

## I Chronicles Thru Job

Job 19:25 “For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth”

- Our study will take us on a brief journey through each of the books of the Bible.
- Our aim: To impart perspective and the key to each book.
- Our construction: Key word; key verse; Key to Christ.

### I & II Chronicles

A. Means: The words of the days.

- a. Ezra is said to be the author; a priest and scribe familiar with the contents.
- b. He covers time from Adam thru David (I Chron.) then 971 thru 538 BC
- c. He deals with events of the past and as they match the return of the remnant after the Babylonian captivity.
- d. He then draws upon the need of the nation to remain the covenant people of God with Nehemiah being the political leader and Malachi being the moral leader.

B. Keys to I & II Chronicles:

- a. Key word: Days such as David’s days (I Chron.1-9) and his reign (I Chron.10-29); then Solomon’s reign (II Chron.1-9) and Judah’s kings (II Chron. 10-36).
- b. Key Verses: I Chron.29:11 “Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head over all”; II Chron.16:9 “For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to give strong support to those whose heart is blameless toward him. You have done foolishly in this, for from now on you will have wars.”
- c. Key Chapter: I Chron.17 from David will come one Whose kingdom “shall be established forever” (17:14); II Chron.34 chronicling the reforms and restoration in accord with the Book of the Law.
- d. Key to Christ: David as the type of Christ and the Temple that Zerubbabel rebuilds prefigures Christ’s temple the church.

### Ezra

A. Means: Hebrew for “help” perhaps Yahweh helps.

- a. Author is most probably Ezra as the book was bound together with the Chronicles and Nehemiah.
- b. The theme is the restoration of the Temple and reformation of the people after the Babylonia Captivity. 23 year period from 538 to 457 BC.
- c. The writer deals with the return to Jerusalem of the Jews due to Cyrus the Persian edict 538 BC. There are a number of other books that fit into this period such as Esther, Nehemiah, Haggai and Zechariah and it fits neatly after the book of Daniel.
- d. He deals with Zerubbabel’s urgent need to rebuild the altar and the religious feasts and his rejection of foreigners who unsuccessfully petition various Persian kings to run these Jews out of town. The fact that the people are content to build their own homes at the expense of the Temple causes rebuke from the prophets Haggai and Zechariah then the smaller return of people by Ezra himself under the edict of Artaxerxes then his admonishment to the nation to abandon foreign wives.

B. Keys to Ezra:

- a. Key word: Temple – the restoration of spiritual, social and moral attitudes to the nation.
- b. Key verses: 1:3 “Whoever is among you of all his people, may his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem, which is in Judah, and rebuild the house of the LORD, the God of Israel--he is the God who is in Jerusalem” – 7:10 “For Ezra had set his heart to study the Law of the LORD, and to do it and to teach his statutes and rules in Israel.”
- c. Key chapter: Chapter 6 the completion of the Temple and separation from the “filth of the nations of the land” (6:21).
- d. Key to Christ: Ezra typifies Christ’s work of forgiveness and restoration of the soul.

### Nehemiah

A. Means: Comfort of Yahweh.

- a. Nehemiah’s personal diary during the time of Ezra and covering 19 years 444-425 BC. He was the “cup bearer” for the Persian kings and therefore was held in high regard by them.
- b. The theme is rebuilding the wall that surrounds Jerusalem to protect the inhabitants. Artaxerxes I (step son of Esther) gives him leave to achieve this task. He faces opposition from Tobiah, Sanballat et al (4:3 “if a fox goes up on it he will break down their stone wall!”) but Nehemiah’s response was equal to their taunt “Hear, O our God, for we are despised. Turn back their taunt on their own heads and give them up to be plundered in a land where they are captives” (4:4). Wall reconstruction (1-7) – Restoration of nation (8-13).
- c. History backs Nehemiah’s authentic work: Elephantine papyri mention the antagonists as Nehemiah’s replacement Bigvai 410BC..

- B. Keys to Nehemiah:
- Key word: Jerusalem wall and its restoration under governor Nehemiah..
  - Key verses: Neh.6:15-16 “So the wall was finished on the twenty-fifth day of the month Elul, in fifty-two days. And when all our enemies heard of it, all the nations around us were afraid and fell greatly in their own esteem, for they perceived that this work had been accomplished with the help of our God.”
  - Key chapter: 8&9 reading the Law of Moses caused the nation to understand and remain firm to the covenant. “They read from the book, from the Law of God, clearly, and they gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading” (8:8).
  - Key to Christ: Restoration is a specific mission that will be fulfilled with God’s assistance.

## Esther

- A. Means: “Star” [Persian] (Hebrew name is Hadassah i.e. Myrtle)
- Anonymous author. Probably written after the death of Ahasuerus (464 BC) as the book speaks of him in the past tense.
  - The theme is set in 483-473 BC beginning with the Persian Empire and Xerxes’ lead up to conquering Greece. 479 BC records indicate it was a failure with the rest of the events in the book taking place in 473 BC (3:7-12 “twelfth year of King Ahasuerus”).
  - The book records threats to the Jews led by Haman (1-4) and the eventual triumph of the Jews led by Mordechai and his niece Esther (5-10). It is a record of God’s providence that leads to good over evil. NB: God is not mentioned at all throughout the book.
- B. Keys to Esther:
- Key word: Providence – God disciplines His people but never abandons them. From raising a Hebrew girl to become Queen to using Mordechai’s loyalty of preventing an assassination of the King to Haman’s gallows and ego being used against him to Mordechai’s rise to second in command – God’s providence is crystal clear.
  - Key verses: Esther 4:13-14 “Then Mordecai told them to reply to Esther, “Do not think to yourself that in the king's palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews. For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?”
  - Key chapter: Esther 8 the pivotal point in which “many of the people of the land became Jews” (8:17).
  - Key to Christ: The advocacy and the stand in place that Esther exhibited. Also, Christ’s plans are never thwarted.

## Job

- A. Means: Hebrew for “Persecuted One”
- Unknown author and there are no textual hints. Some suggest Moses was left a copy of Job’s memoirs and the Holy Spirit inspired its inclusion into the Holy record.
  - Job is believed to be the earliest of all Bible writings and is set in the Patriarchal period. The setting is the land of UZ (1:1) which is southeast of the Dead Sea. Job lived 140 years after the events of the book meaning the long life fits into Abraham’s time when the gene pool was slowing down but still enough to give relative longevity.
  - The account is about a servant of God who is put to the test by Satan who believes he is only faithful because God has shielded him. Accordingly God allows the test on one condition – that he may not be struck dead. Various debates ensue among Job’s friends and even between Job and God with Job having 3 complaints: 1. God is not listening; 2. God is punishing; 3. God is partial to the wicked prospering. Elihu is the only one to come forth with some common sense: Job, humble yourself and submit to God for purification through trial [32-37] (3-37). Job is finally delivered after God’s rebuke which cause him to repent (42:1-6).
- B. Keys to Job:
- Key word: Sovereignty of God over all creation. Why does God allow suffering if He is love? Answer: James 1:3ff “testing of your faith produces...” that ultimately ends in trust.
  - Key verses: 13:15 “Though He slay me, yet I will trust Him...”
  - Key chapter: Job 42 the climax to a long and difficult struggle between himself, his wife, his friends and God and after repenting of his frustration as to why this has occurred he sees God as sovereign over all and is blessed accordingly.
  - Key to Christ: The Redeemer (19:25) and the suffering servant Who identifies and sympathises with man (Heb.4:15).