

# Bible Challenge 2018

Week 14: April 1-7

## Outline:

1 Chronicles 1-3: Genealogy from Adam to David's Sons

1 Chronicles 4-7: Genealogy of the Twelve Sons of Israel (Jacob)

1 Chronicles 8-9: Genealogy of Saul, Israel's first King & Returning Exiles

1 Chronicles 10: A Recounting of Saul's Death

1 Chronicles 11-28: A Recounting of David's Reign as King

1 Chronicles 29: David Passes the Baton to Solomon

In the Hebrew Bible, the books of Chronicles form the last two books of their Bible. And on a most practical level, we can easily see how this makes sense because they form a kind of summary of Biblical history from Adam and Eve in the Garden to the fall of Jerusalem and the rising to power of Persian King Cyrus, who will release the people from their exile in Babylon.

This book, then, begins with Adam and comes to Solomon's anointing as King, essentially covering nearly 3,000 years of history. Much of this history takes place in the context of Genealogies, reminding us of the growth and descent of God's people back to Adam.

## Genealogy from Adam to David's Sons

For many of us, the genealogies are some of the duller readings in the Bible. Yet, we are reminded that the Holy Spirit has preserved these words for us for our edification. How, though, is a list of names edifying (especially if we have trouble pronouncing half of them!)? Perhaps the simplest answer to the question is more of a statement — were you one of the people whose name is mentioned, you would think them important. Further, they serve as a reminder to us of the faithful men and women of God who have existed for generations. Their deeds are not recorded in Sacred Writ, but they are known by the God of the heavens. We are part of a big family.

## Genealogy of the Twelve Sons of Israel (Jacob)

Perhaps it seems odd that we have some overlap when it comes to genealogies here. There is a reason for this...the central figure of the books of Chronicles is King David, so the first genealogy takes us just up through King David's line. The second set of genealogies focus on the Twelve tribes of Israel...the descendants of Jacob.

## Genealogy of Saul, Israel's first King and a Recounting of his Death

While King David is at the heart of the books of Chronicles, Saul is still the first King of Israel and thus deserves a place. Yet, notice that Saul only has three chapters dedicated to him and David has eighteen chapters dedicated to him.

## A Recounting of David's Reign as King

Even when we get to the second of the books of Chronicles, you will find that much more attention is paid to the Kings of Judah than to the Kings of Israel. In addition, the emphasis is on the good things that these kings do, not their failures, leading some to view Chronicles as written by a Royal historian. While this is perhaps the case, the better answer is to again be reminded that these books are meant as a summary of God's redemptive history up to the deliverance of Cyrus where the books of Samuel and Kings stood as a testimony against the people, witnessing to God's faithfulness despite their sins.

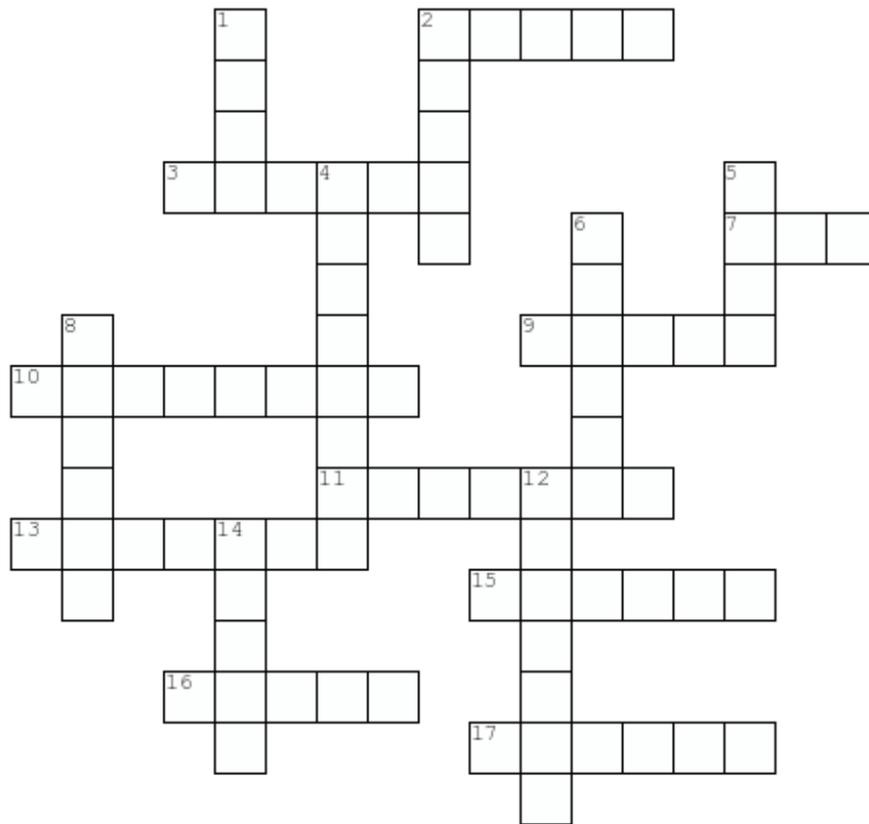
One of the fascinating aspects of the Chronicles' accounts is that of the tribes swearing their fealty to David. In particular, notice the language of the Tribe of Issachar in 1 Chronicles 12:32 — they were a small tribe and unable to field the armies that the larger tribes had put forward, yet they offered David something more valuable — men who "understood the times." In other words, at a point where there was contention in Israel with those who were joining with David and those who resisted it, they recognized that David was the anointed King over Israel and loyalties to Saul or no, this was a question of who God had anointed King. So, the times were changing and they chose to follow God's ways rather than man's.

In chapter 16, we see the foundations of Psalm 105, a sign of Asaph and David's involvement in connection to the Psalm. A reminder once again of David's involvement as King in the worship of God's people.

## David Passes the Baton to Solomon

The book closes with David passing on the baton of leadership to Solomon, noting again that we do not have an accounting of all the intrigue as is found in 1 Kings. Finally we see the book close with David's death "at a good age, full of days." What a way to be remembered.

# Week 14: 1 Chronicles



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## **Across**

2. The name of Jerusalem before David captured it.
3. This is where Saul and Jonathan died.
7. Of the sons of Jacob mentioned in chapters 4-7, this tribe is not mentioned.
9. Moses and Aaron's father.
10. Men of this tribe were known to 'Understand the Times.'
11. The Eldest son of Abraham who is not listed first in the genealogy.
13. The name of Moses' Uncle and of his son.
15. This son of Ham was considered a 'mighty man' before the Lord.
16. He was anointed as Priest when Solomon was anointed as King.
17. David sins against God and the people by demanding this...and punishment follows.

## **Down**

1. The line of the Priests.
2. The line of the Kings.
4. Many of David's Mighty Men were of this tribe.
5. The book of 1 Chronicles begins with a reference to this man and his sons.
6. David desired to build this for the Lord, but God did not permit it, so David simply made the preparations.
8. We know this man better as Jacob.
12. The Chief of David's Mighty Men.
14. While he has the name of a comic book character, he is remembered in the Bible as a wise man and a singer.