

Historical Perspective of the Chronicler

“The Chronicler is not a historian in the strict Western sense. To him Israel’s history was pregnant with spiritual and moral lessons. . . . He is not concerned so much with the bare facts of Israel’s history as with their meaning. If all valid historical writing is interpretative, the Chronicler’s is highly interpretative.”

William Sanford LaSor, David Allan Hubbard, and Frederic William Bush, *Old Testament Survey: The Message, Form, and Background of the Old Testament*, 2d ed. (Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans, 1996), 543.

Chronicles: A Guide for Reconstruction

The Chronicler’s “purpose is to show that the true glory of the Hebrew nation was found in its covenant relationship to God, as safeguarded by the prescribed forms of worship in the temple and administered by the divinely ordained priesthood and the divinely authorized dynasty of David. Always the emphasis is upon that which is sound and valid in Israel’s past, as furnishing a reliable basis for the task of national reconstruction which lay before them.”

Gleason L. Archer, *A Survey of Old Testament Introduction*, rev. ed. (Chicago: Moody Press, 1994), 449.

Comparison of Samuel/Kings vs. Chronicles

Samuel/Kings	Chronicles
Both Israel and Judah	Primarily Judah
Throne	Temple
Prophets	Priests
Political history	Spiritual history
Indictment	Encouragement

References to Priests and Prophets in Samuel/Kings and Chronicles

TOTAL OCCURRENCES

	Samuel/Kings	Chronicles
<i>priest</i> or <i>priests</i>	101	97
<i>prophet</i> or <i>prophets</i>	90	29

OCCURRENCES PER CHAPTER

	Samuel/Kings	Chronicles
<i>priest</i> or <i>priests</i>	.99	1.49
<i>prophet</i> or <i>prophets</i>	.88	.45

Chronicles: A Source of Encouragement

“The chronicler’s emphasis on David, the priesthood, and the temple would have been a source of great encouragement to postexilic Judah. The nation had fallen into captivity, a comparatively small remnant had returned, and the restored temple was meager compared with its former splendor. . . . But God’s promises will not fail. In His time the temple will be filled with His own glory. And the Davidic line once more will be established and the Messiah will rule on David’s throne in the kingdom.”

Eugene H. Merrill, “1 Chronicles,” in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: Old Testament*, edited by John F. Walvoord and Roy B. Zuck (Colorado Springs: ChariotVictor Publishing, 1985), 591.