

2—Understanding History

“The Keys to the Kingdom”

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1. They start with primary sources

A. Royal Annals, 1 Kings 11:41-42

*As for the other events of Solomon's reign . . . are they not written in the book of the **annals** of Solomon? (1Ki 14:19 Israel, 1Ki 14:29 Judah)*

B. Collected Literature, Proverbs 25:1

*These are more proverbs of Solomon, **compiled by the men of Hezekiah** king of Judah.*

C. Geography, 2 Kings 16:6

*Edomites then moved into Elath **and have lived there** to this day.*

D. Monuments, 2 Samuel 18:18

*He named the pillar after himself, and it is called **Absalom's Monument** to this day.*

2. Scribes would copy and compile from previous generations.

A. Jeremiah 36:4-5

*So Jeremiah called Baruch son of Neriah, and while **Jeremiah dictated** all the words the Lord had spoken to him, **Baruch wrote them on the scroll.***

B. Nehemiah 13:13

*I put Shelemiah the priest, **Zadok the scribe**, and a Levite named Pedaiah in charge of the storerooms and made Hanan son of Zakkur.*

C. Galatians 6:11

*See what large letters I use as I write to you **with my own hand!** (see 1 Cor 16:21; Col 4:18; 2 Thes 3:17; Phil 19)*

3. The goal is not to record but to interpret

A. How certain customs started, 1 Samuel 5:5

***That is why** to this day neither the priests of Dagon nor any others who enter Dagon's temple at Ashdod step on the threshold.*

- B. How things got named, 1 Samuel 23:28
***That is why** they call this place Sela Hammahlekoth.*
- C. How things got this way, 1 Kings 12:19
*So Israel has been in rebellion against the house of David **to this day.***
- D. Why God punished them, 1 Kings 13:33-34
*Anyone who wanted to become a priest he consecrated for the high places. **This was the sin** of the house of Jeroboam that led to its downfall and to its destruction from the face of the earth.*

4. **Each generation would reinterpret the story (1 Kings 8)**

- A. In the time of Hezekiah's United Kingdom
 - 1) The temple was still standing (6)
 - 2) The Ark of the Covenant was still present (8)
 - 3) God chose Jerusalem as the place He would dwell (16)
 - 4) God promised David his sons would rule (20)
- B. In the time of the Exile in Babylon
 - 1) God's covenant is conditional upon obedience (23)
 - 2) Who needs a temple—God can answer from anywhere (27)
 - 3) Foreshadowing the defeat of Israel, exile and return (33)
 - 4) Praying *toward* the city and the temple (44)
 - 5) Sin will cause their downfall (46)
 - 6) A call to repentance and restoration (58)
- C. In the time of the Priests after the Exile
 - 1) Refocusing on the role of the Levites (4)
 - 2) Restoring the ritual of sacrifice (62)
 - 3) Keeping the feasts on the proper days and times (65)
 - 4) An emphasis on numbers and dates (2,65)
 - 5) Futureproofing the next generation