



## **"Reading the Bible Together"**

**Issue 12.**

**Books of 1Chronicles (cont'd) and 2Chronicles:**

**God's history retold.**

**January 2010.**

### **Introduction:**

Last month we looked at the end of the reign of the Kings, the rise and understanding prophecy, and the fall and taking into Exile of the people of Israel. The book closes with Israel and its scared history in tatters.

### **This month:**

The exile into Babylon is one of the defining events of Jewish history and Scripture. Much of our Old Testament Scriptures as we now have them were either written or edited in the light of this event, trying to answer a very simple question – "if we are God's people why have we ended up in the mess that we are in?"

### **1 and 2 Chronicles:**

The Books of Kings were edited or written during the time of the exile itself. The Books of 1 and 2 Chronicles tell much the same story but from the perspective of when the Jewish people had returned home from exile under the reformist priest Ezra. Some commentators actually believe Ezra to be the author of these books.

Either way, they seek to address the key question of the exile this time from the perspective of a community now returned home, does God still love us? Do His covenants of old still hold good? What are we to do now that we don't have a King? How should we do things different so that we never go there again?

The important but subtle factor to note in the answer through these books, and into the Books of Ezra and Nehemiah is the transfer of power and centre of influence from Kingship to the Temple. In the return from Exile there was a political as well as a religious vacuum. The priesthood of the Temple in Jerusalem stood into the breach and declared the Temple, rather than Kingship as the continuity factor between the former Israel, and her promises, and the Israel after the Exile. 2Chronicles therefore goes into quite some detail as to the building of what is known as the Second Temple. It was this Temple which Herod the Great expanded and extended to the great Temple of Jesus' day.

In addition to the Temple taking centre stage in and through this telling of Israel's history and therefore Israel's future, we also see that the priest saw obedience and observance of the Law as the key way that God would remain faithful to His people. The argument simply went, God is faithful, therefore if Israel would be faithful, God would bless and love His people. The behaviour and faithfulness of the Kings had shown that God's love could be tested and withdrawn, hence they would say why we ended up in Exile. This time it was important that all the people took on this responsibility rather than just one man, and this was to see a popularisation of the Law and the rise of the Pharisaic system later on. If you asked an average Jew in the street whether in Jerusalem or in Galilee how you loved God their answer would be during this period by being obedient to the Law. This was a view that was to be maintained at a popular level at least for at least the next three hundred years.

### **Bible Together Meetings: January meetings will be:**

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January (Epiphany) 9.00am – 10.00am – in the Chancel as usual.

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> January 8.00pm – 9.00pm – in the Chancel as usual.

**Scheme of Reading for January:**

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Reference:</u>
Fri 1 <sup>st</sup> Jan	2Kings 21:1 – 21:26
<b>(Happy New Year!! May God bless you.)</b>	
Sat 2 <sup>nd</sup> Jan	2Kings 22:1 – 22:20
Sun 3 <sup>rd</sup> Jan	-----
Mon 4 <sup>th</sup> Jan	2Kings 23:1 – 23:35
Tues 5 <sup>th</sup> Jan	2Kings 23:36 – 24:20
Wed 6 <sup>th</sup> Jan	2Kings 25:1 – 25:30
<b>(Epiphany – Bible Together Meeting today @ 9.00am)</b>	
Thurs 7 <sup>th</sup> Jan	1Chron 1:1 – 3:9
Fri 8 <sup>th</sup> Jan	1Chron 3:10 – 4:43
Sat 9 <sup>th</sup> Jan	1Chron 5:1 – 5:26
Sun 10 <sup>th</sup> Jan	-----
Mon 11 <sup>th</sup> Jan	1Chron 6:1 – 6:80
Tues 12 <sup>th</sup> Jan	1Chron 7:1 – 7:40
Wed 13 <sup>th</sup> Jan	1Chron 8:1 – 8:40
Thurs 14 <sup>th</sup> Jan	1Chron 9: 1 – 9:44
Fri 15 <sup>th</sup> Jan	1Chron 10:1 – 11:47
Sat 16 <sup>th</sup> Jan	1Chron 12:1 - 12:40
Sun 17 <sup>th</sup> Jan	-----
Mon 18 <sup>th</sup> Jan	1Chron 13:1 – 14:17
Tues 19 <sup>th</sup> Jan	1Chron 15:1 – 16:43
Wed 20 <sup>th</sup> Jan	1Chron 17:1 – 17:27
<b>(Bible Together Meeting today @ 8.00pm)</b>	
Sun 20 <sup>th</sup> Dec	-----

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Reference:</u>
Thurs 21 <sup>st</sup> Jan	1Chron 18:1 – 19:19
Fri 22 <sup>nd</sup> Jan	1Chron 20:1 – 22:1
Sat 23 <sup>rd</sup> Jan	1Chron 22:2 – 22:19
Sun 24 <sup>th</sup> Jan	-----
Mon 25 <sup>th</sup> Jan	1Chron 23:1 – 24:31
Tues 26 <sup>th</sup> Jan	1Chron 25:1 – 26:32
Wed 27 <sup>th</sup> Jan	1Chron 27:1 – 27:34
Thurs 28 <sup>th</sup> Jan	1Chron 28:1 – 28:21
Fri 29 <sup>th</sup> Jan	1Chron 29:1 – 29:30
Sat 30 <sup>th</sup> Jan	2Chron 1:1 – 2:18
Sun 31 <sup>st</sup> Jan	-----
Mon 1 <sup>st</sup> Feb	2Chron 3:1 – 5:1
Tues 2 <sup>nd</sup> Feb	2Chron 5:2 – 6:11
<b>(Candlemas – Simeon bless the baby Jesus)</b>	
Wed 3 <sup>rd</sup> Feb	2Chron 6:12 – 6:42
<b>(Bible Together Meeting today @ 9.00am)</b>	
Thurs 4 <sup>th</sup> Feb	2Chron 7:1 – 8:18
Fri 5 <sup>th</sup> Feb	2Chron 9:1 – 9:31
Sat 6 <sup>th</sup> Feb	2Chron 10:1 – 11:4
Sun 7 <sup>th</sup> Feb	-----
Mon 8 <sup>th</sup> Feb	2Chron 11:5 – 12:16
Tues 9 <sup>th</sup> Feb	2Chron 13:1 – 14:1
Wed 10 <sup>th</sup> Feb	2Chron 14:2 – 16:14
Fri 8 <sup>th</sup> Jan	1Chron 3:10 – 4:43