

13. The First Book of Chronicles

1. Writer: Unknown. Assuming the entire text was written at the same time and by the same penman, it would have been written after the Israelites had returned to Jerusalem after Judah's captivity in Babylon. (Chapter 9 includes a description of the first Israelites to re-inhabit Jerusalem after the captivity)
2. Time Period: The first 9 chapters are genealogies, which spans roughly 3,500 years from creation through the return of the Israelite to Jerusalem after the captivity in Babylon. The last 20 chapters focus just on David's reign as the King of Israel.
3. Chapter by Chapter:

The Genealogies: Chapters 1-9

Chapter 1: Creation through Esau's Descendants

Verses 1- 4 **Adam** to **Noah**. (See Genesis 5);

Verses 5-23 Descendants of **Noah's** Sons: **Shem**, Ham, and Japheth. (See Genesis Chapter 10)

Verses 24-27 **Shem**, Noah's Son, down to **Abraham**. (See Genesis Chapter 11);

Verses 28-31 **Ishmael's** descendants, Abraham's son by Hagar. (See Genesis 25:12-15)

Verses 32-37 **Keturah's** descendants, Abraham's second wife/concubine. (See Genesis 25:1-6)

Verses 35-54 **Esau's** descendants, the **Edomites** (See Genesis Chapter 36).

Chapter 2: Sons of Jacob/Israel and Judah's descendants

Verses 1-2 Twelve sons of Jacob/Israel;

Verses 3-4 **Judah's** five sons: Er and Onan, who are both slain by God; Shalah; **Pharez** and **Zerah**.

Verse 5 **Pharez's** sons: **Hezron** and Hamul.

Verses 6-8 **Zerah's** descendants (including Achar aka Achan, who stole the cursed treasure from Jericho). (See Joshua Chapter 7)

Verses 6-17 **Hezron's 2nd Son, Ram** and his descendants down to **King David** and his siblings. Noteworthy: David's had two sisters. 1. Zeruah (Mother of Joab, Abhishai, and Asahel) and 2. Abigail (Mother of Amasa). All these men were David's nephews.

Verses 18-20 **Hezron's 3rd Son Caleb (aka Chelubai)** and his descendants down to **Bezale'el**, who was one of the two men chosen by God to construct the tabernacle and the holy instruments. (See Exodus 31:2)

Verses 21-23 **Hezron's 4th Son Segub**, whose mother is a daughter of Machir (the son of Manasseh) and whose son Jair, inherits in Gilead.

Verse 24 **Hezron 5th son, Ashur**, who was born after Hezron's death. Ashur was the father/founder of the city of Tekoa. Noteworthy: People from Tekoa (i) the wise woman Joab hired to convince David to bring back Absalom (2 Samuel 14:2) and (ii) the 'minor' prophet Amos (Amos 1:1).

Verses 25-41 **Hezron's 1st Son, Jerahme-el** and his descendants down through the descendants of Sheshan.

Verses 42-55 **Hezron's 3rd Son Caleb (aka Chelubai)**: more Descendants of Caleb by various women and the cities and regions where they dwelt.

Chapter 3: David's Sons and the successive Kings of Judah

Verses 1-9 An accounting of the 19 sons born to King David.

Verses 10-16 An accounting of the Kings of Judah after David until Judah goes into Captivity.

Verses 17-21 The Descendants of Jehoiachin (J19) the Prisoner (Assir is Hebrew for Prisoner) during the captivity.

Verses 22-24 Post Captivity descendants of King David. (Note Hattush appears in Ezra 8:2 as one who journeyed with Ezra from Babylon to Jerusalem)

Chapter 4: Additional Genealogies: Tribes of Judah and Simeon.

Verses 1-8 Caleb's descendants (the grandson of Caleb in 2:42 & NOT the spy).

Verses 9-10 The Prayer of Jabez.

Verses 10-23 Various families in Judah.

Noteworthy: V.15 Caleb the son of Jephunneh (One of the Twelve Spies See Numbers 14:38)
Verses 24-43 Descendants of the tribe of Simeon and a note on their invasion of Gedor during Hezekiah's (J13) reign.

Chapter 5: **Reuben's Descendants.**

The tribes of Ruben and Manasseh joined forces to fight the Hagarites. The tribes of Ruben, Gad and ½ tribe of Manasseh were all carried into captivity by King of Assyria (Tilgathpilneser).

Noteworthy: Beerah was the Prince over Reuben when the King of Assyria (Tilgathpilneser) took Reuben into captivity during Pehak's (I17) reign.

Chapter 6: **Levi's Descendants, Office of Priests, and Cities of Levites.**

Verses 1-15 Levi's descendants following just Aaron and the next 21 generations of Priests down to **Jehozadak**, who was carried into Captivity, (**Jehozadak's son Jeshua** comes out of Captivity See Ezra 3:2)

Verses 16-30 Additional descendants of Levi.

Verses 31-47 David sets three men to be over the song service. Standing left to right: **Asaph** (of the family of Gershon and a Psalmist. See Psalms 50 and 73-83, which are attributed to **Asaph**); **Heman** (of the family of Kohath), and **Ethan (aka Jeduthun)** (of the family Merari).

Verses 48-53 Roles of Levites and Priests.

Verses 54-81 An accounting of the cities given to Priests and Levites.

Chapter 7: **Seven Tribes: Various Descendants**

Verses 1-5 Issachar's descendants;

Verses 6-12 Benjamin's descendants;

Verse 13 Naphtali's sons;

Verses 14-19 Manasseh's descendants who lived on the far side of Jordan in Gilead

Verses 20-29 Ephraim's descendants and Manasseh's borders (Noteworthy V27-Joshua-Israel's leader after Moses);

Verses 30-40 Asher's descendants.

Chapter 8: **King Saul's Ancestors and Descendants**

Verses 1-33 Benjamin's descendants down to King Saul and Jonathan, David's friend.

Verses 34-40 Jonathan's descendants through just his son, Meribbaal.

Chapter 9: **Repopulation of Jerusalem Post Captivity.**

Verse 1 Extensive registries were kept so even after the captivity the children of Israel could be verified. (See Ezra 2:62- Those couldn't be found in the registries were cast of the priesthood).

Verse 2- Description of the first groups to reinhabit of Israel after the captivity: Priests (descendants of Aaron), Levites (all non-priest descendants of Levi), Israelites (Descendants of Jacob/Israel excluding the tribe of Levi), and the "Nethinims"- this is the first appearance of this word and it literally translates to "given" and it seems to refer to non-Israelite servants of the Temple. (See Ezra 7:7 for additional categories).

Verses 3-34 Description of the individual who were repopulating Jerusalem and their roles, many of which were established by King David and Samuel.

Verses 35-44 King Saul's Ancestors and his descendants (See Parallel Verses 8:29-38)

King David's Reign: Chapters 10-29

Chapter 10: **Events Leading to David's reign.** Account of Saul's defeat and death by the Philistines, which is almost word for word of the account set forth in I Samuel Chapter 31. New details: (i) Saul's head was put in the house of the idol Dagon; and (ii) verses 13-14 explain that Saul died for his transgressions of disobeying God and for inquiring of a familiar spirit.

Chapter 11: **David King of All Israel**

Verses 1-9 Skipping over the seven years that David was king of Judah only, this chapter picks up with an account of Israel asking David to be King, which parallels closely to II Samuel Chapter 5:1-10. New details: The backstory to how Joab became the Top General over David's Army. He accepted David's challenge and conquered Jerusalem.

Verses 10-47 An Accounting of David's Mighty Men (Parallels II Samuel 23:8-39).

Chapter 12: **David's Forces Grow**

Verses 1-22 An accounting of the men who had joined David's army, while he was still in exile and living in the Philistine city of Ziklag before he became King over Judah.

Verses 23-40 An Accounting of the numbers of each tribe that came to David in Hebron to make him King over all of Israel.

Chapter 13: **David's Failed Attempt to Relocate Ark.** After consulting with all his leaders, David called an assembly of all of Israel to witness as they brought the ark from the city of Kirjath-jearim on a new ox cart (II Samuel 6 refers to the area that the ark from brought from as "Gibeah," which means hill. When the ark came back from the Philistine's it was put on a hill in Kirjath-jearim See I Samuel 7:1.). The young man Uzza is killed by God for touching the ark to stead it when the ox stumbled. Fearing God and unsure how to proceed, David diverts the ark to the house of **Obed-edom** for three months.

Chapter 14: **David's Family and Kingdom Grows.** Hiram, King of Tyre, sends timber to David so he can build a palace. David marries many more woman and has many more children. God delivers the Philistines into David's hands on multiple occasions. This chapter closely tracks the wording of II Samuel Chapter 5:11-25. New Detail: The last verses reveals that the fame and fear of David passed into all the lands and nations.

Chapter 15: **Levitical Procession of the Ark**

Verses 1-15 David prepares a house for himself and pitches a tent for the Ark. He discovers that only the Levites to carry the ark (as provided in the law in Numbers Chapter 4). David again brings all of Israel together to Jerusalem to witness the ark being brought into town after arranging for the Levites to sanctify themselves to be ready to bear the ark.

Verses 16- 24 The assignment of Roles for the ark's procession: Chief Singers using brass Cymbals: **Heman, Asaph, and Ethan (aka Jeduthun)** (See Chapter 6:31-47); the Porters using on the psalteries (a stringed musical instrument) and harps; and the Priests went before the ark blowing trumpets.

Verses 25-28 The ark is successfully brought up to Jerusalem via the procession of Priests, Levites and David dancing and playing music to the Lord.

Verse 29 David's 1st wife, Michal, Saul's daughter, see David dancing and despises him for it.

Chapter 16: **Ark Successfully Brought to Jerusalem**

Verses 1-3 David has the ark placed in the tent in Jerusalem and everyone celebrates.

Verses 5-6 Assignment of Roles of the singers and instrument players to minister continually before the Ark.

Verses 7-36 On that same day, David delivered a psalm of thanksgiving to **Asaph**, the chief singer, to sing to the Lord with his brethren.

Verses 37-38 The ministers of the Ark performed their duties every day.

Verses 39-42 David sent the high priest and a company of attendants to **the high place in Gibeon** to offer sacrifices to the Lord. At this time, the Tabernacle/tent of the Lord was pitched in Gibeon and the bronze altar was set outside of the Tabernacle. (See I Chronicles 21:29 & II Chronicles 1:3-6 Solomon goes to Gibeon) The Ark had been separated from the Tabernacle since it was lost to the Philistines in the days of Eli the priest

Chapter 17: **David Not Permitted to Build Temple**

Verses 1-15 Tracking closely to the wording of II Samuel Chapter 7, David desires to build a permanent house for the Ark. Nathan, the prophet, initially encourages David, but God sends word that David shall not build him a house. Instead, God promises to build David a house and establish David's throne forever of his seed, who shall also be the Lord's son, and he shall build the Lord's house. (This is directly referring to Solomon, but indirectly it is also pointing to the Lord Jesus Christ)

Verses 16-27 David humbly prays that all that the Lord has promised would come to pass for God's glory.

Chapter 18: **David's Conquests**

To the **West**: David conquers the Philistines and took possession of Goliath's hometown of Gath.

To the **East**: David conquers Moab and they become tributaries to him.

To the **North**: David defeats, **Hadarezer**, the King of Zobah (a region in Syria) and pushed him back to the city of Hamath, which is more than 200 miles north of Jerusalem. David established garrison outposts in the Syrian city of Damascus. From this conquest, he gathered a great amount of bronze, which Solomon would use to build the Pillars, Sea, and vessels for the Temple. The King of the city of Hamath, having been freed of the Syrian overlord, sent messengers to David to congratulate him on his defeat of the Syrian King along with many presents of thanks.

To the **South**: David defeated the Edomites and they became his servants.

Vast spoils from all of these conquests were dedicated to the Lord by David and were available when Solomon needed them. (Solomon still has not yet been born)

Chapter 19: **War with Ammonites and Syrians** Tracking very closely the language in II Samuel 10, David's attempt at kindness to the new king of Ammon was rebuffed and leads to a massive battle between Israel and the Ammonite and their Syrian mercenaries, which took place outside the city of Medeba, which is the tribe of Ruben's territory on the far side of Jordan. **Joab** and his brother, **Abishai**, each leading a portion of Israel's host of **mighty men** put both the Ammonites and the Syrians to flight. The Syrians sent out a distress call and Syrians from the other side of the river **Euphrates** came to their aid along with the Top General of the **Hadarezer, Syrian King of Zobah**. David gathers all of Israel (not just the mighty men) crossed the river Jordan to fight and defeat the Syrians by slaying 47,000 men and the top General. After this defeat, the remaining Syrian servants of Hadarezer made peace with David and the Syrian would no longer come to the aid of the Ammonites.

Chapter 20: **War with Ammonites Continues**

Verses 1-3 After defeating the Syrians, Joab leads Israel's forces to invade the nation of Ammon, who started this whole dispute, but David remained behind at Jerusalem (though it isn't mentioned here, this is when David got himself into trouble with Bathsheba). Joab conquers the city of Rabbah (likely the capital of Ammon) and after destroying it, the forces of Israel set about gruesomely exterminating all the Ammonites in all their cities.

Verses 4-8: Years after the war the Ammonites (and after the fall out from David's sin with Bathsheba, including Solomon's birth, and Absalom's attempted coup), the Philistine try to fight Israel again and the three giant brothers of Goliath were slain. (In II Samuel 21, a fourth brother is mentioned, who nearly kills David and prompts people to compel David not to go out to battle anymore)

Chapter 21: **David Numbers the People**

Verse 1: *Satan stood up against Israel and provoked David to number Israel. (Compare with II Samuel 24:1 And again the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel and he moved David against them to say, Go, number Israel and Judah.)*

Verse 2-8 David commands Joab to go through Israel from the South to the North to count the number of warriors. Joab initially protests, but then partially complies, by counting all but the tribes of Levi and Benjamin. (Note the numbering given is different than in II Samuel Chapter 24 by about 300,000 men. A possible explanation is the standing army of 24,000 men per month, which would equal 288,000 men over a year. See Chapter 27:1-2)

Verses 9-27 God sends the prophet **Gad** to offer David three choices of punishment: 3 years of famine, 3 months of military loses, or 3 days of *sword of the LORD, even the pestilence* (a plague). David selects the plague and God kills 70,000 men. Angel is sent to destroy Jerusalem, but God stops him completely destroying it. David sees the angel by the threshing floor of Or'nán the Jebusite, standing between the heaven and the earth with a drawn sword in his hand. At God's direction through the Angel through Gad, David purchases the threshing floor and builds an altar. God answered David's offerings on the altar by sending fire down from heaven.

Verses 28-30- When the Lord answered David by fire, David began to perform his sacrifices there instead of in Gibeon (where the Tabernacle of the Lord and the Bronze Altar were both located), but he would not enquire of the Lord there because he feared the sword of the Angel.

Chapter 22: **David Stockpiles Building Materials for the Temple**. David recognized the altar on the threshing floor of Or'nán as the spot for the house of the Lord so he begins amassing

building materials: Stones, Brass, Iron, and Cedar trees. David charges his young son, Solomon to build the temple and he also commanded the princess of Israel to help Solomon.

Chapter 23: The Levites are Divided into Groups for Service

Verses 1-2 (Omitting the attempted takeover by David's other son Adonijah) The chapter picks up with a very aged David making Solomon king and gathering all the princess, priests and Levites.

Verses 3-5 The Levites are all counted: 38,000 over the age of 30.

24,000- To work in the House of the Lord;

6,000- officers and judges (civil/criminal);

4,000-porters (doorkeepers); and

4,000-Praised the Lord with Instruments.

Verses 6-24 David divides the Levites in 24 different "courses"/groups. This schedule would rotate through the year to determine whose turn it was to come minister in their office at Jerusalem.

1 Chronicles 23:6-24	Levi's Son	Grandson	Great Grandson	GG Grandson	GGG Grandson
Course 1	Gershon	Laadan	Jehiel		
Course 2	Gershon	Laadan	Zetham		
Course 3	Gershon	Laadan	Joel		
Course 4	Gershon	Laadan/Shimei?	Shelomith		
Course 5	Gershon	Laadan/Shimei?	Haziel		
Course 6	Gershon	Laadan/Shimei?	Haran		
Course 7	Gershon	Shimei	Jahath		
Course 8	Gershon	Shimei	Zizah		
Course 9	Gershon	Shimei	Jeush/Beriah		
Course 10	Kohath	Amram	Aaron		
Course 11	Kohath	Amram	Moses		
Course 12	Kohath	Amram	Moses	Gershom	
Course 13	Kohath	Amram	Moses	Eliezer	Rehabiah
Course 14	Kohath	Izhar	Shelomith		
Course 15	Kohath	Hebron	Jeriah		
Course 16	Kohath	Hebron	Amariah		
Course 17	Kohath	Hebron	Jahziel		
Course 18	Kohath	Hebron	Jekameam		
Course 19	Kohath	Uzziel	Micah		
Course 20	Kohath	Uzziel	Jesiah		
Course 21	Merari	Mahli	Eliazar/Kish		
Course 22	Merari	Mushi	Mahli		
Course 23	Merari	Mushi	Eder		
Course 24	Merari	Mushi	Jeremoth		

Verses 24-32 Under the law, a Levite could only serve between 30-50 years old (Numbers Chapter 4), David revised the age for service for twenty years and up (Perhaps since the Ark and Tabernacle would no longer be physically carried).

Chapter 24: The Priests are divided into Orders

Verses 1-19 The Priests: The sons of Aaron were divided into 24 orders/groups. Aaron had two sons: Eleazar and Ithamar. 16 of the groups went to descendants of Eleazar and only 8 went to the descendants of Ithamar. This schedule would determine who was responsible performing the priest's office during the year. (It seems likely that each course and order would serve for half of a month, which were determined by the moon). The names of the chief men of each group at the time the order was established are recited and the order was set by casting lots.

Verses 20-31 The descendants of Levi.

Chapter 25: The singers divided into 24 orders based on the children of the three chief singers: **Asaph, Heman, and Ethan aka Jeduthun.**

Chapter 26: Division of Porters and Other Officers

Verses 1-19 Divisions of the porters who are the sons of Meshelemiah and Obededom. Notably the porters were described a mighty men and men of valor. (Their role might have been more