

“THAT WHICH WAS LEFT OUT”

The First and Second Books of Chronicles

Who wrote The Books of Chronicles?

The author is referred to as "the Chronicler", Most scholars agree that Ezra was probably The author.

How did The Books of Chronicles get their Name and/or what does that name mean?

In the Septuagint (the ancient Greek translation of the Hebrew Bible) and the Douay-Rheims Edition (an earlier Catholic Bible) these books are called "Paraleipomenon" which means "that which was left out" In these books, Jewish history is "chronicled" for the reader and for all of history.

When did these events take place?

1 Chronicles contains a history of Israel (in genealogy) from Adam through King David. 2 Chronicles continues this history with the story of Solomon, the division of the Kingdoms and concludes with the Babylonian exile in 587 B.C.

For more about The Book of Chronicles:

See page 347 in the [Fireside Catholic Youth Bible](#).

Do you have a relative who is especially interested in your family tree? Perhaps one of your aunts or uncles or maybe even one of your parents or grandparents has become the family historian. As we get older, it's not unusual for us to want to trace our roots. Looking back allows us to rediscover what was important to our ancestors. Writing things down is our way to pass these values on ensuring our own legacy in that recorded history.

The Books of Chronicles serve just that purpose in the Bible. Through lists of genealogy, they begin with a family tree of Israel. Then, like a family historian, the Chronicler goes into some detail about the history of David and those that followed him. Unlike in the histories of these events found in the Books of Samuel and Kings, here, the writer emphasizes how both David and Solomon followed God's will. The people who didn't follow God's will (like the kings of the northern kingdom of Israel) are barely mentioned in either First or Second Chronicles.

In the words of the Chronicler, we are reminded that this obedience to God and maintaining a focus on worship were the most important things to the devout Jew of the day. The writer makes it clear that this was their decision! God responds with their reward - the preservation of the lineage of David from which one day would be born the Savior of the World.

Interesting Fact: A detailed explanation of David's plans and Solomon's eventual construction of the Temple in Jerusalem are fundamental stories in 1 and 2 Chronicles. Each emphasizes the importance of worship and how central God was to the Jewish people at that time.

Bonus Point: What Ethiopian ruler lead an army of 1 million men and lost them all in battle?