

# *1 Chronicles*

## *Chapter 2*

### *A Genealogy of David*

These are the sons of Israel: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun, 2 Dan, Joseph, Benjamin, Naphtali, Gad, and Asher. 3 The sons of Judah: Er, Onan and Shelah; these three Bath-shua the Canaanite bore to him. Now Er, Judah's firstborn, was evil in the sight of the LORD, and he put him to death. 4 His daughter-in-law Tamar also bore him Perez and Zerah. Judah had five sons in all. 5 The sons of Perez: Hezron and Hamul. 6 The sons of Zerah: Zimri, Ethan, Heman, Calcol, and Dara, five in all. 7 The son of Carmi: Achan, the troubler of Israel, who broke faith in the matter of the devoted thing; 8 and Ethan's son was Azariah. 9 The sons of Hezron that were born to him: Jerahmeel, Ram, and Chelubai. 10 Ram fathered Amminadab, and Amminadab fathered Nahshon, prince of the sons of Judah. 11 Nahshon fathered Salmon, Salmon fathered Boaz, 12 Boaz fathered Obed, Obed fathered Jesse. 13 Jesse fathered Eliab his firstborn, Abinadab the second, Shimea the third, 14 Nethanel the fourth, Raddai the fifth, 15 Ozem the sixth, David the seventh. 16 And their sisters were Zeruiah and Abigail. The sons of Zeruiah: Abishai, Joab, and Asahel, three. 17 Abigail bore Amasa, and the father of Amasa was Jether the Ishmaelite. 18 Caleb the son of Hezron fathered children by his wife Azubah, and by Jerioth; and these were her sons: Jeshur, Shobab, and Ardon. 19 When Azubah died, Caleb married Ephrath, who bore him Hur. 20 Hur fathered Uri, and Uri fathered Bezalel. 21 Afterward Hezron went in to the daughter of Machir the father of Gilead, whom he married when he was sixty years old, and she bore him Segub. 22 And Segub fathered Jair, who had twenty-three cities in the land of Gilead. 23 But Geshur and Aram took from them Havvoth-jair, Kenath, and its villages, sixty towns. All these were descendants of Machir, the father of Gilead. 24 After the death of Hezron, Caleb went in to Ephrathah, the wife of Hezron his father, and she bore him Ashhur, the father of Tekoa. 25 The sons of Jerahmeel, the firstborn of Hezron: Ram, his firstborn, Bunah, Oren, Ozem, and Ahijah. 26 Jerahmeel also had another wife, whose name was Atarah; she was the mother of Onam. 27 The sons of Ram, the firstborn of Jerahmeel: Maaz, Jamin, and Eker. 28 The sons of Onam: Shammai and Jada. The sons of Shammai: Nadab and Abishur. 29 The name of Abishur's wife was Abihail, and she bore him Ahban and Molid. 30 The sons of Nadab: Seled and Appaim; and Seled died childless. 31 The son of Appaim: Ishi. The son of Ishi: Sheshan. The son of Sheshan: Ahlai. 32 The sons of Jada, Shammai's brother: Jether and Jonathan; and Jether died childless. 33 The sons of Jonathan: Peleth and Zaza. These were the descendants of Jerahmeel. 34 Now Sheshan had no sons, only daughters, but Sheshan had an Egyptian slave whose name was Jarha. 35 So Sheshan gave his daughter in marriage to Jarha his slave, and she bore him Attai. 36 Attai fathered Nathan, and Nathan fathered Zabad. 37 Zabad fathered Ephlal, and Ephlal fathered Obed. 38 Obed fathered Jehu, and Jehu fathered Azariah. 39 Azariah fathered Helez, and Helez fathered Eleasah. 40 Eleasah fathered Sismai, and Sismai fathered Shallum. 41 Shallum fathered Jekamiah, and Jekamiah fathered Elishama. 42 The sons of Caleb the brother of Jerahmeel: Mareshah his firstborn, who fathered Ziph. The son of Mareshah: Hebron. 43 The sons of Hebron: Korah, Tappuah, Rekem and Shema. 44 Shema fathered Raham, the father of Jorkeam; and Rekem fathered Shammai. 45 The son of Shammai: Maon; and Maon fathered Beth-zur. 46 Ephah also, Caleb's concubine, bore Haran, Moza, and Gazez; and Haran fathered Gazez. 47 The sons of Jahdai: Regem, Jotham, Geshan, Pelet, Ephah, and Shaaph. 48 Maacah, Caleb's concubine, bore Sheber and Tirhanah. 49 She also bore Shaaph the father of Madmannah, Sheva the father of Machbenah and the father of Gibeaz; and the daughter of Caleb was Achsah. 50 These were the descendants of Caleb. The sons of Hur the firstborn of Ephrathah: Shobal the father of Kiriath-jearim, 51 Salma, the father of Bethlehem, and Hareph the father of Beth-gader. 52 Shobal the father of Kiriath-jearim had other

**sons: Haroeh, half of the Menuhoth. 53 And the clans of Kiriath-jearim: the Ithrites, the Puthites, the Shumathites, and the Mishraites; from these came the Zorathites and the Eshtaolites. 54 The sons of Salma: Bethlehem, the Netophathites, Atroth-beth-joab and half of the Manahathites, the Zorites. 55 The clans also of the scribes who lived at Jabez: the Tirathites, the Shimeathites and the Sucathites. These are the Kenites who came from Hammath, the father of the house of Rechab.**

**Chs 2–7** Ch 1 draws the line of descent from Adam through an array of families and nations to Jacob (1:34), the immediate ancestor of the people through whom God determined to bless “all the families of the earth” (Gn 12:3). Chs 2–7 trace the genealogy of Jacob’s 12 sons, from whom derived the tribes of Israel. (TLSB)

**2:1–2** Although there are numerous lists of the 12 tribes in the OT, only four are given in genealogical form: (1) Ge 29:31–30:24; 35:16–20; (2) Ge 35:22–26; (3) Ge 46:8–27; (4) here. Other lists of the tribes are found in 12:24–37; 27:16–22; Ex 1:2–5; Dt 27:12–13; 33; Eze 48:31–34. In other lists the tribe of Levi is omitted, and the number 12 is achieved by dividing Joseph into the tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh (Nu 1:5–15; 1:20–43; 2:3–31; 7:12–83; 10:14–28; 13:4–15; 26:5–51). In this passage the Chronicler appears to follow Ge 35:22–26 except for the position of the tribe of Dan, which is found in seventh instead of ninth place. The list here does not set the order in which the Chronicler will take up the tribes; rather, he moves immediately to his major concern with the house of David and the tribe of Judah (2:3–4:23), even though Judah is fourth in the genealogy. In the lists of these chapters the Chronicler maintains the number 12, but with the following names: Judah, Simeon, Reuben, Gad, half of Manasseh, Levi, Issachar, Benjamin, Naphtali, Ephraim, Manasseh and Asher. Zebulun and Dan are omitted. (CSB)

Order is similar to Gn 35:22–26, which arranges Israel’s collateral genealogy according to the mothers, but here Dan is after Zebulun rather than after Benjamin. Other variations are found in 12:23–37; 27:16–24; Gn 29:31–30:24, which lists Israel’s sons in order of birth; and Gn 46:8–27, which extends the genealogy out one or two generations and arranges the order of maternity by grouping each servant with her mistress. The function here is to introduce the balance of the genealogies, which now focus on the sons of Israel (chs 2–9). (TLSB)

**2:3–4:23** Focused account of the tribe of Judah, from whom David would descend. The records follow an intentional pattern: (1) records of Judah (2:3–55); (2) focuses within Judah—the Davidic line (ch 3); and (3) further records of Judah (4:1–23). David, the central figure here, is also the theological center of the Chronicler’s history because the Lord worked through David’s family. (TLSB)

**2:3–9** The lineage of Judah is traced to Hezron’s sons (v. 9), whose descendants are given in 2:10–3:24. Of Judah’s five sons, the first two (Er and Onan) died as the result of sin recorded in Ge 38. The lineage of the third son, Shelah, is taken up in 4:21; this section focuses on the remaining two (see Ge 46:12; Nu 26:19–22). (CSB)

**2:3 Judah.** Recorded first because his line leads to David, to his dynastic successors, and to leaders in the postexilic community such as Zerubbabel (3:19). (TLSB)

*Bath-shua the Canaanite.* The Chronicler pointedly mentions the non-Israelite branch in Judah’s family tree. He likewise does not cover up Judah’s incestuous relations with his daughter-in-law Tamar (v 4; Gn 38). Jesus, Savior of Jew and Gentile, of harlots and sinners, has in His human ancestry not only the Canaanites Tamar and Rahab, but also Ruth the Moabitess and Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah the Hittite (Mt 1:3–6). If there is mercy and hope for Judah’s family, there is surely mercy and hope for ours too! (TLSB)

**2:4** *daughter-in-law Tamar*. The Davidic line was drawn through Perez from the illegal union of Judah and Tamar. Therefore, the messianic line is not one that shuns humanity in its weakness and sin, but one that embraces the flesh of fallen people. (TLSB)

**2:6** *Ethan, Heman, Calcol and Darda*. Not immediate descendants of Zerach; rather, they are from the later period of the reign of Solomon (1Ki 4:31). A Heman and an Ethan were David's musicians (see 15:19; Ps 88–89 titles), but whether these are the same individuals is uncertain. If they are the same, the fact that in 6:33–42 and 15:19 Heman and Ethan are assigned to the tribe of Levi may be another example of genealogical fluidity, where these men's musical skills brought them into the Levitical lineage. Or the reverse may have occurred: As Levites associated with Judah, they were brought into that lineage. (CSB)

**2:7** *Achar*. The change from Achan to Achar (meaning “trouble”; see NIV text note) is probably a play on words reflecting the trouble he brought to Israel (Jos 7). (CSB)

Hbr wordplay: “Achan the *oker* (troublers).” See note, Jsh 7:25. *broke faith*. Hbr *ma'al*, “unfaithful.” Regularly used to condemn evil kings, esp in texts not paralleled elsewhere in the OT (5:25; 2Ch 12:2; 26:16; 28:19, 22; 29:6; 30:7). Also used of Judah to explain the Babylonian exile (2Ch 36:14). (TLSB)

**2:9** *Chelubai*. Hbr occurs in two other forms: “Caleb” (vv 18, 24, 42, 49; 4:15) and “Chelub” (4:11). Unlikely that all refer to the same person, even though “Caleb the son of Hezron” and “Caleb the son of Jephunneh” are said to have a daughter named Achsah (vv 18, 49; Jsh 15:13, 17). Caleb was Joshua's associate in spying out the land of Canaan (Nu 13). (TLSB)

**2:10–3:24** That the Chronicler's primary concern in the genealogy of Judah is with the line of David is seen in his arrangement of this section's material as an inversion:

Descendants of Ram (David's ancestry), 2:10–17

Descendants of Caleb, 2:18–24

Descendants of Jerahmeel, 2:25–33

Supplementary material on Jerahmeel, 2:34–41

Supplementary material on Caleb, 2:42–55

Supplementary material on Ram (David's descendants), ch. 3

The Chronicler has structured this central portion of the Judah genealogy to highlight the Davidic ancestry and descent, which frame this section and emphasize the position of David—in line with the Chronicler's interests in the historical portions that follow. (CSB)

**2:10–17** Verses 10–12 are a linear genealogy from Ram to Jesse; then Jesse's lineage is segmented, reminiscent of 1Sa 16:1–13. The source for most of the material is Ru 4:19–22. In 1Sa 16:10–13 David was the eighth of Jesse's sons to appear before Samuel; in this passage only seven are named, enabling David to occupy the favored place of the seventh son (v. 15; see Introduction: Genealogies). David was the half-uncle of his famous warriors Abishai, Joab, Asahel and Amasa (11:6, 20, 26; 2Sa 2:13, 18; 17:25; 19:13). (CSB)

Line of Judah through Ram (Aram). Family rose to prominence as the line that produced the Davidic kings (ch 3). Cf 1Sm 16:1–13. (TLSB)

**2:10** *prince*. Lit, “one lifted up.” A tribal leader. (TLSB)

**2:13–15** Only seven of Jesse's eight sons are named here (cf 1Sm 16:10; 17:12). One was likely omitted from this genealogical list because he left no descendants. Eliab, mentioned here, and Elihu in 27:18 may be variant forms of the same name. (TLSB)

**2:15–3:24** Telescoping centuries and eons, the line of descent from Adam quickly comes to David, whose significance in Israel’s covenant relationship to God is the underlying theme of Chronicles. To show David’s importance, not only is his ancestry listed but also his descendants down into the postexilic period (ch 3). On David’s ancestry, cf Ru 4:18–22. (TLSB)

**2:16** *sisters*. Mentioned here because their sons played important roles in David’s reign, the most influential of whom was Joab (2Sm 2:18–32; 3:26–30; 11:1; 18:9–17). (TLSB)

**2:17** *Ishmaelite*. Jether or Ithra is also called an Israelite. (TLSB)

**2:18–55** David’s lineage from Judah through the second son of Hezron (v 9) is followed by the genealogy of Hezron’s other two sons, Caleb and Jerahmeel. The clans that sprang from these two ancestors were not associated with the 12 tribes until Judah adopted them. The Kenites (v 55) were a branch of Caleb’s family (cf Jgs 1:16; 1Sm 27:10). (TLSB)

**2:18–24** For the Chronicler the important name in this genealogy of the Calebites is Bezalel (v. 20), the wise master craftsman who supervised the building of the tabernacle (Ex 31:1–5). He is mentioned in the Bible only in Exodus and Chronicles. The Chronicler uses Bezalel and Oholiab (Ex 31:6) as a model for his portrait of Solomon and Hiram-Abi in the building of the temple. By inserting a reference to the builder of the tabernacle next to the genealogy of David in vv. 10–17, the Chronicler characteristically juxtaposes the themes of king and temple—so important to his historical narrative. (CSB)

**2:20** *Bezalel*. Significant, as he was the skilled designer and builder of the tabernacle (Ex 31:1–5). He also made the bronze altar before which Solomon asked for the gift of wisdom some 400 years later (2Ch 1:5). Throughout Chronicles, the kings and the temple are constantly intertwined. (CSB)

**2:21** *sixty years old*. Exceptional age for this era. (TLSB)

**2:23** *Havvoth-jair, Kenath*. Locations unknown. (TLSB)

**2:25–42** Line of Judah: collateral genealogies of Jerahmeel. No other genealogical material is found in the Scriptures regarding these Judeans. They were granted territory in the Negev (1Sm 27:10; 30:27–29). (TLSB)

**2:25–33** This section is identified as a separate entity from the supplementary material by its opening and closing formulas: “The sons of Jerahmeel” (v. 25) and “These were the descendants of Jerahmeel” (v. 33). Verses 25–41 are the only genealogical materials on the Jerahmeelites in the Bible. 1Sa 27:10 and 30:27–29 place their settlements in the Negev. (CSB)

**2:34–41** Supplementary material on the line of Sheshan (v. 31); it is a linear genealogy to a depth of 13 generations. The generation of Elishama (v. 41) would be the 23rd since Judah, if there has been no telescoping in this lineage. If no names are omitted, Elishama would likely be contemporary with David, though we know nothing of him. (CSB)

Line of Sheshan (cf v 31). Informs us that his line was mixed with that of his Egyptian servant Jarha. Thus the nations of the world (ch 1) are still intimately connected with Israel, and their Creator has not forgotten them. (TLSB)

**2:42–55** The same opening and closing formulas noted in vv. 25, 33 occur in vv. 42, 50a: “The sons of Caleb ... These were the descendants of Caleb.” The list in this section is a mixture of personal and place-names; the phrase “father of” must often be understood as “founder of” or “leader of” a city. (CSB)

Line of Judah: collateral genealogies of Caleb (part 2). (TLSB)

**2:50b–55** Resumes the genealogy of Hur (v. 20). The same formulas for identifying the genealogical sections in vv. 25, 33 and in vv. 42, 50a are used in v. 50b and 4:4: “The sons of Hur . . . These were the descendants of Hur.” The presence of these formulas suggests that this section and 4:1–4 were once a unit; the Chronicler has inserted his record of the Davidic descent (ch. 3) into the middle of this other genealogy, apparently to balance the sections of his material (see notes on 2:10–3:24; 4:1–23). Otherwise the disruption of the genealogy of Hur may have already occurred in the Chronicler’s sources. (CSB)

Resumes the genealogy of sons of Hur, left off in v 20. It will be taken up again in 4:1–4. (TLSB)

**2:52** *Haroeah*. Named as Reaiah in 4:2 and should be understood by that name. (TLSB)

**2:55** *Tirathites, Shimeathites and Sucathites*. May refer to three families, as translated here, or possibly to three different classes of scribes, perhaps those who (1) read, (2) copied and (3) checked the work. (CSB)

*clans also of the scribes*. Trades were held in families (cf 4:21) as skills were passed from parent to child. (TLSB)

*Kenites*. Originally a foreign people, many of the Kenites were incorporated into Judah (see Nu 10:29–32; Jdg 1:16; 4:11). (CSB)

Descendants of Moses’ father-in-law; apparently they settled among the people of Judah (Jgs 1:16; 4:11). (TLSB)

**Ch 2** Although Judah was not the firstborn or the most noble of Jacob’s sons, his descendants took the first place among the tribes of Israel and fathered the greatest kings and builders. Today, though you have stumbled in life, set your heart on serving the Lord and supporting your family. The Lord will hear your prayers of repentance and of blessing for your family. His great desire is to bless all through Jesus, His Son. • O Lord, may my sins not weigh down my family, but may Your forgiveness of my sins become an example of Your surpassing mercy. Build up my family into a holy house, devoted to Your service. Amen. (TLSB)