

OLD TESTAMENT BIBLICAL LITERACY

1 AND 2 CHRONICLES

Lesson 29

Biblical-Literacy.com

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BACKGROUND

- Was it always 1 and 2 Chronicles?
 - Originally 1 book
 - LXX divided into two
- Last book in Hebrew OT
 - Luke 11:51 and 2 Chr. 24:19-22

BACKGROUND

Why are the books called Chronicles?

- Hebrew: *dibre hayyamim*
 - “words of the days”
 - “words” are writings or chronicles
 - “day” is also an era/time period
- LXX: *paraleipomenon*
 - “the things omitted”

WHY “CHRONICLES”?

- Church father Jerome:

Chronicon totius divinae historiae

- “A Chronicle of the whole of sacred history”
- Luther followed Jerome

BACKGROUND

Where did Chronicles come from?

■ Author – Ezra?

YES

- Cf. 2 Chr 36:22-23 w/ Ezra 1:1-3a
- Literary styles
- Types of materials

NO

- Same passages
- Literary styles
- Differences

BACKGROUND

When was Chronicles written?

- After 500 B.C.
 - 538 B.C. is return from exile
 - Grandsons in 1 Chr. 3:17-21
- Before 420 B.C.
- Probably 480 – 500 B.C.

BACKGROUND

Where did the author get the material?

- Written genealogies (1 Chr. 4:33ff)
- Sennacherib's letters (2 Chr. 32ff)
- Cyrus's decree (2 Chr. 36:22ff)
- Temple plans
- Poems
- Histories and written prophecies
- God's spirit

BACKGROUND

Why is Chronicles in the canon?

- Was in OT canon
- 2 Tim. 3:16
- NT quotes 1 Chr 16:35 in Acts 26:17
- Orthodox view of canonicity

CANON

- “Canon” is rule or scripture
- Writings with God’s authority for what’s said
- More later, back to Chronicles

MATERIAL

Why was Chronicles written?

- Convey Yahweh's actions through exilic return
- Genealogies for ethnic and religious purity
- Motivate holiness

MATERIAL

What is in Chronicles?

- Chronologies Adam to return
(1 Ch. 1 – 9)
- Monarch history through Solomon
(10 – 29; David. 2 Ch. 1 – 9; Sol.)
- History of Judah post-division
(10 – 36)
- Spiritual reasons for earthly events

Spiritual Reasons/Earthly Events

1. Shishack invades (1 K. 14:25)
 2. Asa gets ill (1 K. 15:23)
 3. Uzziah gets leprosy (2 K. 15:5)
1. B/c Rehoboam's sin (12:1)
 2. B/c of distrust and oppression (16:7f)
 3. For invading the temple (26:16ff)

MATERIAL

- Yahweh takes center stage
- Yahweh is behind events that are political, economic, sociological, military, etc.
- Yahweh is consistent
 - (blessings and retribution)

MISSING MATERIAL

- Davidic Blocks
 - Including Bathsheba
- Solomon's foreign marriages & idolatry
- Northern Israel

KEY PHRASES

- "Seeking God"
 - I Chr. 16:10ff; 22:19; 28:9; etc.
- "Perfect heart"
 - 9 of 15 OT usages
 - Key for worship
- "Faithfulness"
- "Forsaking Yahweh"

POINTS FOR HOME

- Our God of history
 - Then AND now
 - Nothings is beyond his control
- Good heart & faithful life = happiness
- Rebellion & sin = unhappiness and pain