

OLD TESTAMENT LITERATURE - Dr. Chris Miller

Session 5 - Kings & Chronicles - Historical records of Israel still relevant today.

1105 BC		1000	950	560	450
Samuel	Saul	David	Solomon	Jehoiachin	Zerubbabel
		1-2 Samuel		1-2 Kings	
-		1-2 Chronicles			-

They don't completely overlap in time. Not 2 versions of the same story.

When they do cover the same events they do it in different ways.

A Tale of Two Kings

Kings Manasseh was twelve years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem fifty-five years. His mother's name was Hephzibah. 2 **He did evil in the eyes of the LORD**, following the detestable practices of **the nations the LORD had driven out** before the Israelites. 3 He rebuilt the **high places** his father Hezekiah had destroyed; he also erected **altars to Baal** and made an **Asherah pole**, as **Ahab** king of Israel had done. He bowed down to all the **starry hosts and worshiped them**. 4 He built **altars in the temple** of the LORD, of which the LORD had said, "In Jerusalem I will put my Name." 5 **In both courts of the temple** of the LORD, **he built altars to all the starry hosts**. 6 He **sacrificed his own son** in the fire, practiced sorcery and divination, and consulted **mediums** and **spiritists**. He did **much evil** in the eyes of the LORD, provoking him to anger. 9 But the people did not listen. **Manasseh led them astray**, so that they did **more evil than the nations the LORD had destroyed** before the Israelites. 16 Moreover, Manasseh also **shed so much innocent blood** that he filled Jerusalem from end to end—besides the sin that he had caused Judah to commit, **so that they did evil in the eyes of the LORD**

Chronicles Manasseh was twelve years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem fifty-five years. 12 In his distress **he sought the favor of the LORD his God and humbled himself** greatly before the God of his fathers. 13 And when **he prayed** to him, the LORD was moved by his entreaty and listened to his plea; so he brought him back to Jerusalem and to his kingdom. Then **Manasseh knew that the LORD is God**. 15 He got **rid of the foreign gods** and **removed the image** from the temple of the LORD, **as well as all the altars** he had built on the temple hill and in Jerusalem; and he **threw them out** of the city. 16 Then he **restored the altar** of the LORD and sacrificed fellowship offerings and thank offerings on it, and told Judah to **serve the LORD, the God of Israel**. 19 His **prayer** and how **God was moved by his entreaty**, as well as all his sins and unfaithfulness, and the sites where he built high places and set up Asherah poles and idols before he humbled himself—all are written in the records of the seers

Why is there no contradiction? **Before** & **After** Repentance

Does the writer not know the 2nd half of the story? Of course he does. He chooses not to tell us in Kings. Why are they so different?

Solomon, 1 Kings 10:21 - 11:6 (Deuteronomy 17)

*All King Solomon's goblets were gold, and all the household articles in the Palace of the Forest of Lebanon were pure **gold**. Nothing was made of silver, because silver was considered of little value in Solomon's days. 1 Kings 10:21*

*Solomon accumulated chariots and **horses**; he had fourteen hundred chariots and twelve thousand horses, which he kept in the chariot cities and also with him in Jerusalem. 1 Kings 10:26*

*King Solomon, however, loved many foreign **women** beside Pharaoh's daughter - Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Termites, Sidonians and Hittites. They were from nations about which the Lord had told the Israelites, "You must not intermarry with them, because they will surely turn your hearts after their gods." Nevertheless, Solomon held fast to them in love. He had seven hundred wives of royal birth and three hundred concubines, and his wives led him astray. As Solomon grew old, his wives turned his heart after other gods, and his heart was not fully devoted to the Lord his God, as the heart of David his father had been. He followed Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and Molech the detestable god of the Ammonites. So Solomon did evil in the eyes of the Lord; he did not follow the Lord completely, as David his father had done. 1 Kings 11:1-6*

Chiasm - focuses your attention on the treasure hidden in the center

A Solomon's Succession to the throne

B Solomon's throne threatened

C Solomon's wisdom

D Solomon's reign characterized

E Solomon's building projects - Ch 8 - The Temple Prayer

D Solomon's reign characterized

C Solomon's folly

B Solomon's throne threatened

A Rehoboam's Succession to the throne

Then Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in front of the whole assembly of Israel, spread out his hands toward heaven and said: "O LORD, God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth below - you who keep your covenant of love with your servants who continue whole heartedly in your way.

May your eyes be open toward this temple night and day, this place of which you said, 'My Name shall be there,' so that you will hear the prayer your servant prays toward this place. Hear the supplication of your servant and of your people Israel when they pray toward this place. Hear from heaven, your dwelling place, and when you hear, forgive. "When a man wrongs his neighbor and is required to take an oath and he comes and swears the oath before your altar in the temple, then hear from heaven and act. "When your people Israel have been defeated by an enemy because they have sinned against you, and when they turn back to you and confess your name, praying and making supplication to you in this temple,

then hear from heaven and forgive the sin of your people. “When the heavens are shut up and there is no rain because your people have sinned against you, and when they pray toward this place and confess your name and turn from their sin because you have afflicted them, then hear from heaven and forgive the sin of your servants, your people Israel. “When famine or plague comes to the land, or blight or mildew, locusts or grasshoppers, then hear from heaven, your dwelling palace. Forgive and act;...

“when they sin against you - for there is no one who does not sin - and you become angry with them and give them over to the enemy, who takes them captive to his own land, far away or near; and if they have a change of heart in the land where they are held captive, and repent and plead with you in the land of their conquerors and say, ‘We have sinned, we have done wrong, we have acted wickedly’; and if they turn back to you with all their heart and soul in the land of their enemies who took them captive, and pray to you toward the land you gave their fathers, toward the city you have chosen and the temple I have built for your Name; then from heaven, your dwelling place, hear their prayer and their plea, and uphold their cause.

And forgive your people, who have sinned against you; forgive all the offenses they have committed against you, and cause their conquerors to show them mercy; 1 Kings 8:22-23, 29-39, 49-50

The Goal of the Author?

Emphasis on Sin (tales of 2 kings)

Emphasis on Repentance (chap 8)

Outlines Deuteronomy 28-30, Repentance

Solution to exiled Israel’s problem:

The first call is here in Kings

The first response is Daniel (see Dan 9) Daniel does it right.

*In the first year of Darius... (good king, 536 BC) who was made ruler over the Babylonian kingdom - in the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, understood from the Scriptures, according to the word of the Lord given to Jeremiah the prophet, that the desolation of Jerusalem would last seventy years. (Jeremiah 25 - times almost up - 605 BC Daniel taken to Babylon, 1st of 3 deportations) Daniel 9:1-2
So I turned to the Lord God and pleaded with him in prayer and petition, in fasting, and in sackcloth and ashes. (Deuteronomy 30)*

I prayed to the Lord my God and confessed: “Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and keep his commandments, (1 Kings 8) *we have sinned and done wrong. We have been wicked and have rebelled; we have turned away from your commands and laws. We have not listened to your servants, the prophets, who spoke in your name to our kings, our princes and our ancestors, and to all the people of the land. Dan 3-6*

*“Therefore the **curses** and sworn judgments written in the Law of Moses, the servant of God, have been poured out on us, because we have sinned against you. You have **fulfilled the words** spoken against us and against our rulers by bringing on us great **disaster**. Under the whole heaven nothing has ever been done like what has been done to Jerusalem.*

*Just as it is written in the Law of Moses, all this disaster has come on us, yet we have not sought the favor of the Lord our God by **turning** from our sins and giving attention to your truth. The Lord did not hesitate to bring the disaster on us, for the Lord our God is righteous in everything he does; yet we have not obeyed him.*
Daniel 9:11-14

A second call for this kind of repentance is heard from whom? John the Baptist

Summary

Kings is written to a hardened people in exile who need to be convinced of their own sin so they will repent.

Chronicles is a *completely* different ball game.

The Exile & After - *Israel: A pale shadow of her former self*

King: from King Jehoiachin to a carpenter Joseph.

Babylonians/Persians/Greeks/Romans rule over Israel.

Temple: from Solomon's Porsche to Zerubbabel's Geo Metro (hut)

High Priest: from *Urim & Thummim* (breastplate - direct line to God - Ezra) to Clueless

Holy of Holies: from God to ... no God. (Ezekiel - God's presence leaves the temple before destruction.

Chronicles

1. Idealization of David & Solomon as Temple building Anointed ones (good sides)
 - a. **No mention of David's first seven years when he was king only of Judah and not accepted by Israel.** rejected by the southern tribes.
 - b. **Uriah & Bathsheba... missing**
 - c. **Rape of Tamar? Gone**
 - d. **Death of Absalom, Amnon?**
2. Ends with a very subtle and curious “do-over” of the return.
Compare the story of Ezra with Chronicles ending!!!
We need a better “return”... let's imagine a divine DO-OVER!!
3. Nine chapters of genealogies! You're kidding, right?

SUMMARY

KINGS

Kings is written to:
hardened people
still in exile
who need to be convinced
of their own sin
so they will repent

CHRONICLES

Chronicles is written to:
discouraged believers
back in the land
in order to encourage their
faith
as they wait for a new return

All of us have our ups and downs. We tolerate sin, realize it's wrong, but we don't care. When I don't care... Kings has the message, here's what sin does, here's why you need to repent, here's why you need to get real with sin and not play with it.

Some are so beat up, like the Chronicles crowd... discouraged to the point we don't even know if we need to try. When things aren't going the way you want them to... Chronicle's message... is to have hope and wait for the return of the Lord. God is going to make things right.