

[Go ahead and read 2 Chronicles](#)

The slide clicks, and our eyes focused on the image flashed onto the screen in the darkened sanctuary. “This idol,” explains the missionary, “is made of stone and is worshiped daily. The natives believe that this will guarantee good crops and healthy children.” With condescending smiles we wonder at their ignorance. How could anyone worship an object? Idols are for the naive and the superstitious! But after the presentation, we return home to our idols of wealth, prestige, or self-fulfillment. Whatever we put in God’s place we worship, despite what we profess.

Our experience parallels Israel’s. They were chosen by God to represent him on earth. But too often they forgot the truth and their calling., stumbling blindly after idols as the neighboring nations did. Then prophets, priests, and judgment would push them abruptly back to the one true God. Second Chronicle relates this sordid history of Judah’s corrupt and idolatrous kings. Here and there a good king would arise in Judah, and for a time revival would follow, but the downward spiral would continue — ending in chaos, destruction, and captivity.

The chronicler writes this volume to bring the people of Israel back to God by reminding them of their past. Only by following God would they prosper! As you read 2 Chronicles, you will catch a vivid glimpse of Judah’s history (the history of Israel, the northern kingdom, is virtually ignored), and you will see the tragic results of idolatry. Learn the lessons of the past: Determine to get rid of any idols in your life and to worship God alone.

Second Chronicles continues the history of 1 Chronicles. David’s son Solomon was inaugurated as king. Solomon built the magnificent Temple in Jerusalem, thus fulfilling his father’s wish and last request (chapters 2-5). Solomon enjoyed a peaceful and prosperous reign of 40 years that made him world famous. After Solomon died, his son Rehoboam assumed the throne, and his immaturity divided the kingdom.

In Judah there were a few good kings and many evil ones. The writer of Chronicles faithfully records their achievements and failures, noting how each king measured up to God’s standard for success. Clearly a good king obeyed God’s laws, eliminated the places of idols worship, and made no alliances with other nations. Judah’s good kings included Asa, Jehoshaphat, Uzziah, Hezekiah, and Josiah. Of its many evil ones, Ahaz and Manasseh were perhaps the worst. Eventually the nation was conquered and taken captive, and the Temple was destroyed.

The writer’s purpose was to reunite the nation around the true worship of God after the Captivity. In these pages, he reminds the people of their past. He clearly broadcasts his message through one of the best-known verses in Scripture. “Then if my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and restore their land” (7:14). As you read 2 Chronicles, listen to God’s voice and obey him; and receive his redemptive healing touch.