***1 Chronicles***

***Chapter 2***

***Israel’s Sons***

**These were the sons of Israel: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun, 2 Dan, Joseph, Benjamin, Naphtali, Gad and Asher.**

**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)

***Judah***

***To Hezron’s Sons***

**3The sons of Judah: Er, Onan and Shelah. These three were born to him by a**

**Canaanite woman, the daughter of Shua. Er, Judah’s firstborn, was wicked in the**

**Lord’s sight; so the Lord put him to death. 4 Tamar, Judah’s daughter-in-law,**

**bore him Perez and Zerah. Judah had five sons in all. 5 The sons of Perez:**

**Hezron and Hamul. 6The sons of Zerah: Zimri, Ethan, Heman, Calcol and Darda—**

**five in all. 7The son of Carmi: Achar, who brought trouble on Israel by violating**

**the ban on taking devoted things. 8The son of Ethan: Azariah. 9 The sons born to**

**Hezron were: Jerahmeel, Ram and Caleb.**

**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)

**2:6** *Ethan, Heman, Calcol and Darda.* Not immediate descendants of Zerah; 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)

***From Ram Son of Hezron***

**10Ram was the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, the**

**leader of the people of Judah. 11 Nahshon was the father of Salmon, Salmon the**

**father of Boaz, 12 Boaz the father of Obed and Obed the father of Jesse. 13Jesse**

**was the father of Eliab his firstborn; the second son was Abinadab, the third**

**Shimea, 14 the fourth Nethanel, the fifth Raddai, 15 the sixth Ozem and the seventh**

**David. 16 Their sisters were Zeruiah and Abigail Zeruiah’s three sons were**

**Abishai, Joab and Asahel. 17 Abigail was the mother of Amasa, whose father was**

**Jether the Ishmaelite.**

**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 (see note on 4:1–23). (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)

***Caleb Son of Hezron***

**18 Caleb son of Hezron had children by his wife Azubah (and by Jerioth). These**

**were her sons: Jesher, Shobab and Ardon. 19 When Azubah died, Caleb married**

**Ephrath, who bore him Hur. 20 Hur was the father of Uri, and Uri the father of**

**Bezalel. 21Later, Hezron lay with the daughter of Makir the father of Gilead (he had**

**married her when he was sixty years old), and she bore him Segub. 22 Segub was**

**the father of Jair, who controlled twenty-three towns in Gilead. 23 (But Geshur and**

**Aram captured Havvoth Jair, as well as Kenath with its surrounding settlements—**

**sixty towns.) All these were descendants of Makir the father of Gilead. 24 After**

**Hezron died in Caleb Ephrathah, Abijah the wife of Hezron bore him Ashhur the**

**father of Tekoa.**

**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 Huram-Abi in the building of the temple (see note on 2Ch 1:5). 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)

***Jerahmeel Son of Hezron***

**25The sons of Jerahmeel the firstborn of Hezron: Ram his firstborn, Bunah, Oren,**

**Ozem and Ahijah. 26 Jerahmeel had another wife, whose name was Atarah; she**

**was the mother of Onam. 27The sons of Ram the firstborn of Jerahmeel: Maaz,**

**Jamin and Eker. 28The sons of Onam: Shammai and Jada. The sons of Shammai:**

**Nadab and Abishur. 29Abishur’s wife was named Abihail, who bore him Ahban**

**and Molid. 30 The sons of Nadab: Seled and Appaim. Seled died without children.**

**31The son of Appaim: Ishi, who was the father of Sheshan. Sheshan was the**

**father of Ahlai. 32The sons of Jada, Shammai’s brother: Jether and Jonathan.**

**Jether died without children. 33The sons of Jonathan: Peleth and Zaza. These**

**were the descendants of Jerahmeel. 34Sheshan had no sons—only daughters. He**

**had an Egyptian servant named Jarha. 35 Sheshan gave his daughter in marriage**

**to his servant Jarha, and she bore him Attai. 36Attai was the father of Nathan,**

**Nathan the father of Zabad, 37Zabad the father of Ephlal, Ephlal the father of Obed,**

**38Obed the father of Jehu, Jehu the father of Azariah, 39Azariah the father of Helez,**

**Helez the father of Eleasah, 40Eleasah the father of Sismai, Sismai the father of**

**Shallum, 41 Shallum the father of Jekamiah, and Jekamiah the father of Elishama.**

**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)

***The Clans of Caleb***

**42 The sons of Caleb the brother of Jerahmeel: Mesha his firstborn, who was the**

**father of Ziph, and his son Mareshah, who was the father of Hebron. 43The sons of**

**Hebron: Korah,Tappuah, Rekem and Shema. 44 Shema was the father of Raham,**

**and Raham the father of Jorkeam. Rekem was the father of Shammai. 45 The son**

**of Shammai was Maon, and Maon was the father of Beth Zur. 46Caleb’s concubine**

**Ephah was the mother of Haran, Moza and Gazez. Haran was the father of Gazez.**

**47The sons of Jahdai: Regem, Jotham, Geshan, Pelet, Ephah and Shaaph.**

**48Caleb’s concubine Maacah was the mother of Sheber and Tirhanah. 49 She also**

**gave birth to Shaaph the father of Madmannah and to Sheva the father of**

**Macbenah and Gibea. Caleb’s daughter was Acsah. 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 The descendants of Shobal the father of Kiriath Jearim were:**

**Haroeh, half the Manahathites, 53and the clans of Kiriath Jearim: the Ithrites,**

**Puthites, Shumathites and Mishraites. From these descended the Zorathites and**

**Eshtaolites. 54The descendants of Salma: Bethlehem, the Netophathites, Atroth**

**Beth Joab, half the Manahathites, the Zorites, 55 and the clans of scribes who lived**

**at Jabez: the Tirathites, Shimeathites and Sucathites. These are the Kenites who**

**came from Hammath, the father of the house of Recab.**

**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 (see NIV text notes on 1:10; 4:4). (CSB)

**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)

**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)

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