Chronicles

**Keys:**
- 1 Chr 10-29
- 2 Chr 1-9; 36.22ff
- 530-520 BC
- Chronicler
- Cyrus edict (538BC)
- United
- Un-united
- Royal Prayer
- Temple
- "All Israel"
- Reform

**Purpose:**
To encourage and direct the returnees in reestablishing Israel's kingdom after the exile with special emphases on a rebuilt and reformed Temple; Davidic leadership; and the reunification of "all Israel" represented in Jerusalem.

**Outline:**
1. The Genealogies of God's People (1-9)
2. The United Kingdom (10-2 Chr 9)
3. The Davidic Kingdom (2 Chr 10-28)
4. The Reunited Kingdom (29-36)

**Memory Verse:**
"If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land." 2 Chronicles 7.14
Lecture Notes:

Who is the Chronicler?

Traditional view is Ezra, because 1 Chr 1-9 and 2 Chr 36.21-23 make it post-exilic.

And because Chronicles shares many priestly or temple concerns with Ezra-Nehemiah.

Shared ending of 2 Chr and beginning of Ezra with Cyrus' edict.

BUT

Chronicles also has a major royal focus, an emphasis that suggests composition around the time of Zerubbabel (cf. Zech 4.1-14) [520-515].

Chronicler's omission of Solomon's downfall due to intermarriage stands in sharp contrast to Nehemiah's appeal to Solomon as a negative example (Neh 13.26)

Timeline for Post-Exilic History

538 BC The Cyrus Edict & Zerubbabel's Return

530-520 Chronicles?

522-486 BC Darius' Reign

515 BC Temple Completed

486-465 BC Xerxes' Reign and Esther's intervention

464-434 BC Artaxerxes

458 BC Ezra's Return

445 BC Nehemiah's Journey

440-430 Ezra-Nehemiah?

330 BC Victory of Alexander

Chronicler's Use of Samuel & Kings

Omissions / Additions / Changes
Moral Idealization of __________ and __________

Emphasis on Royal Support of __________ _______

Emphasis on "All Israel" with Jerusalem prominent

Assumes Deuteronomistic perspective of Samuel-Kings
Pastoral Purpose(s) to support ___________ and ____________ of Temple and to reestablish Davidic rule

The idealization of David's Reign (1 Chr 10-29)

Sin against Uriah and Bathsheba and ensuing troubles (2 Sam 11-27) omitted.

Additions and Expansions focus in David's activity for the __________.
Wars acquire materials (1 Chr 18.8, 11). Note the expansion of census story explaining choice of Temple site in 1 Chr 21.

David's prayers and preparations for Temple are extensive (1 Chr 17-29). He is virtually the builder!

The Idealization of Solomon's Reign (2 Chr 1-9)

Solomon's bloody struggle for power, delay of Temple in order to build palace, foreign wives and culpability for division of Israel & Judah are omitted. Account of Egyptian wife is moved (cf. 1 Kgs 3; 2 Chr 8).

Expansions focus on Solomon's grandeur and zeal for the Temple (2 Chr 3-8)

Solomon's prayer of dedication is programmatic for Chronicles’ other __________
________________. Note examples of Rehoboam, Asa, Jehoshaphat and Hezekiah.

The Role of Royal Prayer in Chronicles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>United Kingdom</th>
<th>Divided Kingdom</th>
<th>Reunited Kingdom</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prayers are expressive of the central importance of the</td>
<td>Prayers demonstrate the central role of temple</td>
<td>Prayers demonstrate the role of prayer and Temple</td>
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<tr>
<td>_____________, and</td>
<td>_____________ and</td>
<td>_____________ in</td>
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<td>_____________ prayer is the place where</td>
<td>_____________ in or toward the temple in establishing security for God's people.</td>
<td>_____________ the nation.</td>
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<td>_____________ and Temple come together. Solomon’s prayer and the LORD's response are a pattern.</td>
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Hezekiah's Reuniting Prayer & Passover
The Grammar of Grace in Chronicles

Questions:
1. What are the arguments for and against Ezraic authorship of Chronicles?
2. What are some of the main differences between Chronicles and Samuel/Kings that draw attention to the goals of the Chronicler? How does this affect preaching/teaching through this history?
3. What is significant about the genealogies found in 1 Chronicles 1-9?
4. What are the important themes that drive this history? How are all of these themes weaved together?
5. What are some significant things communicated in Solomon's prayer (2 Chronicles 18)? How do these fit into the overall goals and purposes of the Chronicler?
6. Why is it important that the people humble themselves, pray, and seek the LORD? How does this apply to the Church today?