

## **Generational journal**

### **Read I Chronicles**

My last name is one of the top ten last names in my country of birth. The family genealogy has been kept fairly well. One of my forefathers wrote a poem and he passed it on many generations. There is a promise to that. Any one that travels to another town and meets someone with the same last name, he/she can stay with that family as long as he/she can recite that poem. This is the forefather's will, and a promise that has been kept fairly well by my forefathers after him. Today, how many families with my last name remember that poem or willing to keep that promise? I think that number is decreasing. In contrast, God keeps His promises forever. One of the main themes of I Chronicles is God's faithfulness in His covenants & promises.

I Chronicles was written after the exile (about 450-435 B.C) to remind those Israelites that are returning to their homeland the importance of their genealogy and worship God. The book of I Chronicles covers the time period similar to II Samuel and I Kings but the emphasis is different. I Chronicles focuses more on the priestly aspect whereas II Samuel and I Kings more on the kingly aspect. The first 9 chapters are about genealogies, Chapter 10 is about King Saul and chapters 11 to 19 are about King David and the temple.

#### **1) Abrahamic covenant**

The chronicles list the names in each generation specially concentrated on priests, Levites, leaders and officials. The chronicles can show the legitimacy of a person or family in a specific role/rank, the chosen line of priesthood, and the assurance to the Israelites as God's chosen race even they have been overtaken by other countries at that time.

The chronicles show the Israelites the rich heritage blessings. Also, it reminded them the covenant God made with Abraham. It has been and will continue be fulfilled. Chapter 16:15-17 states "He remembers his covenant forever, the promise he made, for a thousand generations, the covenant he made with Abraham, the oath he swore to Isaac. He confirmed it to Jacob as a decree, to Israel as an everlasting covenant."

#### **2) Davidic covenant**

The later part of I Chronicles is mainly about King David. God established a covenant with David.

In chapter 11, we can see God fulfilled his promise and made David the king over Israel. God is faithful and keeps His promises to all including you and me.

The unconditional Davidic covenant is found in II Samuel chapter 7 and I Chronicles chapter 17. Here the scripture shows the future Messiah will be a descendant of David. Verses 13 and 14 of Chapter 17 are about Jesus and the forever kingdom as stated "... he will be my son ... I will set him over my house and my kingdom forever; his throne will be established forever."

### **3) David's response**

David had great responses to God as shown in later chapters of this book. Chapter 17 contains a very rich content of his prayer and praise. I Chronicles reminded the Israelites to obey God and follow God as in David's prayer and praise. Chapter 17 showed David's humbleness as He praised God's greatness. It showed his thankfulness that God has cared and blessed him and his family. It showed David's understanding of God's heart that God cared for His people. It showed David's willingness and did credit all glory to God.

### **4) What is your response?**

I Chronicles is a message to the Israelites in that time period. It reminded them to be close to God and encouraged them. Today, the Abrahamic covenant applies to us today as stated in New Testament Gal. 3:7 and 3:29. The Davidic covenant reveals Jesus is the Messiah and our savior, and He will come again for us. These promises encourage us. Do you respond to God's promises, assurance of protection and blessings as David did? Do you walk closely with God with a humble and thankful heart? Do you pray often and study His words so that you can know His heart better? Do you have the eternal hope that can give you strength and joy? Do you give all glory to God?

In summary, human covenants and promises are often not kept. God's covenants and promises always hold true and be fulfilled. They shall empower us to have complete faith in God and to follow Him closely in our daily lives. In turn, we will be abundantly blessed.