Old Testament Survey - 1 & 2 Chronicles

Author: Ezra (Talmud tradition & similarities in style and substance with book of Ezra). He wrote on the basis of many sources of historical material.

Date: c. 450-425 B.C. Written to the returning remnant. (Covers period from David’s reign to Cyrus’ decree in 538 B.C.)

Theme: "To provide the post-exilic nation the true spiritual foundations of their theocracy as the covenant people of Yahweh" - G. Archer

Outline:

I. Genealogies: Adam to David. 1 Chron. 1-9
II. Reign of David. 1 Chron. 10-29
III. Reign of Solomon. 2 Chron. 1-9
IV. Kings of Judah. 2 Chron. 10-26

These books were one book in Hebrew which was called “The Words / Events of the Days.” It was divided when translating the Septuagint in the 3rd century B.C. and called “Things Omitted” referring to the material in Chronicles that does not appear in the books of Samuel or Kings. The name “Chronicles” comes from Jerome’s Latin Vulgate Bible.

1st and 2nd Chronicles differs from Kings in that it is written from a priestly & spiritual perspective giving a religious history while Kings is written from a prophetic & moral viewpoint giving a political history. Chronicles emphasizes the Law, the priesthood, the temple and the continuation of the Davidic line. Its focus is on the Southern Kingdom of Judah.

Kings: prophetic & moral - political history.
Chronicles: Priestly & spiritual - religious history.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Samuel &amp; Kings</th>
<th>Chronicles</th>
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<tr>
<td>The continuation of Israel’s history from Samuel, the start of the United Kingdom, through the Divided Kingdom to the fall of both kingdoms.</td>
<td>The genealogy of the nation with emphasis on the Davidic line. Its focus is on the Southern Kingdom of Judah.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Political History</td>
<td>Religious History</td>
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<tr>
<td>Written by prophets with emphasis on prophetic ministry and moral concerns</td>
<td>Written by priests with emphasis on priestly ministry and spiritual concerns.</td>
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<td>Written by prophets soon after the events.</td>
<td>Written by Ezra long after the events occurred.</td>
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<td>A more negative history pointing out rebellion and tragedy.</td>
<td>A more positive history which gives hope despite the apostasy.</td>
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<td>Message of judgement.</td>
<td>Message of Hope</td>
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<td>Man’s Failings</td>
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