 facing in each direction supported it!
    - The priests had to wash before the went into the tabernacle or to the Alter or die...
      - The obvious questions is why just wash the feet and hands why not the rest...
      - Peter asked this same question of Jesus when He washed the disciples feet...
      - **John 13:10** "He who is bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean..."
      - This is obviously not referring to hygiene if you just wash you feet you will stink...
      - It is a spiritual picture your feet are where you go your hands are what you do...
      - If where you go and what you do is clean the rest of you will also be clean!
      - We as believers need to be careful where we go and what we do...
      - If we find ourselves going along with others to placed where bad things happen...
      - But if we are attending Bible studies / spending time with Godly believers...
      - We will find we are clean staying away from sin walking with the Lord!
  - o 2<sup>nd</sup> When he was done the Lord gave a message to Solomon I Kings 6:11-14
    - The Temple was VERY impressive but God did not want them to trust in the Temple...
      - God wanted them to remember the Temple was just stone it had no power to save...
      - If Israel thought that because they had the Temple God was with them...
      - If their faith was in the Temple then their faith was in the wrong place!
    - Our problem is never a lack of faith it was where our faith is placed...
      - Our faith is only going to be as effective as what we put our faith in...
      - They key to having effective faith is putting our trust in Jesus!