

BACKGROUND

The Chronicler wrote one corpus of literature which appears in our bibles as two books of scripture. It was in the 1500's that the Septuagint division was introduced to the Hebrew Bible. The book was named by Jerome who lived circa 400A.D. **There is strong traditional support for the view that EZRA wrote this very detailed literature.** I see Ezra both as the *writer-cum-compiler* because much of the material was of a much earlier origin.

Undoubtedly the emphasis on the courses of Levites and priestly incidents and annals strongly suggest the material relayed emerged from priestly sources.

The book divides neatly into three sections:

1. Nine chapters of genealogy plus one on Saul's fall
2. Eleven chapters concerning the establishment of the kingdom under David.
3. Eight chapters of detailed temple ritual and service.

The purpose of the book was to instruct the nation in its spiritual history, Messianic expectation and sacrificial system laid down under Moses.

The keen emphasis is on the relevance of obedience to Moses' covenant to obtaining God's blessing and to success.

Some consider the book has lots of "spin" in it and is somewhat fictional. The "cover-up" or silence at best concerning "David's sin" is one place where the book is short on facts but we should not hasten to unhelpful and unreliable conclusions on one classic omission which is supplied in the account given by Samuel. As UNGER wisely remarks the Chronicler is **"not to be demeaned because he magnifies acts of faith and obedience with their consequent triumphs."**

HALLEY reminds us that the Chronicler makes reference to the literature of "The Chronicles of David" "Gad the seer" "Nathan the prophet" "Ahijah the Shilonite" "Iddo the seer"(2C) "The book of Sehamiah (2C) "The book of Jehu son of Hanani"(2C) "Acts of Uzziah"(2C) "The vision of Isaiah"(2C) "The book of Kings"(2C) and the "Sayings of the Seers"(2C) – so this book is one admittedly large work among 12 others – possibly to be thought of as a compendium-of earlier origin which supplied reliable reference material.

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