

Book 14: 2 Chronicles

Judah's Downward Spiral

- This book begins with the reign of Solomon in Jerusalem and ends in the Reign of Cyrus in Persia – a time span of roughly 430 years.
- Like the book of Judges, 2 Chronicles reveals repeating cycles of revival and decline in the nation's history.
- Each cycle begins with a godly king who sets an example for the people of faithfulness to God.
- These cycles end with ungodly kings whose unfaithfulness leads the nation into trouble.
- Each low point in the cycle seems to go deeper, in a spiraling pattern of decline.
- Eventually Judah, like Israel in the north, is carried away into captivity.
 - Israel went off to Assyria in the days of Sennacherib.
 - Judah into Babylon at the time of Nebuchadnezzar.
 - Cyrus, king of Persia, issued the first decree to allow them to return

Outline of 2 Chronicles

- I. The Cycle of Solomon 1-13
- II. The Cycle of Asa 14-16
- III. The Cycle of Jehoshaphat 7-22
- IV. The Cycle of Joash 23-28
- V. The Cycle of Hezekiah 29-33
- VI. The Cycle of Josiah 34-36

2 Chronicles: A Few Facts

- Like 1 Chronicles, this book focuses on the worship in the Temple: the services, Levites, priests, musicians, singers, etc.
- The word "house" as in "the house of the Lord" or the temple, is used in 134 separate verses.
- This book records the largest army in biblical history : One Million men (14:9)
- It also gives us the age of Judah's youngest king , Joash, who began to reign at age 7.
- This book records the reign and the conversion of Manasseh, Judah's worst king , in 2 Chronicles 33.

- 2 Chronicles starts out with Solomon building the first temple and ends with Cyrus' decree to build the second temple.
- Ezra begins where 2 Chronicles ends, with Cyrus' decree.
- Before the captivity, Judah was repeatedly led astray by the worship of idols. After they returned from Babylon, idolatry is no longer brought up as a problem.
- In the Hebrew Bible, the Chronicles (both 1 & 2 combined) are placed as the final book.
- 2 Chronicles 32:30 says that Hezekiah built a tunnel to bring water to the west side of the city of David. His goal was to make sure Jerusalem had water in case of a military siege. A young boy rediscovered the 1700' tunnel in 1880 while playing in the water. It is still functional, and if you visit Jerusalem today, you can walk inside of it.

Key Chapter

2 Chronicles 32

God Intervenes in the Days of King Hezekiah

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|--------------------------|-------|
| A) Hezekiah's Defense | 1-8 |
| B) Sennacherib's Bluster | 9-19 |
| C) Answered Prayer | 20-23 |
| D) Personal Repentance | 24-26 |
| E) Hezekiah's Wealth | 27-30 |
| F) Closing Remarks | 31-33 |

Key Verse #1: 2 Chron. 7:14

“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 I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.”

Key Verse #2: 2 Chron. 16:9a

“For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of *those* whose heart *is* loyal to Him.”