

INTERACTIVE TRAVEL GUIDE

DESTINATION: *2 Chronicles 1-36*

2 Chronicles continues the history started in 1 Chronicles and picks up the story with the inauguration of Solomon as King over the United Kingdom of Israel. However, after Solomon's death the kingdom divides and Judah and Israel separate. The remainder of the book of 2 Chronicles describes the history of Judah as the nation rides a spiritual roller coaster that takes them into exile and results in the destruction of the temple.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

1010 B.C.

David's reign begins in Hebron

970 B.C.

David dies and Solomon becomes king

967 B.C.

Solomon begins construction on the temple

930 B.C.

Solomon dies and the kingdom divides

910 B.C.

Asa becomes king in Judah

872 B.C.

Jehoshaphat becomes king in Judah

755 B.C.

Isaiah begins to prophesy in Judah

722 B.C.

Israel is taken captive by the Assyrians

624 B.C.

The Book of the Law is found in Jerusalem

586 B.C.

Judah is taken captive by the Babylonians

TRIP PLANNER:

The book of 2 Chronicles continues the story of 1 Chronicles and parallels 1 & 2 Kings. 2 Chronicles can be divided into three sections, organized around the temple in Jerusalem.

The Building of the Temple – 2 Chronicles 1-9

The Decline of the Temple – 2 Chronicles 10-36:16

The Destruction of the Temple – 2 Chronicles 36:17-23

PLACES OF INTEREST:

Ascent of Ziz – A dry stream bed (or wadi) just north of En Gedi.

Beth Shemesh – 18 miles west of Jerusalem near the Philistine border. The ark of the covenant came here when it returned from Philistia.

Brook of Egypt – Probably the Wadi el-Arish, a seasonal stream 40 miles southwest of Gaza.

Brook Kidron – The wadi just east of Jerusalem where debris was burned.

Carchemish – One of the last strongholds of Assyria to resist the onslaught of the rising neo-Babylonian kingdom.

City of Judah – Another name for the City of David.

Ephraim – A synonym for Israel. The cities referred to as the cities of Ephraim could include Ramah, Geba and Mizpah.

Gihon – The spring that was the main source of water for Jerusalem.

Hazazon Tamar – The western shore of the Dead Sea, a few miles south of Qumran. It was David's hiding place in the days of Saul.

Jezreel – A royal city located in the Plain of Jezreel and frequented by the kings of Israel. It is about 10 miles west of the Jordan and 25 miles west of Ramoth Gilead.

Joppa – Now known as Jaffa, the only seaport on the Israelite Mediterranean coast between Dor to the north and Philistia to the south.

Lachish – An important fortified city west of Jerusalem near the great coastal route. Its capture by Assyria would cut off access to Jerusalem from the west and would give Assyria control of the coast.

Mareshah – One of Asa's important fortified cities, about 25 miles southwest of Jerusalem. It was near the Via Maris, the coastal highway connecting Egypt and Canaan.

Mount Moriah – Also referred to as the “land of Moriah,” where Abraham took Isaac to sacrifice him. David purchased this site from Ornan to build an altar. This would become the location where the temple would be built.

Naphtali – The most northern tribal territory of Israel, very close to Damascus.

Ramoth Gilead – Located 35 miles east of Beth Shan, it was controlled by the Arameans. It was also one of the cities of refuge.

Tarshish – A Sanscrit or Aryan word meaning “the sea coast.” Located in the western Mediterranean. The name also came to represent any place far away. Ships of Tarshish were large vessels able to transport heavy cargo over long distances.

Valley of Salt – Refers to the desert south of the Dead Sea.

Valley of the Son of Hinnom – Just outside the western wall of Jerusalem. It was a dumping ground for all kinds of refuse. The valley itself became a symbol of impurity. It was also a place where human sacrifice occurred.

PEOPLE OF INTEREST:

Ahaziah – The son of Ahab. He succeeded his father and reigned for two years. When he was injured in a fall, he turned to the Philistine gods rather than to the Lord for healing.

Asa – Son of Abijah who reigned for 41 years until 870 B.C.

Athaliah – A woman who reigned for six years in Judah. She was not a descendent of David and therefore not listed among the kings of Judah. However, her grandson Joash remained the sole survivor in the Davidic line.

Bezalel – One of the two men especially chosen by God to build the tabernacle in the wilderness. He was a master craftsman.

Cyrus – A mighty monarch and the instrument through whom God delivered His people from exile. He was the ruler over Babylon and then eventually over Media and Persia. He commanded that Jerusalem be rebuilt.

Hanani the seer – The father of Jehu the prophet who once challenged King Jehoshaphat of Judah.

Hezekiah – His name means "God has strengthened." He was king of Judah, the son of Ahaz and Abi (2 Kings 18:1-2) or Abijah (2 Chronicles 29:1) who reigned 29 years (2 Kings 18:2). He is also one of the kings mentioned in the genealogy of Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew.

Hilkiah – The chief priest during the reign of Josiah.

Hiram King of Tyre – The same ruler who supplied materials for King David's palace.

Huldah the prophetess – One of four female prophets named in the Old Testament. The other three are Miriam, Deborah and Noadiah.

Jehoiada – Under King Jehoiada, Judah enjoyed a revival of the true worship of God.

Jeremiah – The famous prophet who composed the book of Jeremiah.

Jeroboam – The first king of the Northern Kingdom of Israel.

Nathan the prophet – He was the prophet who rebuked David for his adultery with Bathsheba and the murder of her husband. He was also a confidant and counselor to Solomon.

Nebuchadnezzar – The son of Nabopolassar, founder of the Neo-Babylonian or Chaldean Empire. Also referred to as the King of the Chaldeans.

Rehoboam – A son of Solomon by his wife Naamah of Ammon. Rehoboam was 41 when he began to rule over Judah.

Sennacherib – Invaded Judah and eventually laid siege to Jerusalem.

Shapan – A scribe or secretary of the king. He was responsible for keeping the state records, which likely included the original temple plans and specifications.

Tiglath-Pileser – Brought Mesopotamian influence over the countries of the eastern Mediterranean to its highest point.

Zedekiah – The youngest of four sons of Josiah to rule over Judah. He was the last king to reign before Judah was led into exile.

FUN FACTS:

Arabians – From the southwestern part of the Arabian Peninsula, probably near present-day Yemen.

Blessed Be The Lord Your God – This was the language of politeness in the ancient world. It did not suggest that the person was converted. Visiting dignitaries customarily praised the god of the host nation.

Book Of The Covenant – Refers to the book of the Law.

The Book of Jehu – Jehu was the son of the prophet Hanani. He is mentioned in 1 Kings as having a connection between the kings of Israel and was a good source of information between the Northern and Southern Kingdoms.

The Book of the kings of Israel and Judah – A reference to 1 & 2 Kings.

The Book of the Law – Refers to the five books of Moses, the Pentateuch.

Covenant of Salt – Salt was a preservative and symbolized durability.

Devices – One of the earliest references to catapults (2 Chronicles 26:15). They were primarily used as defensive weapons.

High Place – The term comes from the fact that many ancient worshippers used hills for their sacred rites, thinking that such places were good meeting points between heaven and earth.

Hittites – The peoples of the ancient nation of Hatti in central Asia Minor. They reached the height of their power around 1350–1300 B.C. They were nearly exterminated by the Sea Peoples in 1200 B.C.

Jachin and Boaz – The names Jachin and Boaz mean “He Establishes” and “In Him Is Strength.” The two pillars in the temple were constant reminders of the presence and power of God.

Lying spirit – A demonic being whom the Lord allowed to deceive the prophets.

Mediums – Those who claim to have contact and consult with the dead.

Molded Images – Same as wooden images, only they were made of molded metal.

Sacred pillars – Stone posts associated with Canaanite fertility rites.

Soothsaying – Also known as divination. It is an attempt to determine the plans and purposes of the gods so as to avert their hostility or take advantage of their favors.

Spirits – “Knowing ones” whose specialty is communication with the dead with the hope of acquiring information accessible to the living.

The Testimony – A copy of the Law of Moses, part of which outlined the king’s covenant privileges and duties.

Thousand – In Hebrew, the word thousand can also mean “clan” or “village.” In a military context it could refer to a “company” of men.

The Wall Of Ophel – Ophel was one of the original Jebusite areas of Jerusalem. Its walls dated back hundreds of years and must have required regular maintenance.

Witchcraft – An attempt to bring about desired results by employing magical or mystical rituals. Also known as sorcery.

Wooden Images – Fashioned from live evergreen trees which were regarded as fertility symbols since their leaves remained green all year round. They were poles dedicated to the worship of Asherah, the Canaanite fertility goddess.

MAPS:

