

**2 Chronicles 1 — "Solomon's Kingship Established: The Excellence of Wisdom!"****Introduction:**

2 Chronicles chapter 1 is the 'start of something new'; it's the start of Solomon's reign (v.1). And the chapter is permeated with Solomon's need for, and God's supply of (!), wisdom to suit him for the task!

- **Authorship:**

- **Setting/Historical Context:**

The "Chronicler" arose to give a genealogy and history of Israel -- stretching from Adam (1 Chron 1.1) all the way to the return of the Jews from Babylon (2 Chron 26.23). For this Purpose, he wanted to \*REMIND THE JEWS OF GOD'S PROMISES AND FAITHFULNESS!

Chronicler desired to remind them of their heritage & to instill a God-planted hope during DIFFICULT TIMES they faced and to encourage them to be FAITHFUL TO GOD!

- **Some Themes of 2 Chronicles:**

- **Location in the "Canon" (the placement of 2 Chronicles in the Hebrew Bible)**

*The "Chronicler" is a pastor who wants to instill HOPE & teach HISTORY & stake our HEARTS on God's Faithful, Covenant Keeping Love!*

**THESIS — This chapter shows us Solomon's reign & the importance of wisdom!**

## **I.SOLOMON'S UNASHAMED WORSHIP! (1-7)**

- The theme: *God is to be worshiped!*
- Verse 1 - the summary verse of the section (chs 1-9). God was **with** Him (2 Chron 1:1b). For God to be "with" someone means in the Bible that "GOD GIVES HELP" \*particularly while in\* various struggles!

## **II. SOLOMON'S UNSURPASSED WISDOM! (8-13)**

- The theme: *God gives wisdom!*
- V.7 - Ask what I shall give you! **Seems like a blank check** offer. \*what would you ask God\*? **But he does ask us!**
  - John 15.7- ask of me whatever you wish and it will be done for you
  - 1 John 5.15 - we know that we have the requests which we have asked from him.
  - Matthew 7.7 - Ask and it will be given to you.
- This is amazing \*NOT\* *so much* because of God's offer to him [as amazing as it is, as if it's something unique], but because of Solomon's humble response which serves as a *MODEL* for us all as God gives us these offers (Matt 7.7 & others).

V.10 - what does Solomon request from God?

1. **Wisdom** —

2. **Knowledge** —

*Mark this: Solomon does not need more education; he needs the God-given and Spirit-graced skills necessary to put his learning and intellect to good action! Wise leaders pray & depend on GOD. Foolish leaders busy themselves so much that they don't have time to pray! Wise men pray much & seek God earnestly.*

## **III. SOLOMON'S UNDESERVED WEALTH! (14-17)**

- The theme: *God is Faithful!*
- Verses 14-17 serve merely to show and prove how God gave Solomon riches and possessions (to answer God's very own promise that He made to Solomon in 1.12)!
- Here in 2 Chron 1:14-17 & in ch.9 - the Chronicler provides summaries of Solomon's great wealth (inclusio/ bracketing this Solomonic section together).

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God gives His people WAY MORE than we deserve & way more than we ask for – both with Solomon & with us (consider: we're elect, kept, an heir of eternity, every blessing given to us, we'll surely behold GOD's face one day; inheritors of glory!)!  
What a kind & benevolent God!

1. His horses (v.14)

2. His finances (v.15)

3. His trade-route control (v.16-17)

✓ Christian: TRUST GOD and DO NOT WORRY in LIFE, for God provides for the flowers & for Solomon's greatness & he'll *surely* provide for you. (Matt 6.29)

✓ **Never forget:** Something greater than SOLOMON is here (=Christ!) (Matt 12.42)

*Conclusion:*

- James 1:5 - **do you lack wisdom?** Then, let him ask God who gives to all *generously!*
- James 3.13 - who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the "gentleness of wisdom"!

### Outline & Summary of 2 Chronicles

#### OUTLINE

OUTLINE	TIME/CONTEXT	THEME
1. REIGN OF SOLOMON (1-9)	970-930BC (40 years)	God's <i>faithfulness</i> in the monarchy
2. REIGN OF KINGS OF JUDAH (10-36)	930-536BC (393 years)	God's <i>faithfulness</i> in the divided kingdom

*One of the unifying themes is the TEMPLE IN JERUSALEM!*

*CHRONICLES is a roadmap. By providing info about the heritage, kings, priesthods, their temple, the book of Chronicles pulls together all the Old Testament teachings about what it means to be God's chosen people. This all prepares us for a greater, perfect SON OF DAVID, a greater SOLOMON, FROM THE TRIBE OF JUDAH, to come who will fulfill the Davidic covenant and rule as King over a kingdom of peace!*

**SONGS****By Faith**

By faith we see the hand of God  
 In the light of creation's grand design  
 In the lives of those who prove His faithfulness  
 Who walk by faith and not by sight  
 By faith our fathers roamed the earth  
 With the power of His promise in their hearts  
 Of a holy city built by God's own hand  
 A place where peace and justice reign.

*We will stand as children of the promise  
 We will fix our eyes on Him our soul's reward  
 Till the race is finished and the work is done  
 We'll walk by faith and not by sight!*

By faith the prophets saw a day  
 When the longed-for Messiah would appear  
 With the power to break the chains of sin and death  
 And rise triumphant from the grave  
 By faith the church was called to go  
 In the power of the Spirit to the lost  
 To deliver captives and to preach good news  
 In every corner of the earth!

*We will stand as children of the promise  
 We will fix our eyes on Him our soul's reward  
 Till the race is finished and the work is done  
 We'll walk by faith and not by sight*

By faith this mountain shall be moved  
 And the power of the gospel shall prevail  
 For we know in Christ all things are possible  
 For all who call upon His name

*We will stand as children of the promise  
 We will fix our eyes on Him our soul's reward  
 Till the race is finished and the work is done  
 We'll walk by faith and not by sight*

**Great Is Thy Faithfulness**

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father;  
 There is no shadow of turning with Thee;  
 Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not;  
 As Thou hast been, Thou forever will be.

*Great is Thy faithfulness!  
 Great is Thy faithfulness!  
 Morning by morning new mercies I see.  
 All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;  
 Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,  
 Sun, moon and stars in their courses above  
 Join with all nature in manifold witness  
 To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth  
 Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
 Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
 Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

***A Bit More on Solomon & an Overview of & Lessons from the Book of 2 Chronicles:***

Solomon's inheritance was more than the throne of Israel. His throne only gave him the opportunity to fulfill God's purpose for his life. That purpose was to enable the people to acknowledge Yahweh's rule over them, which the temple symbolized. This had been David's great passion in life. He wanted the people to realize that national strength came from submission to God's heavenly throne. Solomon appreciated that fact. When he offered his first sacrifice as king to God, he did so at the old tabernacle, not at the temporary tent where the ark resided. He realized that Israel's strength lay in her relationship to God, which the tabernacle symbolized. His temple was to become the tabernacle's successor. Solomon's real inheritance, therefore, was his opportunity to build the temple as a reminder to the people of how important it was for them to recognize Yahweh as their real Ruler.

Second, Solomon's greatness was not really his wealth and political influence. These were the results of his greatness. His real greatness lay in his humility before God and in his intercession for the people with God. He later got away from these things, but when he first began to reign, he had the essentials of greatness.

Third, Solomon's service was not most importantly the administration of Israel, though he did that well. His primary service to the nation was the erection of the temple, which the writer emphasized

If 1 Chronicles teaches that it was necessary that the people recognize God, 2 Chronicles teaches that if that recognition is only formal and ceremonial, it is not only useless but impotent. That is the message of this book. If our recognition of God is only formal and not real, that recognition will be useless for us and impotent in us.

Consider some manifestations of formalism [heartless worship] in the church today. One of these is insistence on doctrinal orthodoxy without a corresponding vital spiritual life. This is what James called dead faith (James 2:20). This can mark individual Christians and local churches. I do not mean to suggest that doctrinal orthodoxy is unimportant. I am not suggesting that we tear down the temple. But we must make sure that our theological edifice is having its full effect and not merely giving us a false sense of God's approval. It is possible to argue for the correctness of our views and to curse the person who does not share them. That is an evidence of formalism. It is possible to go to church faithfully, and yet to live outside of church as though there were no God. That is ritualism. It is possible to worship God passionately—and then slack off at work. That is formalism, ritualism, empty hypocrisy.

Is your Christian life vital, or are you just going through motions? Watch out for what I call "the second year syndrome": just going through the motions without a vital relationship with Christ. Two kinds of students show themselves in the second year of seminary: vital and dead. The difference is their personal relationship with Christ, not their brains, or grades, or study habits. The great Polish politician and pianist Paderewski is reported to have said, "If I fail to practice one day, I notice it. If I fail to practice two days, the critics notice it. If I fail to practice three days, everybody notices it." Christians must cultivate our walk with the Lord daily so that it does not degenerate into simply going through motions.