8WEEKBIBLESTUDY.COM • SMALL GROUP CURRICULUM LIBRARY

THE 66-BOOK 8-WEEK GROUP BIBLE STUDY SERIES • BOOK 14 OF 66

דִּבְרֵי הַיָּמִים ב׳

# 2 CHRONICLES

An 8–Week Group Bible Study

By Greg and Kayla Gibson

THE COMPLETE STUDY • WEEKS 1–8 • 2 CHRONICLES 1:1–36:23
GENERAL / MIXED GROUP EDITION

## 2 Chronicles: An 8–Week Bible Study

An 8–Week Bible Study • ESV® • 8 Sessions of 75–90 Minutes

LEADER GUIDE EDITION

Complete Participant Text + Interleaved Pacing, Hebrew Word Studies, Facilitation Probes & Pitfalls

# 2 Chronicles: An 8-Week Bible Study

Leader Guide Edition • General / Mixed Group Track

By Greg and Kayla Gibson

Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. ESV Text Edition: 2025. The ESV text may not be quoted in any publication made available to the public by a Creative Commons license. The ESV may not be translated in whole or in part into any other language. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Study guide curriculum and commentary © 2026 by Greg and Kayla Gibson. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored, or transmitted in any form without prior written permission of the authors, except for brief quotations in reviews.

Gibson Bible Study LLC • 8weekbiblestudy.com

WEEK 1 OF 8

# Week 1: Wisdom and a House for the LORD — 2 Chronicles 1:1–5:14

Scripture Scope: 2 Chronicles 1:1–5:14 (ESV) • Session Length: 75–90 Minutes

- **The title:** In the Hebrew Bible, 1 and 2 Chronicles were one book, and it stands last in the Hebrew canon. 2 Chronicles picks up exactly where 1 Chronicles ends, with Solomon on the throne of the LORD and the temple plans in his hands.
- **The setting:** Written after the return from exile, probably between 450 and 400 BC, for the small community in Judah under Persian rule. 2 Chronicles covers about 430 years, from Solomon's accession (about 970 BC) to the fall of Jerusalem (586 BC), and closes with Cyrus's decree allowing the exiles to return (538 BC).
- **The main characters:** Solomon, the queen of Sheba, Rehoboam, Asa, Jehoshaphat, Athaliah, Jehoiada, Joash, Uzziah, Ahaz, Hezekiah, Manasseh, Josiah, and Cyrus, along with prophets such as Azariah, Micaiah, Jahaziel, Zechariah, and Huldah.
- **Its place in the Bible:** 2 Chronicles retells much of 1 and 2 Kings with a distinct purpose. It follows only the kings of Judah, David's line, and mentions the northern kingdom only when it touches Judah. It adds many prophetic speeches, reforms, and prayers, and it shows that each king's response to God brings blessing or trouble. It leaves out Solomon's later idolatry and most of Elijah's and Elisha's work, which Kings records.
- **The structure (two parts):**
  - Solomon and the temple (chapters 1–9).
  - The kings of Judah, from the division of the kingdom to the exile and Cyrus's decree (chapters 10–36).
- **Why it matters:** The LORD promised to hear his people when they humble themselves, pray, seek his face, and turn (7:14). King after king, Chronicles shows that promise at work: those who seek the LORD find him, those who forsake him fall, and even the worst who humble themselves find mercy. The book ends not in ruin but with an invitation to go up and rebuild, pointing to Jesus, the Son of David and the true temple.

### How This 8-Week Study Works

Designed for weekly small groups, mini-churches, and community gatherings (75–90 minutes per session) rather than daily homework checklists, each week of 2 Chronicles invites you to walk through the story of the temple and the kings of Judah together through six repeatable sections:

- **Section X.1 — Opening:** Sets the scene, the Week at a Glance, Head, Heart, and Hands objectives, the Opening Frame, and the Opening Entry Question.
- **Section X.2 — Historical & Literary Context:** Places the week's chapters inside the structure of 2 Chronicles and the ancient Near Eastern world.
- **Section X.3 — Movement 1:** The week's first guided passage: Guided Scripture Reading, Anchor Verses, Teaching Narrative, and Group Discussion Questions.
- **Section X.4 — Movement 2:** The week's second guided passage, following the same flow.
- **Section X.5 — Canonical Horizon:** Traces how the passage echoes across Scripture and finds its fulfillment in Jesus Christ.
- **Section X.6 — Application, Looking Ahead, and Closing Prayer:** Moves the week's study into everyday life, previews next week, and closes in prayer.

Key anchor verses are printed in each section for quick reference. Longer focal passages are read aloud together from the ESV. 2 Chronicles includes wars, palace murders, the persecution of prophets, child sacrifice, and the fall of Jerusalem. The study retells those scenes briefly in its own words rather than printing or reading them in full, so the group can understand what happened without dwelling on graphic detail.

### Choosing a Bible Translation: Top 5 Translations Compared

Every English Bible translation falls along a spectrum between two primary approaches: word-for-word translation (formal equivalence, which prioritizes literal accuracy to the original phrasing and sentence structure) and thought-for-thought translation (dynamic equivalence, which prioritizes immediate modern readability by translating idioms and ideas into natural contemporary expressions). Here is how five widely used English translations compare:

- **ESV (English Standard Version) — Word-for-Word**
  - Pros: Follows the wording and sentence structure of the original Hebrew and Greek closely while using modern English; well suited to close study.
  - Cons: Because it tracks the original sentence structure, some phrasing can feel more formal than everyday speech.
- **NIV (New International Version) — Balanced (Between Word-for-Word and Thought-for-Thought)**
  - Pros: Widely read; balances accuracy to the original languages with natural, everyday readability.
  - Cons: Because some idioms are rendered as modern expressions, a few literal wordplays or technical terms can be less visible.
- **NLT (New Living Translation) — Thought-for-Thought**
  - Pros: Warm and conversational; reads smoothly aloud and helps readers follow the big picture of long passages.
  - Cons: Because it prioritizes meaning over literal phrasing, it can be harder to use for close word study.
- **CSB (Christian Standard Bible) — Optimal Equivalence (Balanced)**
  - Pros: Stays close to the original words where possible while smoothing awkward phrasing into natural modern English.
  - Cons: Because it is a newer translation, some well-known verses may sound different from the wording many readers remember.
- **KJV / NKJV (King James Version & New King James Version) — Traditional Word-for-Word**
  - Pros: Historic cadence that shaped English literature and church history; the NKJV updates archaic pronouns ("thee/thou") while keeping the classic rhythm.
  - Cons: Often reads like older English poetry, with complex sentences and archaic or formal vocabulary that can be harder for modern readers to follow.

This study quotes the ESV.

### Greg & Kayla's Recommended Study Bibles

Having a trusted study Bible on hand is one of the best ways to go deeper as you read through 2 Chronicles:

- **Greg's Favorite Study Bible:** The MacArthur Study Bible (ESV), which contains extensive explanatory notes beneath almost every verse, ideal for detailed study.
- **Kayla's Favorite Study Bible:** The ESV Study Bible, containing over 20,000 study notes, articles, and explanations.

### The 8-Week 2 Chronicles Study at a Glance

| Week | Title & Passage | Movement 1 / Movement 2 | Canonical Horizon |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | **Wisdom and a House for the LORD** (1:1–5:14) | Solomon's Wisdom and Wealth (1:1–2:18) / Building and Furnishing the Temple (3:1–5:14) | Christ, greater than Solomon, and the true temple |
| 2 | **Glory, Promise, and Splendor** (6:1–9:31) | Solomon's Prayer and the Fire from Heaven (6:1–7:22) / Solomon's Achievements and Fame (8:1–9:31) | The Mediator who prays and the glory in Christ |
| 3 | **Seek the LORD and Be Found** (10:1–16:14) | Division and Rehoboam's Humbling (10:1–12:16) / Abijah's Stand and Asa's Reforms (13:1–16:14) | Seeking and finding God in Christ |
| 4 | **The Battle Is the LORD's** (17:1–20:37) | Jehoshaphat's Reforms and a Costly Alliance (17:1–19:11) / Victory Through Praise (20:1–37) | The battle won by the Lord |
| 5 | **The Lamp Kept Burning** (21:1–24:27) | Jehoram, Ahaziah, and Athaliah (21:1–22:12) / Joash's Rise and Fall (23:1–24:27) | The lamp of David preserved |
| 6 | **Pride Before the Fall** (25:1–28:27) | Amaziah and Uzziah (25:1–26:23) / Jotham's Faithfulness and Ahaz's Faithlessness (27:1–28:27) | The humble King and the danger of pride |
| 7 | **Return to the LORD** (29:1–32:33) | Hezekiah Restores Worship and Passover (29:1–30:27) / Generosity, Siege, and Humility (31:1–32:33) | The grace that welcomes the returning |
| 8 | **From Exile to Invitation** (33:1–36:23) | Manasseh's Repentance and Josiah's Reform (33:1–35:27) / The Fall and Cyrus's Decree (36:1–23) | The God who restores the repentant and the King who brings his people home |

# How to Use This Leader Guide Edition

This **Leader Guide Edition** is built on a synchronized two-edition architecture so you never have to juggle two separate books during your small group or mini-church gathering:

**1. 100% Word-for-Word Participant Text Included:** Every section, Scripture reading prompt, verbatim ESV anchor verse callout, teaching narrative, table, and discussion or reflection prompt appears here **word-for-word identical** to what your group members see in their Participant Study Edition. Section numbers and question labels match exactly, so leaders and participants can stay on the same page.

**2. Interleaved `[LEADER GUIDE OVERLAY]` Blocks:** Immediately following each section, you will find a dedicated leader block containing:

- **Pacing & Time Targets** calibrated for a 75–90 minute session. Pacing targets appear in every Leader section header. 2 Chronicles weeks cover about 80–130 verses, so if time runs short, shorten the Teaching Narratives and the retellings rather than the discussion. Temple measurements and lists can be summarized quickly.
- **Hebrew Word Study & Ancient Near Eastern Research Quick-References** so you can explain terms naturally without lecturing, when they add something useful.
- **Question-by-Question Facilitation Probes** listed in question order, designed to move conversation past polite answers into honest reflection.

- **Pitfalls to Steer Around** so you can gently redirect common rabbit trails back to the biblical text.
- **Additional Research Notes** appear when they add something useful.

**3. Leader Flags:** Numbered in reading order, they mark passages that need pastoral care or tend to raise hard questions, with guidance on handling them. 2 Chronicles includes forced labor, wars, the murder of a royal family, the stoning of a prophet, illness, child sacrifice, a king's death in battle, and the fall of Jerusalem. The flags give a consistent approach: retell the scene briefly in your own words, never read graphic verses aloud, do not present violent acts as models for today, and make room for members who carry their own wounds, including grief, trauma, illness, or the experience of being a refugee.

**4. Reading aloud:** Assign readers ahead of time for the Guided Scripture Reading. Printed anchor verses are for quick reference; read the longer focal passages from an open ESV. Passages marked "in brief" are summarized or retold by the leader rather than read.

**5. Facilitating well:** Ask the printed question, wait, and let silence work. Use the probes to deepen, not to lecture. Aim for every voice to be heard at least once each session.

### Week 1 Session Pacing at a Glance (75–90 Minutes)

| Section | Focus | Time Target |
|---|---|---|
| **Section 1.1** | Opening: Wisdom and a House for the LORD (2 Chronicles 1:1–5:14) (1.1 Q1) | **10 mins** |
| **Section 1.2** | Historical & Literary Context: Solomon the Temple Builder (1.2 Q1–Q3) | **12 mins** |
| **Section 1.3** | Movement 1: Solomon's Wisdom and Wealth (2 Chronicles 1:1–2:18) (1.3 Q1–Q5) | **22 mins** |
| **Section 1.4** | Movement 2: Building and Furnishing the Temple (2 Chronicles 3:1–5:14) (1.4 Q1–Q5) | **20 mins** |
| **Section 1.5** | Canonical Horizon: Christ, Greater Than Solomon, and the True Temple (1.5 Q1–Q3) | **12 mins** |
| **Section 1.6** | Application, Looking Ahead, and Closing Prayer (1.6 Q1–Q3) | **9 mins** |
| **Total** | **Full Week 1 Group Session** | **75–90 mins** |

**Scripture Scope:** 2 Chronicles 1:1–5:14 • **Focal Group Readings:** 2 Chronicles 1:1–12; 2:1–6; 3:1–2; 5:2–14 (ESV) • **Session Pacing:** 75–90 Minutes

Section 1.1

# Opening: Wisdom and a House for the LORD (2 Chronicles 1:1–5:14)

### Opening

The young king Solomon goes up with all Israel to worship at the old tabernacle in Gibeon. That night God appears to him and says, "Ask what I shall give you." Solomon could ask for anything: wealth, long life, the death of his enemies. He asks for wisdom to lead God's people. God gives him wisdom and more besides. Then Solomon begins the work his father prepared: a house for the LORD on Mount Moriah, gold and cedar and bronze, with the ark at its heart.

When the priests bring the ark in and the singers lift their voices as one, "For he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever," a cloud fills the house. The glory of the LORD has come.

### Week 1 At a Glance

| | |
|---|---|
| **Scripture Scope** | 2 Chronicles 1:1–5:14 (Solomon's worship at Gibeon and his request for wisdom, his wealth, the preparations with Hiram of Tyre, the building of the temple on Mount Moriah, its furnishings, and the ark brought in as the glory fills the house) |
| **Focal Passages** | 2 Chronicles 1:1–12; 2:1–6; 3:1–2; 5:2–14 |
| **Literary & Structural Anchor** | Only Chronicles names the temple mount as Moriah (3:1), linking it to Abraham's offering of Isaac (Genesis 22:2) and David's altar (1 Chronicles 21:26–22:1). Solomon asks for wisdom to serve God's people. The house must be great because God is greater than all gods, yet heaven cannot contain him (2:5–6). The glory comes as the people praise in unison (5:13–14). |
| **Big Idea** | The LORD gives Solomon wisdom to serve his people and fills the house built for his name with his glory. |

### Week 1 Learning Objectives (Head, Heart, Hands)

| | |
|---|---|
| HEAD | **Know the Story:** Understand Solomon's request, why the temple was built on Moriah, and what the glory filling the house meant. |
| HEART | **Ask Rightly:** Desire wisdom to serve God and others more than gifts for yourself. |
| HANDS | **Seek His Presence:** Take one concrete step to ask God for wisdom in a real responsibility, or to join in worship that honors his greatness. |

### Opening Frame: Ask What I Shall Give You

1 Chronicles ended with Solomon sitting on the throne of the LORD, David praying, "Yours is the kingdom, O LORD," and the plans for the temple placed in Solomon's hands. 2 Chronicles begins with that same Solomon, established in his kingdom, with the LORD his God with him. This week, watch what Solomon asks for when God invites him to ask for anything, where he builds, and what happens when the ark finally comes home to its house. The question for this week: what would we ask of God if he offered us anything, and what does our answer reveal about our hearts? Before we read together, take a moment to share with the group:

### Opening Entry Question (Icebreaker)

**1.1 Q1 (Opening Entry Question):** If you could ask God for one thing to help you in your current responsibilities, what would it be?

◆ LEADER GUIDE OVERLAY — SECTION 1.1 · SECTION PACING TARGET: 10 MINUTES

- **Pacing & Time Target:** 10 minutes. Opening and At a Glance, 3 minutes; Head, Heart, Hands, 2 minutes; Opening Frame, 2 minutes; Opening Entry Question, 3 minutes.
- **Facilitation Cues & Follow-Up Probes:**
  - Welcome the group to 2 Chronicles and point to the front matter. If the group studied 1 Chronicles, remind them of David's final prayer and the plans he gave Solomon. Keep the icebreaker honest but light.
  - Follow-up probe for **1.1 Q1**: What responsibility comes to mind? Why that request? Have you asked him for it?
- **Pitfalls to Steer Around:** Do not let the icebreaker become a wish list of possessions.
- **Additional Research Notes:** Chronicles closes the Hebrew Bible, so the Hebrew canon ends with Cyrus's invitation to go up and rebuild (2 Chronicles 36:22–23). 2 Chronicles 1–9 focuses on Solomon as temple builder. Its main themes are seeking the LORD, humbling oneself, the temple and joyful worship, the covenant with David, and blessing or trouble that follow each king's response to God.
- **Hebrew Word Study:** Gadol (גָּדוֹל), "great," in 1:1 and 2:5, 9. The LORD made Solomon great, and the house must be great because God is greater than all gods. In this opening it frames the week: everything great in Solomon's reign points to the greatness of God.

Section 1.2

# Historical & Literary Context: Solomon the Temple Builder (2 Chronicles 1:1–5:14)

### Entering the World of Solomon the Temple Builder

#### 1. Historical Background

Solomon reigned about 970–930 BC. He began the temple in the fourth year of his reign (about 966 BC) and finished it seven years later (1 Kings 6:1, 38). The tabernacle and its bronze altar were at Gibeon, while the ark was in a tent in Jerusalem (1:3–4).

#### 2. Cultural Setting

Hiram (called Huram in Chronicles) was king of Tyre, a Phoenician city famous for timber from Lebanon and for skilled metal and wood work. Cherubim were guardian figures marking the throne of the invisible LORD. Kings in the ancient world often used conscripted labor for great building projects.

### 3. Literary Structure of 2 Chronicles 1:1–5:14

- **Solomon established** (1:1)
- **Worship at Gibeon** (1:2–6)
- **The request for wisdom** (1:7–12)
- **Horses and wealth** (1:13–17)
- **Preparations with Hiram** (2:1–18)
- **The site** (3:1–2)
- **The structure and the Most Holy Place** (3:3–17)
- **The furnishings** (4:1–22)
- **The ark brought in** (5:1–10)
- **The glory** (5:11–14)

### 4. Key Themes

Wisdom for service; the greatness of God; Moriah and sacrifice; holiness and access; praise and glory.

### 5. Theological Considerations

God gives generously to those who ask rightly. The temple honors God, but it cannot contain him; it is a place where he chooses to put his name and meet his people.

### 6. Relevant Scholarly Insights

Chronicles presents Solomon's reign without his later idolatry (1 Kings 11). Its first readers knew that story; Chronicles holds Solomon up as the son of David who completed the temple.

### Group Discussion Questions (Section 1.2)

**1.2 Q1:** 2 Chronicles was written for people with a modest rebuilt temple and no king. Why would the story of Solomon's glorious temple matter to them?

**1.2 Q2:** Solomon's first act was to lead all Israel to worship at Gibeon (1:2–6). What does it say about a leader when worship comes first?

**1.2 Q3:** Chronicles leaves out Solomon's later failures. Why might a book choose to hold up the best example of a king for its readers?

◆ LEADER GUIDE OVERLAY — SECTION 1.2 · SECTION PACING TARGET: 12 MINUTES

- **Pacing & Time Target:** 12 minutes. Context summary, 5 minutes; discussion, 7 minutes (about 2 minutes per question).
- **Facilitation Cues & Follow-Up Probes:**
  - Describe the places in words: Gibeon lies a few miles northwest of Jerusalem; Tyre lies on the coast far to the north; Mount Moriah is the hill on the north side of the city of David.
  - Follow-up probe for **1.2 Q1**: What did their temple look like (Ezra 3:12)? What did they need to remember? What does past faithfulness say to your present?
  - Follow-up probe for **1.2 Q2**: Who went with Solomon? What did they do? What comes first in your week?
  - Follow-up probe for **1.2 Q3**: What did the readers already know? What does the ideal show them? How do good examples shape you?
- **Pitfalls to Steer Around:** Do not argue that Chronicles hides the truth; its readers knew Kings.
- **Additional Research Notes:** Where Chronicles differs from Kings: Chronicles omits Solomon's securing of the throne against his rivals (1 Kings 2), his early marriage to Pharaoh's daughter (1 Kings 3:1, mentioned later in 2 Chronicles 8:11), and the judgment between the two mothers (1 Kings 3:16–28). It also omits the building of Solomon's palace (1 Kings 7:1–12), keeping the focus on the temple.
- **Ancient Near Eastern Research Notes:** Ancient Near Eastern kings built temples as homes for their gods and boasted of their materials and craftsmen. Phoenician craftsmen from Tyre were famous for cedar work and bronze casting.

Section 1.3

# Movement 1: Solomon's Wisdom and Wealth (2 Chronicles 1:1–2:18)

### Guided Scripture Reading

Read aloud in this order, with brief connecting summaries between readings:

- **Reader 1: 2 Chronicles 1:1–6** (focal passage) — Solomon is established, and he leads all Israel to worship at the bronze altar at Gibeon.
- **Reader 2: 2 Chronicles 1:7–12** (focal passage) — God appears to Solomon by night; Solomon asks for wisdom and knowledge, and God grants it with riches and honor.
- **Leader summary of 2 Chronicles 1:13–17** — Solomon's wealth grew until silver and gold were as common as stone in Jerusalem, and he traded in horses and chariots from Egypt and Kue.
- **Reader 3: 2 Chronicles 2:1–6** (focal passage) — Solomon writes to Hiram of Tyre: the house will be great, for our God is greater than all gods, yet heaven cannot contain him.
- **Leader summary of 2 Chronicles 2:7–16** — Solomon asks for a skilled craftsman and cedar; Hiram blesses the LORD and sends Huram-abi, a master craftsman, and promises timber floated by sea to Joppa.
- **Leader summary of 2 Chronicles 2:17–18** — Solomon counted the foreigners living in Israel and assigned them to carry loads and cut stone, with overseers to make them work.

### Anchor Verses (ESV)

> **2 Chronicles 1:1:** Solomon the son of David established himself in his kingdom, and the LORD his God was with him and made him exceedingly great.
>
> **2 Chronicles 1:7:** In that night God appeared to Solomon, and said to him, “Ask what I shall give you.”
>
> **2 Chronicles 1:10:** Give me now wisdom and knowledge to go out and come in before this people, for who can govern this people of yours, which is so great?”
>
> **2 Chronicles 2:5:** The house that I am to build will be great, for our God is greater than all gods.

### Teaching Narrative: Wisdom to Lead God's People

#### 1. The LORD Was with Him (2 Chronicles 1:1)

Solomon's greatness is the LORD's doing, as David's was (1 Chronicles 11:9).

#### 2. Seeking at Gibeon (2 Chronicles 1:2–6)

Solomon's reign begins with all Israel seeking the LORD at the altar Moses' generation made.

#### 3. Ask What I Shall Give You (2 Chronicles 1:7–10)

Solomon asks for wisdom and knowledge to lead this great people, a request focused on serving God's people.

#### 4. More Than He Asked (2 Chronicles 1:11–12)

God grants wisdom and adds riches, possessions, and honor beyond any king before or after.

#### 5. Greater Than All Gods (2 Chronicles 2:1–6)

Solomon's letter to Hiram is a confession of faith: the house must be great, but no house can hold God.

#### 6. Skilled Hands and Hard Labor (2 Chronicles 2:7–18)

A foreign king blesses the LORD and sends his best craftsman. The labor of foreign residents is noted honestly.

### Group Discussion Questions (Section 1.3)

> **1.3 Q1:** God said to Solomon, "Ask what I shall give you" (1:7). How would you feel if God said that to you, and what would your answer reveal about your heart?

> **1.3 Q2:** Solomon asked, "Give me now wisdom and knowledge to go out and come in before this people" (1:10). Why is it significant that his request was focused on serving others?

**1.3 Q3:** God gave Solomon wisdom and also riches and honor he had not asked for (1:11–12). What is the danger of seeking God mainly for the extras?

**1.3 Q4:** Solomon wrote, "The house that I am to build will be great, for our God is greater than all gods" (2:5). How should God's greatness shape the way we worship and work?

**1.3 Q5:** Solomon admitted that "heaven, even highest heaven, cannot contain him" (2:6). Why is it important to hold together God's nearness and his greatness?

## ◆ LEADER GUIDE OVERLAY — SECTION 1.3 · SECTION PACING TARGET: 22 MINUTES

- **Pacing & Time Target:** 22 minutes. Guided Scripture Reading with brief summaries, 6 minutes; Anchor Verses and Teaching Narrative, 5 minutes; discussion, 11 minutes (about 2 minutes per question).
- **Facilitation Cues & Follow-Up Probes:**
  - Have readers take 1:1–6, 1:7–12, and 2:1–6. Summarize 1:13–17 and 2:7–18 yourself, using the wording above.
  - Follow-up probe for **1.3 Q1**: What would you ask for first? Why? What does that show you about what you value?
  - Follow-up probe for **1.3 Q2**: Whom was the wisdom for? What did he not ask for? Where do you need wisdom to serve others?
  - Follow-up probe for **1.3 Q3**: What did God add? Why didn't Solomon ask for it? What happens when the gifts become the goal?
  - Follow-up probe for **1.3 Q4**: Why must the house be great? What does "greater than all gods" mean? How does that shape your work this week?
  - Follow-up probe for **1.3 Q5**: What can't heaven do? Yet where does God choose to meet his people? How do you experience both truths?
- **LEADER FLAG 1: Wealth and wisdom (1:11–17)**
  - Avoid prosperity readings that promise wealth to the faithful. Solomon's riches were a specific gift tied to his calling, and Deuteronomy 17:16–17 warned kings against multiplying horses, wives, and gold.
- **LEADER FLAG 2: Forced labor (2:17–18)**
  - Note honestly that Solomon conscripted foreign residents for heavy labor. Members with histories of exploitation, trafficking, or unjust work may be affected. Do not defend the practice; note that Scripture records it without endorsing it, and that Israel's law called for care for the foreigner (Leviticus 19:33–34).
- **Pitfalls to Steer Around:** Do not turn 1:7 into a promise that God will grant any request. Do not linger on the horse trade.
- **Additional Research Notes:** Where Chronicles differs from Kings: 1 Kings 3:4–15 places God's appearance at Gibeon in a dream and adds the promise of long life if Solomon obeys; Chronicles emphasizes that the whole assembly went to seek the LORD at the tabernacle's bronze altar (1:3–5). Chronicles names Hiram

"Huram" and gives the craftsman's mother's tribe as Dan (2:14), while 1 Kings 7:14 says Naphtali; both may reflect her family history. The conscription of 2:17–18 parallels 1 Kings 5:13–16 and 9:20–22.

- **Ancient Near Eastern Research Notes:** Kings in the ancient Near East exchanged letters and goods to seal alliances, and Phoenician Tyre supplied cedar to many kingdoms. Conscripted labor for royal building was common across the ancient world.
- **Hebrew Word Study:** Chokmah umadda' (חָכְמָה וּמַדָּע), "wisdom and knowledge," in 1:10–12. In this movement it shows that Solomon's request was for wisdom to serve God's people, not for himself.

Section 1.4

# Movement 2: Building and Furnishing the Temple (2 Chronicles 3:1–5:14)

### Guided Scripture Reading

Read aloud in this order, with brief connecting summaries between readings:

- **Reader 1: 2 Chronicles 3:1–2** (focal passage) — Solomon begins to build on Mount Moriah, at the threshing floor of Ornan, in the fourth year of his reign.
- **Leader summary of 2 Chronicles 3:3–17** — The temple's size, the gold overlay, the Most Holy Place with two great cherubim whose wings spread across the room, the veil of blue, purple, and crimson, and two bronze pillars named Jachin and Boaz.
- **Leader summary of 2 Chronicles 4:1–22** — The bronze altar, the great bronze basin called the Sea resting on twelve bronze oxen, ten lampstands, ten tables, the courts, and all the gold vessels.
- **Leader summary of 2 Chronicles 5:1** — Solomon brings in the gifts David had dedicated.
- **Reader 2: 2 Chronicles 5:2–14** (focal passage) — The ark is brought into the Most Holy Place; the Levites and priests praise the LORD together, and the cloud of his glory fills the house.

### Anchor Verses (ESV)

> **2 Chronicles 3:1:** Then Solomon began to build the house of the LORD in Jerusalem on Mount Moriah, where the LORD had appeared to David his father, at the place that David had appointed, on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite.
>
> **2 Chronicles 5:10:** There was nothing in the ark except the two tablets that Moses put there at Horeb, where the LORD made a covenant with the people of Israel, when they came out of Egypt.

### Teaching Narrative: A House Filled with Glory

#### 1. On Mount Moriah (2 Chronicles 3:1–2)

The temple stands where Abraham offered Isaac and God provided a ram, and where David's altar stopped the plague. The place of provided sacrifice becomes the place of worship.

#### 2. Gold, Cherubim, and a Veil (2 Chronicles 3:3–17)

The details are summarized. The cherubim mark the invisible throne of God, and the veil separates the Most Holy Place. Access to God is real but restricted.

### 3. Furnishings for Worship (2 Chronicles 4:1–22)

The altar for sacrifice, the Sea for washing, lamps and tables for daily service. Every object serves the meeting of God and his people.

### 4. Only the Two Tablets (2 Chronicles 5:1–10)

The ark comes to rest in the house. It holds only the tablets of the covenant; God's word stands at the center.

### 5. As One Voice (2 Chronicles 5:11–14)

The priests and Levites sing together, "For he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever," and the cloud fills the house so that the priests cannot stand to minister.

### Group Discussion Questions (Section 1.4)

**1.4 Q1:** Solomon built "on Mount Moriah, where the LORD had appeared to David his father" (3:1), the same region where Abraham offered Isaac. Why do you think Chronicles wants readers to remember those earlier events here?

**1.4 Q2:** A veil separated the Most Holy Place from the rest of the temple (3:14). What does that veil teach about approaching a holy God?

**1.4 Q3:** "There was nothing in the ark except the two tablets that Moses put there at Horeb" (5:10). What can we learn from God's covenant word standing at the center of the temple?

**1.4 Q4:** The glory came as the trumpeters and singers made themselves heard "in unison" in praise (5:13). What does unity in worship add to a church's life together?

**1.4 Q5:** The priests "could not stand to minister because of the cloud" (5:14). What does it mean that God's presence overwhelmed even the priests?

## ◆ LEADER GUIDE OVERLAY — SECTION 1.4 · SECTION PACING TARGET: 20 MINUTES

- **Pacing & Time Target:** 20 minutes. Guided Scripture Reading with brief summaries, 6 minutes; Anchor Verses and Teaching Narrative, 4 minutes; discussion, 10 minutes (about 2 minutes per question).
- **Facilitation Cues & Follow-Up Probes:**
  - Have readers take 3:1–2 and 5:2–14. Summarize the building details yourself; describe the layout in words (a porch, a main hall, and the Most Holy Place at the back) rather than drawing or showing a diagram.
  - Follow-up probe for **1.4 Q1**: What happened at Moriah in Genesis 22? At David's altar? What does that history say about the temple?
  - Follow-up probe for **1.4 Q2**: What did the veil separate? Who could go behind it? How do we approach God now?
  - Follow-up probe for **1.4 Q3**: What was in the ark? Why only that? What place does God's word have at the center of your life?
  - Follow-up probe for **1.4 Q4**: Who sang? How did they sing? Where have you experienced unity in worship?
  - Follow-up probe for **1.4 Q5**: Why couldn't they stand? What does that say about God? How should that shape our worship?
- **LEADER FLAG 3: Building details (3:1–4:22)**
  - Keep the measurements and materials brief; focus on meaning. Members who love detail can read chapters 3–4 at home with a study Bible.
- **LEADER FLAG 4: Worship and glory (5:11–14)**
  - Avoid promising dramatic emotional experiences in worship or suggesting that a lack of them means God is absent. God's presence is a gift, not something we produce.
- **Pitfalls to Steer Around:** Do not spend the session on temple dimensions. Do not treat the temple as a pattern for modern church buildings.
- **Additional Research Notes:** Where Chronicles differs from Kings: only Chronicles names the temple mount as Moriah (3:1) and mentions the veil (3:14). 1 Kings 8:10–11 says the cloud filled the house when the priests came out of the Holy Place; Chronicles adds the Levitical singers and the refrain of steadfast love just before the glory comes (5:11–13). Chronicles' measurements sometimes differ from Kings (for example, the pillars in 3:15 and 1 Kings 7:15).
- **Ancient Near Eastern Research Notes:** Guardian figures with wings stood at the entrances and thrones of ancient Near Eastern temples and palaces. In Israel the cherubim flanked the ark, the footstool of the invisible LORD, with no image of God at all.
- **Hebrew Word Study:**
  - Moriyyah (מוֹרִיָּה), "Moriah," in 3:1. It is Abraham's mountain (Genesis 22:2). In this movement it shows that the place of provided sacrifice becomes the place of worship.
  - Parokhet (פָּרֹכֶת), "veil," in 3:14. In this movement it shows that access to the Most Holy Place was restricted, a reminder of God's holiness.
  - Kavod (כָּבוֹד), "glory," in 5:14. It means God's weighty presence. In this movement it shows God accepting the house and dwelling among his people.

Section 1.5

# Canonical Horizon: Christ, Greater Than Solomon, and the True Temple

### Tracing the Thread Across Scripture

Solomon's wisdom and the temple filled with God's glory point forward to Jesus, one greater than Solomon, who is the true temple where God dwells with his people and who opened the way into God's presence. Turn to each passage as the connections are traced.

### 1. Something Greater Than Solomon (Matthew 12:42)

The queen of the South came to hear Solomon's wisdom; Jesus says something greater than Solomon is here.

### 2. Christ Our Wisdom (1 Corinthians 1:30)

Solomon asked for wisdom; Christ Jesus became for us wisdom from God, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption.

### 3. The True Temple (John 2:19–21)

Jesus spoke of his body as the temple that would be destroyed and raised in three days.

### 4. The Veil Torn (Mark 15:38; Hebrews 10:19–20)

At Jesus' death the temple curtain was torn from top to bottom, and through his flesh a new and living way opened into God's presence.

### 5. God Provided His Son (Romans 8:32)

On Moriah God provided a ram in Isaac's place; at the cross he did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all.

### Anchor Verse (ESV)

> **2 Chronicles 2:5:** The house that I am to build will be great, for our God is greater than all gods.

### Group Discussion Questions (Section 1.5)

**1.5 Q1:** Jesus said, "something greater than Solomon is here" (Matthew 12:42). In what ways is Jesus greater than Solomon?

**1.5 Q2:** Jesus spoke of "the temple of his body" (John 2:21). What changes when we understand Jesus himself as the place where God meets us?

**1.5 Q3:** At Jesus' death, "the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom" (Mark 15:38). What does that mean for those who once could not go behind the veil?

◆ LEADER GUIDE OVERLAY — SECTION 1.5 · SECTION PACING TARGET: 12 MINUTES

- **Pacing & Time Target:** 12 minutes. Canonical Horizon teaching, 5 minutes; discussion, 7 minutes.
- **Facilitation Cues & Follow-Up Probes:**
  - Assign participants to look up Matthew 12:42, John 2:18–22, Mark 15:37–39, and Hebrews 10:19–22 ahead of time.
  - Follow-up probe for **1.5 Q1**: What made Solomon great? What makes Jesus greater? How does that change whom you listen to?
  - Follow-up probe for **1.5 Q2**: Where did God's glory dwell? Where does it dwell now? How does that shape your prayer?
  - Follow-up probe for **1.5 Q3**: Who tore the curtain? Which direction? What access do you now have?
- **Pitfalls to Steer Around:** Do not speak of the temple as a failure; it was God's gift that pointed forward to Christ.
- **Additional Research Notes:** Genesis 22:14 records Abraham naming the place "The LORD will provide." Hebrews 10:20 identifies the curtain with Christ's flesh. Matthew 12:42 leads into Week 2, where the queen of Sheba visits Solomon.

### Personal & Group Application (Head, Heart, Hands)

| | |
|---|---|
| HEAD | Solomon sought the LORD at Gibeon and asked for wisdom to serve, built the temple on Moriah where sacrifice had been provided, and saw God's glory fill the house as the people praised in unison. |
| HEART | Jesus is greater than Solomon, our wisdom, and the true temple, and through him the way into God's presence is open. |
| HANDS | Faith asks for wisdom to serve, honors God's greatness, and draws near to him through Christ. |

Section 1.6

## Application, Looking Ahead, and Closing Prayer

### Application

Take a few minutes to move this week's study into everyday life. Discuss these three questions together and write down what you want to remember:

**1.6 Q1:** In what responsibility do you most need to ask God for wisdom this week?

**1.6 Q2:** How could you honor God's greatness in your work or worship this week?

**1.6 Q3:** What keeps you from drawing near to God, now that the way through Christ is open?

### Looking Ahead to Next Week

**Recap:** In Week 1, Solomon asked for wisdom, built the temple on Mount Moriah, and saw God's glory fill the house.

**Transition:** Solomon now stands before the people to dedicate the temple and prays one of the great prayers of Scripture.

**Week 2 Overview — Glory, Promise, and Splendor (2 Chronicles 6:1–9:31):** Movement 1, Solomon's Prayer and the Fire from Heaven (6:1–7:22), covers Solomon's prayer, the fire and glory, and God's promise to hear those who humble themselves. Movement 2, Solomon's Achievements and Fame (8:1–9:31), covers Solomon's building, the visit of the queen of Sheba, and his wealth and death. The Canonical Horizon traces the Mediator who prays and the glory in Christ.

### Focal Readings to Preview

- 2 Chronicles 6:12–21
- 2 Chronicles 6:36–42
- 2 Chronicles 7:1–3
- 2 Chronicles 7:11–22
- 2 Chronicles 9:1–8

### My One Concrete Step for the Week Ahead

Write down or name aloud the specific rhythm, boundary, or conversation you want to practice before next week's gathering:

### Closing Prayer

Close your time together by inviting each person to share a one-sentence takeaway or prayer request, then pray together along these lines:

**Closing Group Prayer**

LORD our God, you are greater than all gods, and even the highest heaven cannot contain you. Thank you that you give generously to those who ask. Give us wisdom to serve the people in our care. Be near to any here who have been exploited or overworked, and give them rest. Thank you for Jesus, greater than Solomon, the true temple, who opened the way into your presence through the torn veil. Help us draw near to you with joy. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

◆ LEADER GUIDE OVERLAY — SECTION 1.6 · SECTION PACING TARGET: 9 MINUTES

- **Pacing & Time Target:** 9 minutes. Application and questions, 5 minutes; Looking Ahead and Focal Readings, 2 minutes; Concrete Step and Closing Prayer, 2 minutes.
- **Facilitation Cues & Follow-Up Probes:**
  - Use silent reflection for 1.6 Q3. Encourage the group to read Solomon's prayer (6:12–42) before next week.
  - Follow-up probe for **1.6 Q1**: What responsibility comes to mind? What do you not know? How will you ask?
  - Follow-up probe for **1.6 Q2**: Where do you work? How could that honor God? What will you do differently?
  - Follow-up probe for **1.6 Q3**: What holds you back? What has Christ opened? What would drawing near look like?
- **Pitfalls to Steer Around:** Do not turn 1.6 Q3 into pressure to share private struggles.
- **Additional Research Notes:** In Week 2, Solomon's prayer asks again and again that God "hear from heaven," and God's answer includes the promise of 7:14, the theme verse for the rest of 2 Chronicles.