

INTRODUCTION

This book comes like Ezra and 2 Chronicles from the pen of Ezra himself. He was a very great writer and made copious use of earlier source material as my “Background” will show.

I have high-lighted the dynamic nature of history and tend to translate “**It happened**” as “**it was reality**”. Twenty seven such references serve to show that God was moving ostensibly and mightily in the life of David to *cause him to triumph* like His NT servant Paul. God was also moving in the establishment of Israel and of then in response to enthusiasm for the temple. Ezra desired to inspire the same “obedience from the heart” as he saw in David in a later day.

As ever my comments are found scattered somewhat promiscuously throughout the text in *italicised* font. The text itself I have re-translated from the Hebrew.

The Rabbinic postscript advises us that Azmavareth recorded every detail concerning the temple that was to be built much as Christ has placed every stone in His church. The postscript in challenging Ephraim to prove the greatness that tribe considers belongs to Israel by faith and capture the Mount Ephraim declares the tenor of the book – which highlights the obedience of faith.

The *story-line* of 1 Chronicles is that of Anthropology through the first nine chapters-taking mankind from Adam through the pre-diluvians to Abraham and then to David and onwards.

We are treated to the two very different episodes of the homecoming of the ark and given in Chapter 16 the great psalm of David sung on the final auspicious occasion of the arks arrival in Jerusalem.

The story continues to show the widespread humbling of nations under the Theocracy. David defeats Hadadezer who possessed 7000 chariots and 40,000 foot soldiers and that on the borders of what was later Babylon itself – along the margins of the Euphrates.

The story line continues by giving us the record of the end of the Giants or Rephaim. David is sustained after his sin of numbering the people by the grace of God which focuses attention on the threshing floor of Araunah and provides guidance for the placement of the ark there – where God revealed His mercy.

The story-line thereafter is largely concerned with the design of much of the temple which David provided – and the very considerable materials. The precious metals and coin totalled £1m pounds by estimate at the turn of the century – now somewhere between 100 and 500 times that value.

The charge to Solomon and David's appeal for volunteers to give towards the temple fit like marquetry into the circumstances where Ezra was equally calling upon the people to give generously toward the 2nd temple and be wholly committed to the LORD.

I commend the book to the reader. You should treat it as Ezra appears to have constructed it – as a story to encourage “acts of faith” and one which demonstrates that obedience to the ordinances of God bring joy and triumph as they did to David.

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A Bible Companion

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