2 CHRONICLES

EXPLAINED: Episode Summary

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1. ESSENTIALS

What Do You Need to Know First to Study 2 Chronicles Well?

DATE: ***Written 450-425 BC:*** Looking Back
GENRE: ***Historical:*** Complete History of Judah
AUTHOR: ***Unknown:*** Possibly Edited by Ezra
SETTING: ***Post-Exile:*** Following Solomon-Cyrus
PURPOSE: ***Judah Overview:*** On True Worship
AUDIENCE: ***National Israel:*** Generations of Faith

2. STORYLINE

What Do You Need to Know First to Study 2 Chronicles Well?

Summary of Judah's History

- Transition from David to Solomon
- Following kings on David's line
- Jerusalem at its height of glory
- Building temple becomes central
- Dependence on God is paramount

KEY VERSES

When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command the locust to devour the land, or send pestilence among my people, if my people who are called by my name 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. Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayer that is made in this place. For now I have chosen and consecrated this house that my name may be there forever. My eyes and my heart will be there for all time.

- 2 Chronicles 7:13-16

3. THEMES & IDEAS

What Major Biblical Concepts Do We Find in 2 Chronicles?

- Wisdom's Prominence, Prayer's Power
- Centrality of Temple Worship
- Solomon's Reign & Glory
- Kings' Success Tied to Obedience
- God's Dealings with Kings & People
- Even Judah's Best Kings Have Flaws
- Conflict with Israel and Other Nations
- Reforms and Judgments in Judah

4. STRUCTURE

What are the major sections of 2 Chronicles?

CH 1-9: 1. The Glory of Jerusalem under Solomon
Israel's splendor under Solomon, emphasizing the building, sacrifices and dedication of the temple

CH 10-12: 2. The Divide of Israel Through Rehoboam
Rehoboam's failure, and how his pride divided Israel into two separate nations

CH 13-36: 3. The Reigns and Reforms of Judah's Kings
Sketches of Judah's kings after the split, emphasizing five periods of spiritual reformation



4. STRUCTURE - EXPANDED

4. What are the major sections of 2 Chronicles?

5. What do we learn about God from each of these sections?

6. What do these sections offer our Christian life?

CH 1-9: 1. THE GLORY OF JERUSALEM UNDER SOLOMON

Solomon's wisdom, the temple's glory, and God's covenant answer mark Israel at its height

CH 1: Solomon's Wisdom as King
Solomon displays godly leadership and wisdom as king of Israel during his early years

CH 5-7:10: Temple: Dedication
The glory of the Lord fills the temple, Solomon dedicates the temple, God sends fire from heaven

CH 2-4: Temple: Building & Furnishing
The preparations and construction of Israel's Temple and palace in Jerusalem led by Solomon

CH 7:11-9: Covenant & Final Highlights
God's Covenant with Solomon, his foreign relations, great material wealth, his death

CH 10-12: 2. THE DIVIDE OF ISRAEL THROUGH REHOBOAM

Rehoboam fractures the nation, fortifies Judah, forsakes the Lord, and is spared when he repents

CH 10: Rehoboam's Foolish Vow
Rehoboam vows to increase the burden on the people of Israel, which fractures the nation in two

CH 11: Rehoboam Defends Judah
Rehoboam relinquishes his attack on Israel upon hearing prophecy, fortifies his kingdom in defense

CH 12: Egypt Plunders Judah
Rehoboam forsakes the Lord; God allows Egypt to plunder Jerusalem, yet delivers them when they repent. Rehoboam dies.

CH 13-36: 3. THE REIGNS AND REFORMS OF JUDAH'S KINGS

Kings who seek the Lord bring renewal, those who forsake him bring judgment, until exile and Cyrus's decree

CH 15-17: Asa's & Jehoshaphat's Reforms
Azariah's prophecy stirs Asa to purge idols; Jehoshaphat seeks the Lord, removes High Places, teaches the Law

CH 29-31: Hezekiah's Reforms
Cleanses & repairs the temple, renews covenant, Temple Worship, Passover, and Levitical priesthood

CH 23-24: Jehoiada / Joash's Reforms
Jehoiada overthrows Athaliah, installs Joash as king, renews covenant w/ God; Joash restores the temple & furnishings

CH 34-35: Josiah's Reforms
Destroys high places & all abominations, recovers the Law, initiates full repentance & observes Passover

5. HOW 2 CHRONICLES POINTS TO CHRIST

- In the continued examples of the righteous kings of Judah
- In the glory of the temple of God under Solomon
- In the centrality of the ark of the covenant as a type of Christ
- In the continued concern for holiness in the house of God

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