**1 CHRONICLES**

**A Positive Summary of the History of Redemption**

**What you need to REMEMBER:**

The books of Samuel described the transition of the nation into a unified monarchy. The united-kingdom that began with King Saul and flourished under David and Solomon lasted for 120 years.

The books of Kings detailed the downward trajectory of the nation into division and faithlessness toward God. The narrative concluded with the destruction of the divided kingdom. The overtly wicked Northern Kingdom of Israel was taken into captivity by the Assyrians in 722 B.C. The Southern Kingdom of Judah was removed from the land by the Babylonians in 586 B.C.

After going through so much trouble to establish the people in the Land where the promised Savior would be born, live and die; the destruction of the nation raised two important questions. Would God remain faithful to His promises and His intention? If so, how would the plan of redemption recover from such a major setback?

**What you need to KNOW:**

About 50 years after the relatively godlier Southern Kingdom of Judah was taken into exile, there was a shift in the power structure of the region. The Persians came into dominance and their ruler, King Cyrus, allowed Judah to return to the land.

As they resettled the land, 1Chronicles acted as a reminder to Judah of how God was working in history to restore His creation to its original factory settings. As such, the first nine chapters concern itself with a selective genealogy that shows the historical linkage from Adam to their present time. The genealogies reminded the people of their need to maintain racial and religious purity so they could avoid the divinely orchestrated calamities of the past. Of particular importance in the narrative is the nation’s historical connection to King David, as it would be to one of his heirs that the Savior would be born.

1Chronicles retells the nation’s history with a positive twist.

This book covers much of the same material as 2Samuel, as such, there is particular focus on the ascension of King David. However, 1Chronicles generally ignores some of David’s failures – like the whole episode surrounding his adultery with Bathsheba and the killing of her husband, Uriah.

Another positive emphasis in 1Chronicles is a reconnection with the centrality of worship. Thus, there’s material here about the role of the priestly class of the Levites, the ark of the covenant, and the Temple. These descriptions are meant to remind the people to place the Lord at the center of their lives.

The positive spin of 1Chronicles is designed to remind God’s people that God is faithful even when we are not and that the terrible consequences of sin are designed to bring us back to Him.

**GET GOING!**

**Continue your personal Walk Through the Bible by skipping over the genealogies of 1Chronicles 1-9, and taking a deeper dive in the rest of the book.**