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

PARTICIPANT STUDY EDITION

Synchronized Section-by-Section with the Leader Guide Edition · Includes Group Reflection Workspace

2 Chronicles: An 8-Week Bible Study

Participant Study 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

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?

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?

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.
- **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.
- **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.
- **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?

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.
- **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.
- **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.
- **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?

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?

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.