

Tuesday Evening Bible Study  
Series #15: Historical Books of the Old Testament  
Week 6: 1 & 2 Chronicles  
Tuesday, March 12, 2019

**The Books of 1 & 2 Chronicles: Summary of Israel's History**

**Summary**

First Chronicles begins with nine chapters of genealogies from Adam to the Chronicler's postexilic community. This is followed by a report of the tragic death of Saul, Israel's first king, and a long description of the reign of David. David is presented as an ideal king, chosen by God and promised an eternal dynasty, who piously cares for the ark, secures Jerusalem, and makes exhaustive preparations for the building of the temple and the organization of its worship.

Second Chronicles continues the story begun in 1 Chronicles. Chapters 1-9 complete the Chronicler's presentation of the reigns of David and Solomon as a united monarchy in which the construction of the temple is the sole focus. Chapters 10-28 retell the story of the divided monarchy following the rebellion of the northern tribes. The focus here is upon the southern kingdom of Judah, so that the northern kingdom is mentioned only when it intersects with the south. These southern kings are evaluated in terms of their adherence to the ideal of David and Solomon. Chapters 29-36 relate the story of the monarchy reunited by Hezekiah following the destruction of the northern kingdom in the Assyrian invasion of 722 B.C.E. His religious reforms, as well as those of Josiah, are recounted at great length. Second Chronicles closes with the collapse of Judah, the deportation of the people to Babylon, and the proclamation of Cyrus the Persian encouraging them to return to their homeland.

**Who wrote the Book of the Chronicles?**

Jewish tradition identifies Ezra as the author of 1 and 2 Chronicles, Ezra, and Nehemiah. Today, many scholars believe that 1 and 2 Chronicles come from a different hand than Ezra and Nehemiah and that various older traditions, including the books of Samuel and Kings, have been gathered together and edited by a nameless postexilic editor.

**Themes**

The lives of Samuel, Saul, and David, presented so graphically with all the faults of the human condition, can serve as mirrors of our own humanity. Seeing how God works in and through these people can help us discern the activity of God in our own relationships with the Lord and with others.

**When was the Book of the Chronicles written?**

Chronicles is notoriously difficult to date, though it is clearly later than Israel's return from exile in Babylon. Since the list in 1 Chronicles 3:19-24 extends David's genealogy to the sixth generation after Zerubbabel, who is dated to 520 B.C.E. (Haggai 1:1), this sixth generation would be sometime after 400 B.C.E. Thus, many scholars date 1 Chronicles to the first half of the fourth century (ca. 350 B.C.E.).

## **How should I read the Book of the Chronicles?**

First Chronicles looks like a history of Judah, the southern kingdom, already related in 2 Samuel. Second Chronicles looks like the history of Judah, the southern kingdom, already related in 1 and 2 Kings. While important historical information is presented, some of it is at odds with the earlier presentation. First Chronicles should be read as a *theological*, rather than a *historical*, rewriting of the earlier history, designed to demonstrate the continuity of David and Solomon's united monarchy with the struggling postexilic community to which the book was addressed.

## **Outline of 1 & 2 Chronicles**

### **I. Genealogical Introduction (1:1 – 9:44)**

- A. From Adam to Jacob & the Clans of Edom (1:1-54)
  - 1) Adam to Abraham (1:1-27)
  - 2) Abraham to Jacob (1:28-54)
- B. The Tribes of Israel (2:1 – 9:2)
  - 1) Southern Tribes of Judah and Simeon (2:1 – 4:43)
    - a) Sons of Israel (2:1-2)
    - b) Sons of Judah (2:3-55)
    - c) Descendants of David and Solomon (3:1-24)
    - d) Descendants of Judah (4:1-23)
    - e) Descendants of Simeon (4:24-43)
  - 2) Northern Tribes of West of the Jordan: Reuben, Gad, East Manasseh (5:1-26)
    - a) Reuben (5:1-10)
    - b) Gad (5:11-22)
    - c) Eastern descendants of Manasseh (5:23-26)
  - 3) Descendants of Levi (6:1-81)
    - a) Sons of Levi (6:1-30)
    - b) Musicians appointed by David (6:31-53)
    - c) Settlements of the Levites (6:54-81)
  - 4) Northern Tribes West of the Jordan: Issachar, Benjamin, Dan, Naphtali, West Manasseh, Ephraim, Asher (7:1-40)
    - a) Issachar (7:1-5)
    - b) Benjamin (7:6-12)
    - c) Naphtali (7:13)
    - d) Manasseh (7:14-19)
    - e) Ephraim (7:20-29)
    - f) Asher (7:30-40)
  - 5) Benjamin revisited (8:1 – 9:2)
- C. The Postexilic Community (9:3-34)
  - 1) Inhabitants of Jerusalem after the Exile (9:3-9)
  - 2) Priestly Families (9:10-13)
  - 3) Levitical Families (9:14-16)
  - 4) Gatekeepers (9:17-34)
- D. The House of Saul (9:35-44)

## II. The United Monarchy (1 Chronicles 10:1 – 2 Chronicles 9:31)

### A. The Reign of King David (1 Chr 10:1 – 22:5)

- 1) The death of Saul (10:1-14)
- 2) David is anointed king & his exploits (11:1 – 12:40)
- 3) David brings the Ark to Jerusalem (13:1 – 16:43)
  - a) Ark brought from Kiriath-jearim (13:1-14)
  - b) David established at Jerusalem (14:1-7)
  - c) Defeat of the Philistines (14:8-17)
  - d) Ark is brought to Jerusalem (15:1-29)
  - e) The Ark is placed in the Tent of Meeting (16:1-6)
  - f) David's Psalm of Thanksgiving (16:7-36)
  - g) Regular worship maintained (16:37-43)
- 4) God's covenant with David (17:1-27)
- 5) King David's administration (18:1-17)
- 6) Defeat of the Ammonites and Arameans (19:1-19)
- 7) The siege and capture of Rabbah (20:1-3)
- 8) Exploits against the Philistines (20:4-8)
- 9) The census and the plague (21:1-17)
- 10) David's altar of sacrifice (21:18-27)
- 11) Preparations for the Temple (21:28 – 29:30)
  - a) A place chosen for the Temple (21:28 – 22:1)
  - b) David prepares to build the Temple (22:2-19)
  - c) Organization of the Temple Service (23:1 – 26:32)
    - (i) Levites & their families (23:1-32)
    - (ii) Priests (24:1-19)
    - (iii) Other Levites (24:20-31)
    - (iv) Temple musicians (25:1-31)
    - (v) Gatekeepers (26:1-19)
    - (vi) Treasurers, Officers, & Judges (26:20-32)
  - d) Administrative structures (27:1-34)
    - (i) Military divisions (27:1-15)
    - (ii) Tribal leaders (27:16-24)
    - (iii) Other civic officials (27:25-34)
  - e) The Transition to Solomon (28:1 – 29:30)
    - (i) Solomon's instruction to build the Temple (28:1-21)
    - (ii) Offerings to build the Temple (29:1-9)
    - (iii) David's praise to God (29:10-22a)
    - (iv) Solomon is anointed King (29:22b-25)
    - (v) The death of David (29:26-30)

### B. The Reign of King Solomon (2 Chronicles 1:1 – 9:31)

- 1) The Gift of Wisdom (1:1-17)
  - a) Solomon requests wisdom (1:1-13)
  - b) Solomon's military & commercial activity (1:14-17)
- 2) Building the Temple (2:1 – 5:1)
  - a) Preparations (2:1-2)
  - b) Alliance with Hiram of Tyre (2:3-18)
  - c) The Temple is built (3:1-17)
  - d) Furnishing the Temple (4:1 – 5:1)

- 3) Dedication of the Temple (5:2 – 7:22)
  - a) The Ark is brought to the Temple (5:2-14)
  - b) Dedication of the Temple (6:1-11)
  - c) Solomon's Prayer of dedication (6:12-42)
  - d) God's glory fills the Temple and the dedication is complete (7:1-11)
  - e) God's second appearance to Solomon (7:12-22)
- 4) Other activities of Solomon (8:1-18)
- 5) The final days of Solomon (9:1-31)
  - a) Visit of the Queen of Sheba (9:1-12)
  - b) Solomon's wealth (9:13-28)
  - c) The death of Solomon (9:29-31)

### **III. Schism, the Divided Kingdom, and the kings of Judah (10:1 – 36:23)**

- A. Schism under Rehoboam (10:1 – 12:16)
  - 1) The revolt against Rehoboam (10:1-19)
  - 2) Judah and Benjamin are fortified (11:1-12)
  - 3) The priests and Levites support Rehoboam (11:13-23)
  - 4) Egypt attacks Judah (12:1-12)
  - 5) The death of Rehoboam (12:13-16)
- B. Abijah (13:1 – 14:1)
- C. Asa (14:2 – 16:14)
  - 1) Asa's administration (14:2-8)
  - 2) Ethiopian invasion is repulsed (14:9-15)
  - 3) Azariah's prophecy and Asa's reform (Chapter 15)
  - 4) Alliance with Aram is condemned (16:1-10)
  - 5) Asa's death (16:11-14)
- D. Jehoshaphat (17:1 – 21:3)
  - 1) Jehoshaphat's reign (Chapter 17)
  - 2) Micaiah predicts failure (18:1-27)
  - 3) Defeat of Ahab (18:28 – 19:3)
  - 4) The reforms of Jehoshaphat (19:4-11)
  - 5) Invasion from the East (20:1-30)
  - 6) The end of Jehoshaphat's reign (20:31-37)
- E. Jehoram (Chapter 21)
- F. Ahaziah (22:1-9)
- G. Joash (22:10 – 24:27)
  - 1) Athaliah seizes the throne (22:10 – 23:7)
  - 2) Joash is crowned king (23:8-11)
  - 3) Athaliah is murdered (23:12-21)
  - 4) Joash repairs the Temple (24:1-14)
  - 5) Joash's apostasy (24:15-22)
  - 6) The death of Joash (24:23-27)
- H. Amaziah (Chapter 25)
- I. Uzziah (Chapter 26)
- J. Jotham (Chapter 27)
- K. Ahaz (Chapter 28)
- L. Hezekiah (29:1 – 32:33)
  - 1) The reign of Hezekiah (29:1-2)

- 2) Cleansing of the Temple (29:3-19)
  - 3) Temple worship is restored (29:20-36)
  - 4) The Great Passover (Chapter 30)
  - 5) Pagan shrines are destroyed (31:1-10)
  - 6) The reorganization of priests and Levites (31:11-21)
  - 7) Sennacherib's invasion (32:1-19)
  - 8) Sennacherib's defeat and death (32:20-23)
  - 9) Hezekiah's final days and death (32:24-33)
- M. Manasseh (33:1-20)
- N. Amon (33:21-25)
- O. Josiah (Chapters 34 & 35)
- 1) Josiah's reign (34:1-7)
  - 2) Discovery of the Book of the Law (34:8-21)
  - 3) Huldah the Prophet is consulted (34:22-28)
  - 4) The Covenant is renewed (34:29-33)
  - 5) Celebration of the Passover (35:1-19)
  - 6) Battle against Pharaoh and the death of Josiah (35:20-27)
- P. Josiah's Successors (36:1-14)
- 1) Jehoahaz (36:1-4)
  - 2) Jehoiakim (36:5-8)
  - 3) Jehoiachin (36:9-10)
  - 4) Zedekiah (36:11-14)
- Q. Exile & Restoration (36:15-23)
- 1) The fall of Jerusalem (36:15-21)
  - 2) Cyrus proclaims liberty for the exiled people of Judah (36:22-23)

Watch the video, "Read Scripture: Chronicles"

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HR7xaHv3Ias>

## Resources

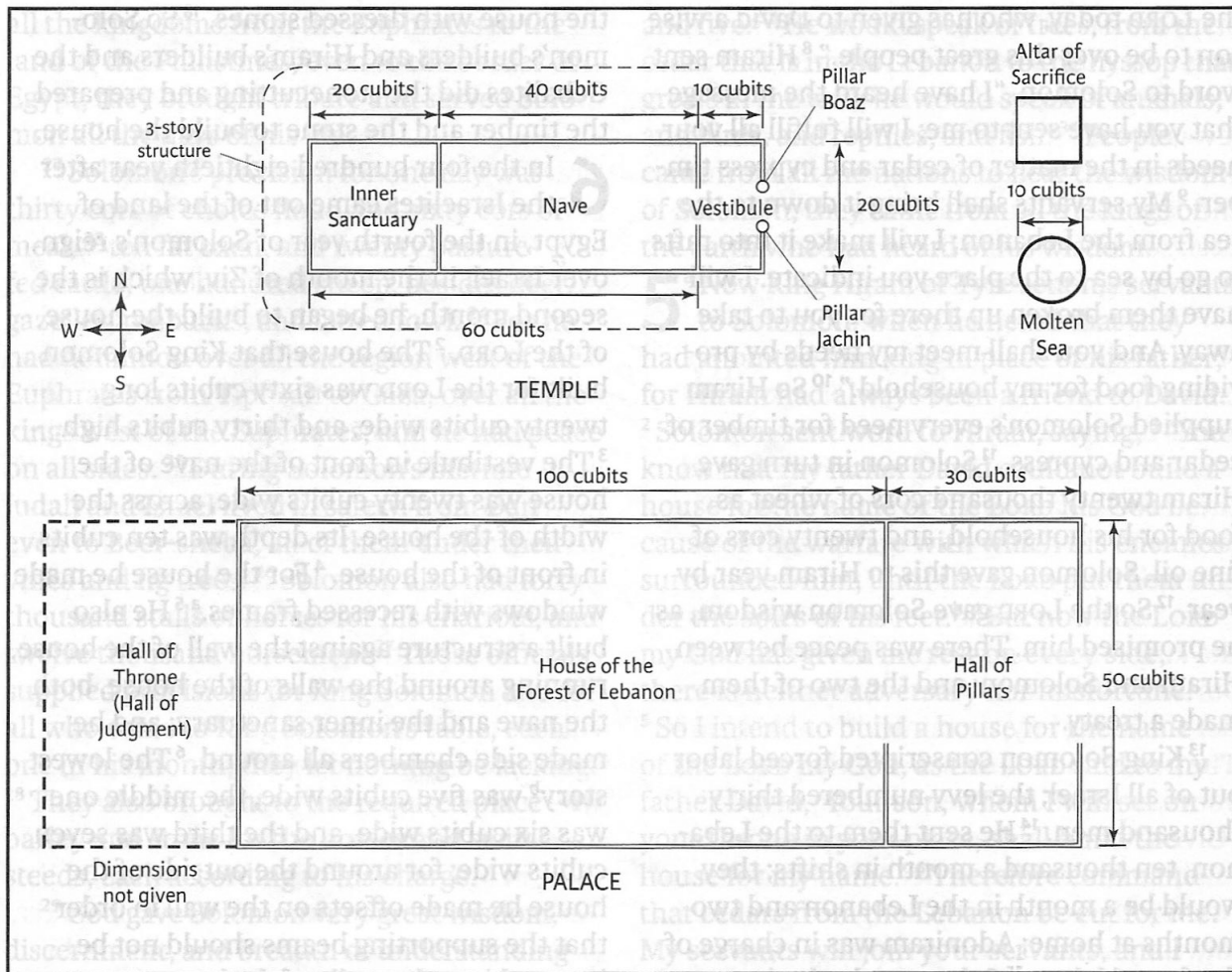
HarperCollins Study Bible (NRSV), 1989

"1 Kings" & "2 Kings," <https://www.enterthebible.org/>

*HarperCollins Bible Commentary*, James L. Mays, gen.ed. (San Francisco:HarperCollins, 2000)

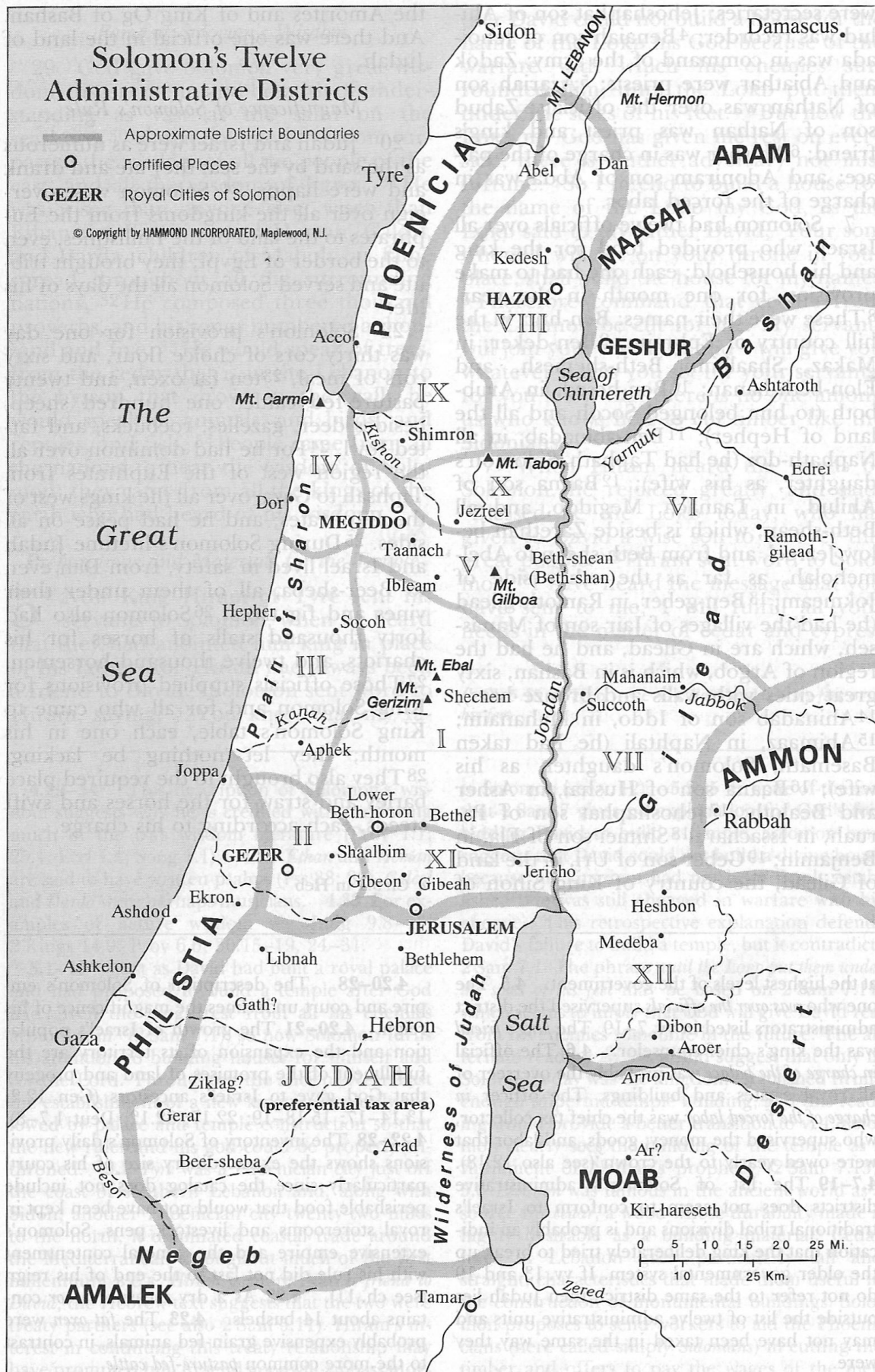
## Maps

The Oxford Annotated Bible (NRSV), 2010



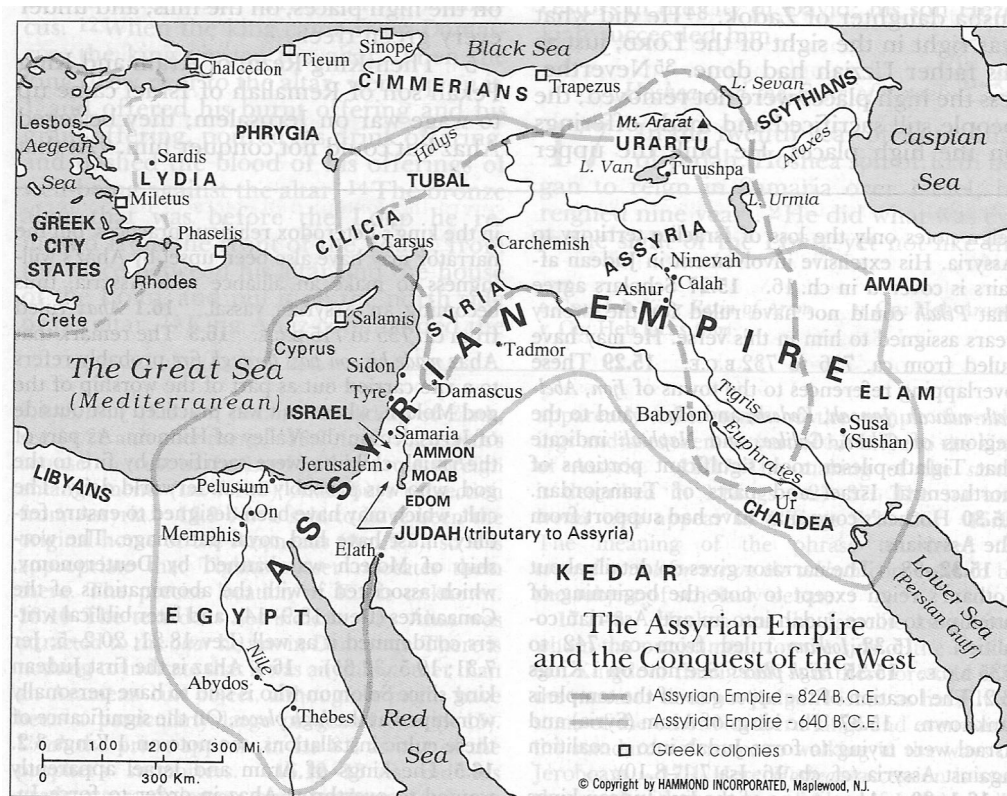
The Temple and palace of Solomon according to First Kings.

One cubit is approximately 18 inches or 1½ feet.

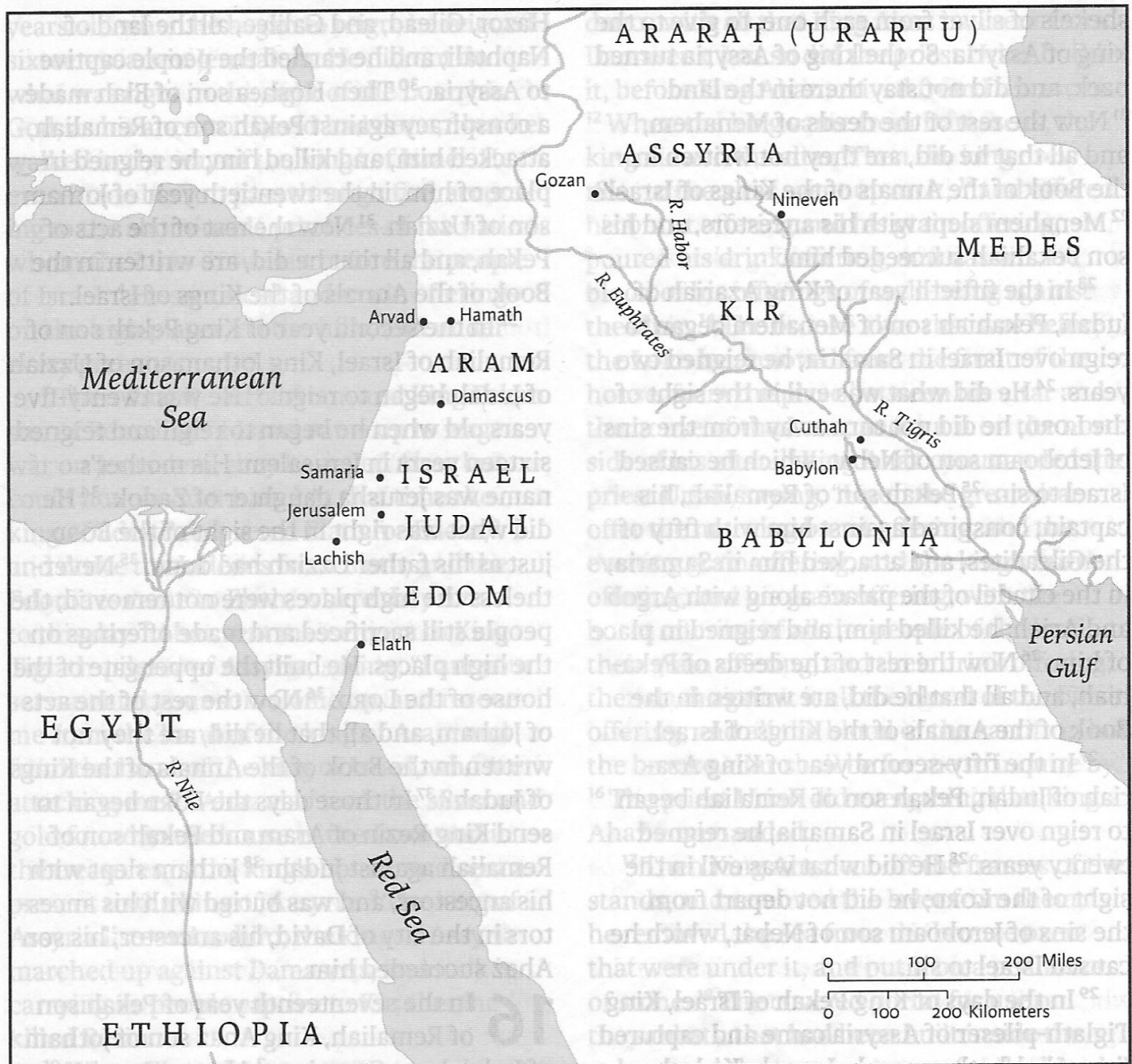




Boundaries of Israel (North) & Judah (South)







Chs 15–21: Assyria and Israel and Judah.