

IMMERSE: Chronicles

Week 1 – God’s Big Story

June 23, 2024

IMMERSE: Chronicles: I & II Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, and Daniel.

Before reading Scripture, pray and ask the Holy Spirit, Who is *the Spirit of God, of wisdom and understanding, of counsel and might, of knowledge, and of the fear of the LORD* (Isa. 11:2) to give you wisdom, understanding and knowledge of the Word of God while giving you reverence for our great God.

Inductive Bible study: purposefully and systematically studying God’s Word on its own terms (don’t insert preconceived notions!!), observing what the text says in its context, asking questions and finding answers within Scripture, interpreting Scripture with Scripture, and applying the truth of God’s Word to our lives.

The Immerse Bible Reading Experience: Tyndale Publishers and the Institute for Bible Reading have made available to us the Immerse series so that we can understand God’s Big Story! In reading the Bible as God’s Big Story, we comprehend that all the books of the Bible come together to narrate this Story/this true account – past, present, and future. And, as we read the Bible from Genesis through Revelation, we then recognize that the Bible is PROGRESSIVE in its revelation – its revealing of God’s plan for the world! The Bible progressively unfolds God’s plan for the world – to bring Him glory.

Through the Immerse series, we read about Israel’s history – God’s supernatural history pertaining to Israel AND how it impacts the WORLD!!!

IMMERSE: BEGINNINGS – Genesis through Deuteronomy. We read about Creation. We read of God walking with man (God Who is Spirit [John 4:24] WALKING with man!?). God is a personal God. In Genesis we understand that God is dealing with mankind; no Jews and Gentiles – mankind – UNTIL God called Abram. We read God’s plan for man to represent Him/God on earth – for man to rule over the earth (Gen. 1:26-27) to nurture the earth and serve it. For man to be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth – to have dominion over the earth as God’s representative! Sin entered the world. Man’s dominion over the earth was usurped by Satan (John 12:31; II Cor. 4:4)...and IMMEDIATELY God spoke of His provision for that sin problem...redemption through the “Seed of the woman.”

God killed an animal, shedding its blood, and covered Adam and Eve with the animal skin. They were covered by the bloody animal skin, but the “Seed of the woman” had not yet entered the world. First Messianic prophecy: that Seed of the Woman would come through a supernatural birth (Isa. 7:14) and would take away sin which the blood of animals could not do. And so, we read about the unfolding of revelation...progressive revelation!

Continuing on in IMMERSE: BEGINNINGS we read of the downward cycle of sin within man. The flood – and why the flood. Noah and his family alone survived. Seventy nations were birthed through Noah’s 3 sons (Gen. 10). In Gen. 11 we are introduced to Terah who begot Abram, Nahor, and Haran.

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In Gen. 12 God called Abram who lived in Babylon. Abram was a Hebrew (Gen. 14:13) which means “one who crossed over,”; Abram was not Jewish (Isa. 43:1 – Israel was created through Jacob [name changed to Israel] – father of the 12 tribes of Israel)! God called Abram to leave his country and his family and travel to a land that God would show him. And, God promised to make of Abram a great nation. Sarai, Abram’s wife, was barren! Isaac was born...and then Jacob....!

Deut. 7:6-8 God told Abraham and his physical descendants that He had chosen them to be a people for Himself. God chose the children of Israel to accomplish His/ God’s purposes in the world - for the world! God told the Jewish people to witness to the Gentile nations (Isa. 43:10; Psa. 117....) to tell them of the one true God of Israel. God told the children of Israel that they would be the recipients of the law and they would serve as the channel through whom the Messiah would come (Gen. 49:10; Deut. 18:15-19....). AND, God told Abraham and his physical descendants, Gen. 12:3 – I will bless those who bless you and curse those who curse you! And through you, all the families of the earth will be blessed! AND, God told Jacob/Israel that He would make Israel an instrument of blessing for the world (Gen. 18:18). God is NOT using the nation of Israel as His redemptive tool currently. But Israel will fulfill His calling them to witness to the nations (Zech. 8:23; Rev. 7).

During the IMMERSE: BEGINNINGS, we read of the 430 years the children of Israel spent in Egypt. During four hundred of those 430 years, the Jewish people were in bondage to slavery (Ex. 12:41; Acts 7:6). God delivered His people, the children of Israel, from Egypt under the leadership of Moses. AND, because God was using Israel to bless the world, we read that “a mixed multitude” came out with the children of Israel. Who was this “mixed multitude”? Gentiles! Spoils of war that the Egyptians, a conquering ppl, brought back to their country and placed these spoils of war into servitude/into slavery.

God used Jewish Joseph to manage the food supply in Egypt to feed the world (Gen. 41:56) during a severe famine. And, “a mixed multitude” was delivered with the Jewish people (Ex. 12:38). What beautiful fulfillments of God’s promise of using Israel as an instrument of blessing for the world! God is faithful. We see His faithfulness unfold in His Word!

In IMMERSE: BEGINNINGS we read of the parting of the Red Sea...word of which spread among the Gentile nations. Forty years following, two Jewish spies under Joshua met Rahab, a Gentile prostitute in Jericho who had come to faith in God upon hearing of His miraculous rescue of the children of Israel! Rahab is in Jesus’ genealogy (Matt. 1:5).

After forty years of traipsing through the wilderness, the second generation landed on the east side of the Jordan River before entering the land of promise. In crossing the Jordan into the land of promise, the people contended with a flood, wild animals (!!), bringing down the walls of Jericho through obeying God’s commands.

IMMERSE: KINGDOMS – Israel entered the land of promise – the land that God had given them (Gen. 12; Gen. 15:18-20; Gen. 17; Dt. 9:1-6....) through the unconditional Abrahamic Covenant. There were struggles settling the land due to disobedience. The monarchy/the kingship (for this great nation) was established.

3

The people of Israel demanded of God (!! ) a king like the nations! Firstly, God was their king (I Sam. 8:6-7). Secondly, God had called Israel to be separate from the nations (don’t intermarry; don’t worship idols. Kosher diet which meant not feasting with the Gentiles. God gave them 613 commandments). SO - who was the first King? Saul – from the tribe of Benjamin - NOT the kingly tribe (Judah [Gen. 49:10]). How did that kingship end? Saul continued to disobey throughout his reign as king. In battle, Saul was mortally wounded, and Saul fell on his sword (I Sam. 31:3-6).

David was anointed as King over the one kingdom of Israel. His son, Solomon, in 971 BC succeeded his father, David. Solomon’s days were known as the golden years of Israel. Wealth and territory were increased. But, spiritually - ??

The boundaries of the land that God gave Israel – the boundaries that He shared with Abraham in Gen. 15:18-20 – have never been totally inhabited by Israel...BUT WILL BE (Eze. 48) because God’s land promise to Israel was unconditional – NOT dependent upon Israel’s obedience! Because the gifts and calling of God are irrevocable (Rom. 11:29).

IMMERSE: PROPHETS – We read the message of God through 16 Major and Minor Prophets (17 prophetic books). The Prophets broadcasted God’s promise of judgment on the nations for coming against Israel – and God’s judgment/chastisement on Israel for rebelling against God and worshipping idols.

The one kingdom of Israel was divided into two: The Kingdom of Israel to the north and the Kingdom of Judah to the south.

In 722 BC the Kingdom of Israel in the north was taken into exile in Assyria (10 tribes). In 586 BC the Kingdom of Judah in the south was taken into exile in Babylon (2 tribes + the Levites). There were 3 deportations: 605 BC; 597 BC; 586 BC. In 586 BC the Temple in Jerusalem had been destroyed and the city of Jerusalem lay in ruins.

The Prophets also broadcasted HOPE – they spoke of the Jewish people RETURNING to Israel (Jer. 25:8-14; Jer. 29:14). There is much hope within the Prophets and it continues in I & II Chronicles.

In Chronicles, the “chronicler” wrote to those who had already RETURNED from exile. The “chronicler” wrote AFTER THE EXILE when the people who had been in Babylon and Persia RETURNED to Israel!

### IMMERSE: CHRONICLES

Why are we starting with I & II Chronicles? It seems to be an “after the fact” book. Let’s consider when the authors penned the books in this section.

Daniel - written after 536/before 530 BC. The book of Daniel prophesies “the time of the Messiah” (Dan. 9:24-27) when “Messiah the Prince” rides into Jerusalem at His triumphal entry (“Lamb Selection Day”). Daniel 9:24-26 is the only prophetic text in the entire Tanakh which definitively addresses the exact time of Messiah’s coming!

Esther – (in Persia; Persia conquered Babylon) covers 483 BC to 473 BC.

Ezra – thought to be written between 458 BC and 444 BC.

Chronicles – between 450 & 430 BC (430 BC – end of the Hebrew Scriptures; Chronicles is the last book in the Tanakh/the OT).

Nehemiah – The book of Nehemiah was written no later than 400 BC.

Should we then begin in Daniel as it was written prior to the other books that we're studying in this series? YET – I Chronicles covers from Adam on.... It is important that we understand how Daniel fits in with all the books! WHY? Daniel's prophecy is KEY in understanding God's plan/purpose for Israel which impacts the WORLD! Daniel's 70 weeks prophecy (Dan. 9:24-27) proclaims the time of the Messiah! And, Daniel's 70 Weeks Prophecy has been labeled as the Backbone of Biblical Prophecy! All end times prophecy must align with Daniel's 70 Weeks Prophecy.

Returning to I Chronicles 1:1...let's look at "Adam" and understand the significance of I Chronicles beginning with the family of Adam. *Adam, Seth, Enosh, <sup>2</sup> Cainan, Mahalalel, Jared, <sup>3</sup> Enoch, Methuselah, Lamech, <sup>4</sup> Noah,*

Adam – man

Seth – appointed

Enosh – mortal (NOTE: Gen. 4:26 - *And as for Seth, to him also a son was born; and he named him Enosh. Then men began to call on the name of the LORD.* WOW – when we realize that we are MORTAL beings (perishable) – we recognize the need for IMMORTALITY (eternal life)! And, many cry out to God!

Cainan – sorrow

Mahalalel – the blessed God (El – God)

Jared – shall come down

Enoch – teaching (Jude 14-15; Gen. 5:21-24; Heb. 11:5-6)

Methuselah – his death shall bring. Bring what? The flood. In the year that Methuselah died, the flood came. Methuselah was 187 when he begot Lamech. Lamech had Noah when he was 182. The flood came in Noah's 600<sup>th</sup> year (Gen. 7:6).  $187 + 182 + 600 = 969$  years. Methuselah lived 969 years – and then the flood deluged the earth and those living on the earth save Noah's family of 8.

Lamech – despairing

Noah – comfort; rest

Man is appointed mortal sorrow. The blessed God shall come down teach. His death shall bring the despairing rest.

Adam's genealogy is carrying what message w/ which I Chronicles begins? The good news of God providing us with HOPE! In the midst of deathly sorrow, God will intervene and with His teaching and His death, the despairing will be comforted and rest.

In the midst of the Jewish people being removed from their land and taken into exile/ into captivity under foreign empires, God's unconditional promises to the Jewish people stand firm. God is faithful. God has been and will continue to be true to His covenant promises. The physical descendants of Abraham have been returned by God to the land promised to them as a race of people whose national and ethnic identity has been preserved (Isa. 66:22; Jer. 31:31-34; Jer. 31:35-37; Mal. 3:6; Rom. 11:29....). And so, God's Big Story continues!