



**Reading the Bible
in a Year
—chronologically**

MAY

MORE ON THE MIX OF SAMUEL, KINGS, CHRONICLES AND PSALMS

The *mixing* of books continues in order to maintain our chronological approach, with 2 *Samuel* and the beginning of 1 *Kings* now providing the base-line.

| 2 SAMUEL | | | |
|----------|----------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| A. | Chapters 1-10 | The TRIUMPHS of David: | 20 years of blessing |
| B. | Chapters 11-24 | The TROUBLES of David: | 20 years of judgment |

2 Samuel is the account of *King David's rule*, from his enthronement to just before his death. As the chart shows, the 40 years covered by this book fall into two 20-year periods—of triumphs and troubles respectively.

Again, his *Psalms* are slotted into the events that triggered them. David wrote roughly half of the 150 *Psalms*.

By reading the *Psalms* this way we can easily fail to notice that they are grouped into *five sections* or 'books', which

| PSALMS | | | | | |
|--------|---------|---------|-----------------|---------------|------------------|
| | Section | Psalms | Main author | No. of psalms | Closing doxology |
| A. | Book 1 | 1-41 | David | 41 | 41:13 |
| B. | Book 2 | 42-72 | David/Korah | 31 | 72:18-19 |
| C. | Book 3 | 73-89 | Asaph | 17 | 89:52 |
| D. | Book 4 | 90-106 | Anonymous | 17 | 106:48 |
| E. | Book 5 | 107-150 | David/Anonymous | 44 | 150:1-6 |

will be indicated in your Bible. The chart below shows that each section ends with a *doxology*—an ascription of praise to God.

This month we also move into 1 *Kings*, which continues the consecutive account of Israel's history begun in the books of Samuel.

| 1 KINGS | | |
|---------|----------------|-----------------------------|
| A. | Chapters 1-11 | The reign of Solomon |
| B. | Chapters 12-16 | The division of the kingdom |
| C. | Chapters 17-22 | The prophet Elijah |

Beginning with David's death, it then outlines the reign of his son, *Solomon*, and the *division of the kingdom* after Solomon's death. The 10 northern tribes kept the name 'Israel', while the two tribes in the south were called 'Judah'.

At the end of this month we also begin on 2 *Chronicles*. Like 1 *Chronicles*, it takes a more positive view of the events covered in the books of Samuel and Kings.

| 2 CHRONICLES | | |
|--------------|----------------|---------------------------------|
| A. | Chapters 1-9 | The reign of Solomon |
| B. | Chapters 10-31 | Judah's history up to the exile |

The two books of *Chronicles* are usually ascribed to *Ezra*, who brought some of the Jewish exiles back to their homeland from Babylon.