

30 AMAZING BIBLE STORIES YOU MAY NOT KNOW

#15: Who Is There Among You? | 2 Chronicles 36:23

A STRANGE THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO MAKING YOUR BIBLE

- The English “Old Testament” consists of 39 books in five sections, in this order:
 - The Law – Genesis through Deuteronomy
 - History – Joshua through Esther
 - Poetry – Job through Song of Solomon
 - Major Prophets – Isaiah through Daniel
 - Minor Prophets – Hosea through Malachi
- This has been the order since Jerome’s Latin version in the fourth century.
 - The Septuagint, believed by many to be written 250 years before Christ, is almost certainly a hoax, and likely translated about 200-250 A.D.
 - Jerome believed that the Septuagint was created by Origen (184-253 A.D.)
- The Hebrew Scriptures were *never* found in 39 books and five sections prior to the time of early Catholic theologians like Origen and Jerome.
- The order of the Hebrew Scriptures:
 - The Torah – Genesis through Deuteronomy
 - The Prophets (Nevi’im) – All of our prophetic books except Daniel, in addition to Joshua through 2 Kings, with the exception of Ruth.
 - The Writings (Ketuvim) – our poetic books, plus Ruth, Esther, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Ezra and Nehemiah.
 - The whole is called the Tanakh, an acronym from Torah, Nevi’im, Ketuvim.
- In the Tanakh, there are only 22 books.
 - 1 & 2 Samuel and 1 & 2 Kings were one book.*
 - Ezra and Nehemiah were one book.*
 - 1 & 2 Chronicles were one book.*
 - *Many modern versions of the Tanakh may go with the English division of these books.
- The last book of the Tanakh is *always* Chronicles (now divided into 1 & 2).

WHAT’S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN KINGS AND CHRONICLES?

- The two books (six books when divided) contain a large amount of material that is common to both books.
- The books of Samuel are written from a *historical* perspective.
- The books of Chronicles are written from a *theological* perspective.
- An example: 1 Samuel 31:6 compared to 1 Chronicles 10:13-14.

WHY ALL THOSE CRAZY GENEALOGIES?

- First Chronicles contains nine full chapters of genealogies!
 - These genealogies begin with Adam (1 Chron. 1:1) and go first through the exile to Babylon (ending in 1 Chron. 9:1), and then the record of those who returned (1 Chron. 9:2-44).
 - The chief reason *this* genealogy is to trace the line of David for the Jewish people.
 - The pattern of the genealogies (part 1: through the captivity; part 2: after the captivity) is repeated from 1 Chronicles 10 through 2 Chronicles 36, and this part is about the history of the line of David from God’s perspective.
- While *this* genealogy is specific to the nation of Judah, to trace its kingly (and thus Messianic) lineage, the *ultimate* purpose of genealogies is to carry the reader forward in searching for the fulfillment of the first Messianic promise found in Genesis 3:15.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU PUT CHRONICLES IN ITS ORIGINAL LOCATION?

When 1 and 2 Chronicles are placed (together as one) at the *end* of the “Old Testament,” two amazing discoveries come to light.

- The “Old Testament” closes with a genealogy and the “New Testament” opens with a genealogy. Notice some of the similarities:
 - Matthew 1:1-6 – from Abraham to David.
 - Matthew 1:7-12 – from David to Babylon.
 - Matthew 1:12-16 – from Babylon to Christ (the period not covered in Chronicles).
- The “Old Testament” closes in a question – 2 Chronicles 36:23.
- The “New Testament” opens with a name! –Matthew 1:1
 - And the first question of the “New Testament” – *Where is He?* – Matthew 2:2