### 2 Kings

## Chapter 25

1It was in the 9th year of [ZedekiAh’s] reign (on the 10th day of the 10th month) that King NebuChadnezzar of Babylon came against JeruSalem with his whole army... He camped outside of the city and built a siege mound around it!  
  
2So the city remained cut off until the 11th year and 9th month of the ZedekiAh’s reign. 3For by then, famine was raging throughout the city, and none of the people there had any bread.  
  
4And that’s when its walls were finally breached.  
  
  
Well, when that happened, [the king] and his men slipped away during the night along a road that ran between the walls of the gate to the king’s garden... Then the Chaldeans (who were all around the city) chased after them along the desert road, 5catching up with the king in the desert near JeriCho, where his men had deserted him.  
  
6So they captured the king and carried him back to the king of Babylon (who was in DebLatha at the time), where he was put on trial. 7Then the king of Babylon had ZedekiAh’s sons slaughtered before his eyes, and he was blinded and carried off to Babylon in chains.  
  
  
8It was in the 5th month, on the 7th day of the month, in the 19th year of the reign of King NebuChadnezzar of Babylon that NabuZarDan (the king of Babylon’s chief body guard) came to JeruSalem.  
  
9He then burned the Temple of Jehovah, the king’s palace, and all the houses in JeruSalem… He burned everything, 10and he had his soldiers tear down JeruSalem’s walls!  
  
11The only people he left behind were those who had sided with the king of Babylon.  
  
And thereafter, NabuZarDan (the chief guard) removed his troops, 12leaving behind just the poor of the land as vinedressers and farmers.  
  
  
13The Chaldeans thereafter broke up the brass columns in the Temple of Jehovah, as well as the basins and the Sacred Sea, and carried all the brass back to Babylon!  
  
14They also took:  
  
 • All the cooking pots,  
 • The shovels,  
 • The bowls,  
 • The incense pans...  
  
...and everything else in the Temple that was made of brass, 15as well as the gold and silver censers and bowls.  
  
16Well, with the two columns, the Sacred Sea, and the bases that Solomon had made for the Temple of Jehovah, no one could estimate the weight of all the brass that they took!  
  
17For each column stood 30 feet (9.1m) tall, and the brass caps for each column stood 5 feet (153cm) tall... There was also the latticework, the brass pomegranates that were all around each of the caps, and the 100 of brass pomegranates that were around the latticework on each column.  
  
  
18The chief bodyguard also took the High Priest SaraiJah and his son ZephaniAh (who was in charge of [Temple] collections). 19In addition, he carried off:  
  
 • All the eunuchs who were in charge of the troops,  
 • 5 of the king’s advisors,  
 • The secretary of the army (who handled recruiting), and  
 • 60 other people whom he found in the city.  
  
20NabuZarDan (the chief guard) then took them to the king of Babylon (who was in DebLatha), 21who had them all killed in DebLatha (which is in the land of HaMath).  
  
Then he removed all the people of Judah and resettled them [away from] their own land.  
  
  
22Thereafter, King NebuChadnezzar of Babylon appointed GedaliAh (son of AchiKam and grandson of ShaPhan) to rule over all those who were still left in the land of Judah.  
  
23And when all the army generals and their men heard that the king of Babylon had put GedaliAh in charge, IshmaEl (son of NathaniAh), JoAnan (son of Kareth), SariAh (son of ThanaMath the NetoPhathite), and JezoniJah (son of the Mahathite) and their men went to GedaliAh in MizPah.  
  
24There he swore an oath to them and their men, saying:  
  
 ‘You don’t have to be afraid when the Chaldeans leave, for if you’ll just settle yourselves in the land and serve the king of Babylon, all will go well for you.’  
  
25But in the 7th month, IshmaEl (son of NathaniJah and grandson of EliSama), who was related to the kings, took ten men and murdered GedaliAh along with all the Judeans and Chaldeans that were with him in MizPah!  
  
26So, all the people (the small and the great) and the army generals got up and fled to Egypt, because they were afraid of what the Chaldeans would do to them.  
  
  
27It was in the 37th year after King JehoiAchin of Judah had been carried away (on the 7th day of the 12th month), that Ebil Marodach became the king of Babylon.  
  
And during the 1st year of his reign, he released JehoiAchin (the king of Judah) from prison 28and said good things about him... Then he put him on a throne that was higher than those of all the other kings who were in Babylon!  
  
29He also gave him new clothes to wear and allowed him to eat [at his table] for the rest of his life… 30So he thereafter feasted in the palace of the king everyday [until he died].

# 1 Chronicles

1 Chronicles is a history book written from a religious viewpoint.  
  
It’s the first part of a two-part book: 1 Chronicles and 2 Chronicles. It’s pronounced ‘First Chronicles,’ although some people say ‘One Chronicles.’  
  
The books of Chronicles are a retelling of the history the Jewish people, starting with genealogies, before jumping into the time of King David. So it repeats much information found the previous Bible books – but in a more condensed way, with a few extra details added in.  
  
Part one covers the period from the creation of Adam to the death of King David.  
  
  
Difficult portions  
  
The book begins with many long lists, with some names reflecting different, later, spellings compared to what’s recorded in 1 and 2 Kings. These may not be suitable for casual reading. If you wish to jump to where the story begins, go straight to 1 Chronicles 10:1.  
  
  
Why repeat this history again?  
  
The two books of Chronicles were originally just one book. It was written for the Jews who returned home from the Babylonian exile to rebuild their nation. Perhaps it acted as a way of encouraging patriotism among the population, while also encouraging them to serve their God, Jehovah.  
  
It was probably written by the Scribe Ezra, likely with the help of secretaries, around 455 BCE.