

The Book of I Chronicles

17

Morning Devotions

Select a passage in God’s Word. Talk with the Lord as you read the passage, then go back and find one or two verses which the Lord has impressed on your heart and meditate on them.

Morning Study

This morning we begin reading the book of **1 Chronicles**. Like the twin books of **Samuel** and **Kings** before it, **Chronicles** was originally a single volume, but later divided into two sections due to the bulkiness of the scrolls.

The Hebrew title for **Chronicles** was *dibre hayyamim*, which translates as “the annals of the days.” The translators of the *Septuagint* (the Greek Old Testament) called the book “The Things Omitted,” since they regarded it as a supplement to **Samuel** and **Kings**. Jerome, who translated the Bible into Latin in around AD 400, thought a more appropriate title would be the Chronicle of the Whole Sacred History.” Luther took up this suggestion in his German version, a tradition which has passed over into the English translations of the Bible.

Ancient Jewish tradition holds that Ezra was the author of **Chronicles**. It was likely written after the time of the Babylonian exile, probably in the latter half of the fifth century BC, which coincides with Ezra’s lifetime. This fact, together with the book’s clear focus upon the Temple, lends support to Ezra’s authorship.

Like **Kings** before it, **Chronicles** weaves a story of covenantal decline, but unlike **Kings**, **Chronicles** focuses solely on David’s line – the kings of Judah. Like **Kings**, however, **Chronicles** also relied on many historical documents and official sources that have since disappeared (note **1 Chronicles 9:1; 27:24; 2 Chronicles 16:11; 20:34; 24:27; 25:26; 27:7; 28:26; 32:32; 33:18; 35:27; 36:8**). The compiler of **Chronicles** also drew upon many prophetic writings (note **1 Chronicles 29:29; 2 Chronicles 9:29; 12:15; 13:22; 26:22; 33:19**). As the *NIV Study Bible* explains:

“All these [the compiler] used, often with only minor changes, to tell his own story of the past. He did not invent, but he did select, arrange and integrate his sources to compose a narrative ‘sermon’ for postexilic Israel as she struggled to reorient herself as the people of God in a new situation.”

With this in mind, let’s read the first half of **1 Chronicles** – **chapters 1-14**.

Memory Verse

For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, “*Abba, Father.*”
The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children.

Romans 8:15-16

Here are a few suggestions that may help you to memorize your memory verse:

- ➡ Ask the Lord to help you remember his Word (see [John 14:26](#)).
- ➡ Use the version of the Bible you are most familiar with. What you normally read in your Bible is what you need to be memorizing.
- ➡ Don’t just memorize the contents of the verse; memorize its “address” (the verse reference) as well. You can do this by following this pattern: Step 1: **reference**; Step 2: **verse content**; Step 3: **reference**. Then repeat steps 1-3. Note that you are quoting the reference twice as many times as you quote the actual verse content. This gives the verse a clear “reference tag.”
- ➡ After you have read your memory verse out aloud several times, try going through your memory verse *without* reading your computer screen.
- ➡ Look up your memory verse in your Bible. Look at its immediate context and read the verses that come before and after your memory verse.
- ➡ Print out your memory verse or jot it down on a piece of paper. Take this paper with you when you go to work or do other daily activities. Meditate on the meaning of the verse throughout the day.
- ➡ During your noon appointment with the Lord, take out your memory verse and go over it again. Talk to the Lord about what this verse means to you personally.
- ➡ In the evening (at either your evening study or your evening devotions), see if you can quote your memory verse from memory. Then, without looking at the memory verse itself, see if you can find it in your Bible.
- ➡ The next day, before you begin committing a new verse to memory, rehearse your previous day’s memory verse and see if you can remember it (without cheating!).
- ➡ Finally, at the end of the week (possibly on the Sunday), collect all your week’s memory verses, rehearse them and see if you can recall them without reading them. Spend a little extra time on any verses you have difficulty recalling.
- ➡ Remember: Don’t just memorize a verse. Put it into practice ([James 1:22](#)). It is not being able to quote a verse from memory that counts. It is His Word *abiding* in your heart that counts ([John 15:7](#)). When you actually apply a verse consistently to your daily life, that is when you *truly* know that verse!