

II CHRONICLES 1-4

INTRODUCTION...

- **THE WHOLE COUNSEL OF GOD**
 - Our desire to is to teach through the whole Bible - Genesis to Revelation
 - **Acts 20:27** – “For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God.”
 - We have finished **I Chronicles** - and will continue on to the Book of **II Chronicles**...
 - **II Chronicles** is the 9th of the 12 books of the History of Israel in the Old Testament
- **OVERVIEW OF THE BOOK OF I CHRONICLES...**
 - 1st - Who wrote the book of **II Chronicles**
 - The name Chronicles was given to these books by the 5th 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
 - 2nd - The 6th 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...
 - 3rd - 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)

- **1ST – WISDOM FROM THE LORD... vs. 1-17** **READ: II CHRONICLES 1:1-12**
 - 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.”
 - 2nd – 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.”
 - 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 it 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 sweets – 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 5th - 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!
- 2ND – 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 blocks 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 2nd - 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’ thick!
 - 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!

- **3RD – THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE TEMPLE... vs. 1-17** **READ: II CHRONICLES 3:1-17**
 - 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...
 - All the stones were finished in the quarry - then just assembled at the site...
 - Each stone was a perfect fit - they did not even need mortar between the stones...
 - **To this day you can still see the quarry where Solomon cut out the rocks...**
 - **On the north side of Jerusalem – by the Damascus gate!**
 - When God builds His House He does not use wood and concrete...
 - **I Peter 2:5** - "You also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house..."
 - **God uses something far more precious - He uses us to build His house!**
 - **Did you ever wonder why God did not take us right to heaven when we got saved...**
 - **Why leave us here on earth where we got through trials and temptations...**
 - **The reason is because we have a lot of 'rough edges' that need to be polished off...**
 - **We are not going to be 'chiseled' / 'shaped' in heaven - the work takes place here...**
 - **God put us through trials to mold/shape us into the people He wants us to be...**
 - **So that when we arrive in Heaven - we will already be a perfect fit!**
 - 2nd – 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...
 - The Holiest was the 1st room inside the Temple – only the priest were allowed...
 - The Holy of Holies was the inner room – where the presence of God dwelt...
 - The walls were decorated with carvings fruits and flowers...
 - Against the back wall were two gold Cherubim (*angels*) – each 15' high...
 - 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...
 - The Ark held the 10 commandments written on stone...
 - It was meant to keep the most important of all treasures – the Word of God!
 - The cover for the Ark – was called the 'Mercy Seat' – the foot stool of God...
 - It was there – from on top of the Ark – God would speak to the people of Israel...
 - **So how can we meet with God – hear from the Lord – today...**
 - **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!**

- **4TH – HIRAM OF TYRE... vs. 1-22** **READ: II CHRONICLES 4:1-10**
 - 1ST – 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 they went into the tabernacle or to the Alter - or die...
 - The obvious question 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 your 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 places 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!
 - 2ND - 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...
 - The key to having effective faith – is putting our trust in Jesus!