

The Ideal United Kingdom (1 Chronicles 9:35 – 2 Chronicles 9:31)

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David Prepares for the Temple, part 1: Overview of 1 Chronicles 17:1–29:25

Overview of 1 Chr 17:1-29:25

This third major portion of David's reign presents the high point of his life from the Chronicler's perspective. Having already recorded the joy resulting from widespread support for David's dynasty (see 9:35-12:40), as well as celebration over the presence of the ark in Jerusalem (see 13:1-16:43), the Chronicler turned next to the largest and most significant part of David's reign (17:1-29:30). Here David brought indescribable joy to Israel by making preparations for Solomon to build the temple.

Comparison of 17:1-29:25 with Samuel

A number of significant variations occur between 2 Samuel and 1 Chr 17:1-29:25. More detailed comparisons appear in the discussions below. At this point only a few general comments will be made (see figure 15).

First, in broad terms 17:1-22:1 derive from the portions of 2 Sam 7:1-24:25. As our figure illustrates, the Chronicler omitted a number of segments, but these chapters in Chronicles are at least loosely parallel to Samuel.

Second, this material contains the Chronicler's largest uninterrupted addition to Samuel and Kings (22:2-29:25). As such, it brings to light the Chronicler's chief concern in the reign of David: the king's devotion to preparing for Solomon's temple.

1 Chr		2 Sam ¹⁷⁷
17:1-27	David Accepts Preparatory Role (closely parallel)	7:1-29
18:1-13	David's Victories (closely parallel)	8:1-14
18:14-19	David's Righteous Reign (closely parallel)	8:15-18
-----	David Accepts Mephibosheth (omitted)	9:1-13
19:1-20:3	David's Victory over Ammonites (parallel)	10:1-11:1a 12:26,30-31
-----	David Sins with Bathsheba (omitted)	11:1b-27
-----	David's Rebuke from Nathan (omitted)	12:1-25
-----	David's Troubled House (omitted)	13:1-21:14
-----	David's Rescue from Philistines (omitted)	21:15-17
20:4-8	David's Victory over Philistines (closely parallel)	21:18-22
-----	David's Psalm and Oracle (omitted)	22:1-23:7
21:1-22:1	David's Census (slightly expanded)	24:1-25
22:2-29:25	David's Arrangements for Temple (added)	-----

Comparison of 17:1-29:25 with Samuel (figure 15)

Structure of 17:1-29:25

This portion of David's reign divides into five symmetrical steps (see figure 16).

David Prepares for the Temple (17:1-29:25)

- David Accepts Commission to Prepare for Solomon (17:1-27)
 - David Expresses His Plan (17:1)
 - Nathan Responds Favorably to David (17:2)
 - God Reveals the Divine Plan to Nathan (17:3-14)
 - Nathan Reports the Divine Plan to David (17:15)
 - David Accepts God's Plan (17:16-27)

- David Secures the Nation and Collects Temple Materials (18:1-20:8)
 - ◆ David's Victories and Domestic Security (18:1-17)
 - David's Victories in All Directions (18:1-13)
 - David's Resulting National Security (18:14-17)

 - ◆ David's Victories against Ammon and Aram (19:1-20:3)
 - David Insulted by the King of Ammon (19:1-5)
 - David Sends Delegation to Ammonites (19:1-2a)
 - David's Delegation Arrives (19:2b)
 - Ammonite Nobles Advise Rejection (19:3)
 - David's Delegation Rejected (19:4)
 - David Assures Delegation (19:5)

 - David Destroys Ammonite-Aramean Coalition (19:6-19)
 - Ammonite-Aramean Coalition Formed (19:6-7)

 - Israel's First Victory (19:8-15)
 - Joab Sent to Battle (19:8)
 - Dual Enemy Formations (19:9)
 - Joab's Plan (19:10-13)
 - Dual Formations Destroyed (19:14-15a)
 - Joab Returns from Battle (19:15b)

Israel's Second Victory (19:16-19a)
 Arameans Prepare for War (19:16)
 David Advances (19:17a)
 Battle Ensues (19:17b)
 David Defeats (19:18)
 Arameans Sue for Peace (19:19a)

Ammonite-Aramean Coalition Broken (19:19b)

● David Conquers the King of Ammon (20:1-3)
 Joab Leads Army (20:1a)
 Joab Destroys Rabbah (20:1b)
 David Receives Spoils (20:2-3a)
 David and Army Return (20:3b)

◆ David's Victories against Philistines (20:4-8)
 Victory in a Battle with Philistines (20:4)
 Victory in a Second Battle with Philistines (20:5)
 Victory in a Third Battle with Philistines (20:6-8)

■ David Discovers the Temple Site (21:1-22:1)

◆ David's Cursed Infidelity (21:1-7a)
 David Misled by Satan (21:1)
 David Orders Census (21:2-3)
 Joab Fulfills Census (21:4)
 David Receives Census (21:5-6)
 David Angers God (21:7a)

◆ David's Confrontation with God over Israel (21:7b-14)
 David Punished by God (21:7b)
 David's Humble Inquiry (21:8)
 David's Instructions from Gad (21:9-12)
 David's Humble Compliance (21:13)
 David Punished by God (21:14)

◆ David's Confrontation with God over Jerusalem (21:15-27)
 David Punished by God (21:15)
 David's Humble Inquiry (21:16-17)
 David's Instructions from Gad (21:18)
 David's Humble Compliance (21:19-26a)
 David Forgiven by God (21:26b-27)

- ◆ David's Blessed Devotion (21:28-22:1)
 - David Offers Sacrifices (21:28)
 - David's Actions Explained (21:29-30)
 - David Declares His Discovery (22:1)

- David Commissions Temple Construction (22:2-19)

- ◆ David's Extensive Preparations for Solomon (22:2-5)
- ◆ David's Commission of Solomon (22:6-16)
- ◆ David's Order for Leaders to Help Solomon (22:17-19)

- David Transfers Power and Responsibility to Solomon (23:1-29:25)

- ◆ Title: David Makes Solomon King (23:1)
- ◆ Those Whom David Gathered (23:2-27:34)
 - Introduction (23:2)
 - Priests and Levites (23:3-26:32)
 - Registry and Divisions of Levites (23:3-5)
 - Levites and Priests Together (23:6-24:31)
 - Levites Divided by Families (23:6-27)
 - Levitical Duties Alongside Priests (23:28-32)
 - Priests Divided (24:1-19)
 - Levites Remaining (24:20-31)
 - Singers (25:1-31)
 - Gatekeepers (26:1-19)
 - Officials and Judges (26:20-32)
 - Military and Civilian Leaders (27:1-34)
 - Military Leaders (27:1-24)
 - Civilian Leaders (27:25-34)

- ◆ David's Final Assembly (28:1-29:25)
 - David Assembles Leaders (28:1)
 - David's First Speeches and Actions (28:2-19)
 - David Addresses Assembly (28:2-7)
 - David Addresses Solomon (28:8-10)
 - Action Following Speeches (28:11-19)
 - David's Second Speeches and Actions (28:20-29:9)
 - David Addresses Solomon (28:20-21)
 - David Addresses Assembly (29:1-5)
 - Action Following Second Speeches (29:6-9)
 - David's Third Speeches and Actions (29:10-25)
 - David Addresses God (29:10-19)
 - Setting (29:10a)
 - Praise of God (29:10b-13)
 - Declaration of Humility (29:14-16)
 - Petitions for the Future (29:17-19)
 - David Addresses Assembly (29:20)
 - Actions Following Speeches (29:21-25)

Closure of David's Reign (29:26-30)

Outline of 1 Chr 17:1-29:25 (figure 16)

The overarching symmetry of this material displays its primary concerns. First, David accepted his God-ordained role to prepare for Solomon to build the temple (17:1-27). In balance with this opening, David finished his effort by transferring responsibility for the temple to Solomon (28:1-29:25). In the second step of this section David gathers materials for construction (18:1-20:8). In the fourth step, David commissioned that these materials be used (22:2-27:34). The center of this material (21:1-22:1) recollects the preceding theme of David's military accomplishments (18:1-20:8) by reporting David's military census. It also anticipates the commission to build (22:2-27:34) by indicating how David's military census led to the discovery of the temple site. At the end of these chapters, the Chronicler closed David's reign (29:26-30).