**Kings of Israel III: The Divided Kingdom, Judah**

Instructor-Pat Reeder

Wednesday evenings, 7pm-9:30pm

# Course description

The book(s) of Chronicles is often ignored or skipped for two reasons. First, it contains an impervious nine chapters of genealogies. Second, the remainder feels like a repeat of much that came before it. This is unfortunate, because if the book of I & II Kings is about sin and judgment, Chronicles is about salvation. Chronicles near comprehensive historical reach—ranging from the beginning of human history to the return from exile—is no mere repeat but was organized with a very specific message in mind. On top of recapitulating some of the disturbing moral, political and spiritual degradation of God’s chosen people from the first two courses, we will explore the unique aspects of the book(s) of Chronicles to understand how all the parts fit together—genealogies included!

# Course goals

1. Enable students to see how major biblical doctrines play out vividly over a period of centuries.
2. Help students understand generally how to read narrative more broadly, examining the ways in literary technique is wielded to point in a theological direction.

# Course Requirements

*Attendance* Students must attend at least 4 of 5 classes to pass. Everyone has 1 “excused absence” before receiving an incomplete. Any other absence is negotiable, to be discussed with the instructor.

*Readings, Homework* There will be weekly readings to keep in step with the material being covered each week. Questions on the readings can be found on the back of this sheet. These are strictly completion based.

# Calendar

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| **Date** | **Session** | **Readings** | **HW Due** | **Content** |
| **2/19** | Week 1 | N/A |  | Introduction |
| **2/26** | Week 2 | I Chron 1-21 | 1 | Genealogies, David’s Ascent |
| **3/4** | Week 3 | I Chron 22-II Chron 9 | 2 | The Temple and United Israel |
| **3/11** | Week 4 | II Chon 10-28 | 3 | Solomon to Hezekiah |
| **3/18** | Week 5 | II Chon 29-36 | 4 | Hezekiah to Exile (and back!) |

# Miscellaneous

Students will be responsible for their own notes. We will provide notebooks and the powerpoints will be available upon request.

For each week, read the weekly selection. Reflect on and answer the questions to follow.

**Homework 1** (Due Week 2)

1. Why do you think there are so many genealogies in Chronicles? Consider Genesis 3:15, Numbers 1:50-53, Deuteronomy 23:3-8, Ezra 2:62, Nehemiah 13:3.
2. Very few of David’s failures are represented in Chronicles. Some have suggested that this is to guard David’s reputation. Do you agree? Why or why not?
3. How would you reconcile I Chronicles 21:1 and II Sam 24:1?

**Homework 2** (Due Week 3)

1. I Chronicles 28:12, 19 indicate that David was under God’s influence in the design of the temple. Isn’t this just a building? Solomon remarks in II Chronicles 6:18, “The heavens, even the highest heavens, cannot contain you. How much less this temple I have built!” Why would God get so involved in this process?
2. For each of the two verses of I Chronicles 29:14-15, give one argument for generous financial giving; that is, two arguments total.

**Homework 3** (Due Week 4)

1. Elijah is mentioned only once in Chronicles and Elisha is never mentioned. Each of them receives numerous chapters in Kings. What might explain this difference?
2. In II Chronicles 15:17, we read that, “Asa’s heart was fully committed to the LORD all his life.” Harmonize such a sweeping statement with the descriptions of Asa in II Chronicles 16.

**Homework 4** (Due Week 5)

A. Manasseh is portrayed as one of the absolute worst kings in II Kings 21. Given the story in II Chronicles 33, why would the author of II Kings exclude this information? Conversely, given some of the things Manasseh did, why should the author of Chronicles seek to exonerate him? B. Name at least one similarity and at least one difference between II Kings 17:7-23 and II Chronicles 36:15-19.