***1 Chronicles***

***Chapter 4***

***Other Clans of Judah***

**The descendants of Judah:**

**Perez, Hezron, Carmi, Hur and Shobal.**

**2 Reaiah son of Shobal was the father of Jahath, and Jahath the father of Ahumai and Lahad. These were the clans of the Zorathites.**

**3 These were the sons of Etam:**

**Jezreel, Ishma and Idbash. Their sister was named Hazzelelponi. 4 Penuel was the father of Gedor, and Ezer the father of Hushah.**

**These were the descendants of Hur, the firstborn of Ephrathah and father of Bethlehem.**

**5 Ashhur the father of Tekoa had two wives, Helah and Naarah.**

**6 Naarah bore him Ahuzzam, Hepher, Temeni and Haahashtari. These were the descendants of Naarah.**

**7 The sons of Helah:**

**Zereth, Zohar, Ethnan, 8 and Koz, who was the father of Anub and Hazzobebah and of the clans of Aharhel son of Harum.**

**9 Jabez was more honorable than his brothers. His mother had named him Jabez, saying, “I gave birth to him in pain.” 10 Jabez cried out to the God of Israel, “Oh, that you would bless me and enlarge my territory! Let your hand be with me, and keep me from harm so that I will be free from pain.” And God granted his request.**

**11 Kelub, Shuhah’s brother, was the father of Mehir, who was the father of Eshton. 12 Eshton was the father of Beth Rapha, Paseah and Tehinnah the father of Ir Nahash. These were the men of Recah.**

**13 The sons of Kenaz:**

**Othniel and Seraiah.**

**The sons of Othniel:**

**Hathath and Meonothai. 14 Meonothai was the father of Ophrah.**

**Seraiah was the father of Joab,**

**the father of Ge Harashim. It was called this because its people were craftsmen.**

**15 The sons of Caleb son of Jephunneh:**

**Iru, Elah and Naam.**

**The son of Elah:**

**Kenaz.**

**16 The sons of Jehallelel:**

**Ziph, Ziphah, Tiria and Asarel.**

**17 The sons of Ezrah:**

**Jether, Mered, Epher and Jalon. One of Mered’s wives gave birth to Miriam, Shammai and Ishbah the father of Eshtemoa. 18 (His Judean wife gave birth to Jered the father of Gedor, Heber the father of Soco, and Jekuthiel the father of Zanoah.) These were the children of Pharaoh’s daughter Bithiah, whom Mered had married.**

**19 The sons of Hodiah’s wife, the sister of Naham:**

**the father of Keilah the Garmite, and Eshtemoa the Maacathite.**

**20 The sons of Shimon:**

**Amnon, Rinnah, Ben-Hanan and Tilon.**

**The descendants of Ishi:**

**Zoheth and Ben-Zoheth.**

**21 The sons of Shelah son of Judah:**

**Er the father of Lecah, Laadah the father of Mareshah and the clans of the linen workers at Beth Ashbea, 22 Jokim, the men of Cozeba, and Joash and Saraph, who ruled in Moab and Jashubi Lehem. (These records are from ancient times.) 23 They were the potters who lived at Netaim and Gederah; they stayed there and worked for the king.**

**4:1–23** None of the genealogies of Judah in this section appears elsewhere in Scripture. Although the section may have the appearance of miscellaneous notes, the careful shaping of the Chronicler is evident in light of the overall inverted structure of the genealogies of Judah: (CSB)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 2:3 | Shelah |
| 2:4–8 | Perez |
| 2:9–3:24 | Hezron |
| 4:1–20 | Perez |
| 4:21–23 | Shelah |

This balancing of the material in inverse order shows the centrality of the section of the lineage of Hezron and the house of David; the same balancing in inverse order is observed within the Hezron section (see note on 2:10–3:24). The record of Judah’s oldest surviving son, Shelah, frames the entire genealogy of Judah. There are 15 fragmentary genealogies in this section, with two to six generations in each.

**4:1–2** The descendants of Judah here are not brothers; rather, the genealogy is linear. (CSB)

**4:1** *Carmi.* Either a scribal confusion or an alternative name for Caleb (2:9); the confusion may have been induced by 2:7. (CSB)

**4:2** *Reaiah.* A variant of Haroeh (2:52). (CSB)

**4:5–8** Supplementary to 2:24. (CSB)

**4:9–10** The practice of inserting short historical notes into genealogical records is amply attested in non-Biblical genealogical texts from the ancient Near East as well as in other Biblical genealogies (Ge 4:19–24; 10:8–12). (CSB)

**4:13** *Othniel.* The first of Israel’s judges (Jos 15:17; Jdg 1:13; 3:9–11). (CSB)

**4:16–20** This portion of the genealogy is from preexilic times; several of the places named were not included in the province of Judah in the restoration period (e.g., Ziph and Eshtemoa). (CSB)

**4:17** *One of Mered’s wives.* Pharaoh’s daughter (v. 18). Mered is otherwise unknown; the fact that he married a daughter of Pharaoh suggests his prominence. The event may be associated with the fortunes of Israel in Egypt under Joseph. (CSB)

**4:21, 23** This section accurately reflects a feature of ancient Near Eastern society. Clans were often associated not only with particular localities but also with special trades or guilds, such as linen workers (v. 21), potters (v. 23), royal patronage (v. 23) and scribes (2:55). (CSB)

***Simeon***

**24 The descendants of Simeon:**

**Nemuel, Jamin, Jarib, Zerah and Shaul;**

**25 Shallum was Shaul’s son, Mibsam his son and Mishma his son.**

**26 The descendants of Mishma:**

**Hammuel his son, Zaccur his son and Shimei his son.**

**27 Shimei had sixteen sons and six daughters, but his brothers did not have many children; so their entire clan did not become as numerous as the people of Judah. 28 They lived in Beersheba, Moladah, Hazar Shual, 29 Bilhah, Ezem, Tolad, 30 Bethuel, Hormah, Ziklag, 31 Beth Marcaboth, Hazar Susim, Beth Biri and Shaaraim. These were their towns until the reign of David. 32 Their surrounding villages were Etam, Ain, Rimmon, Token and Ashan—five towns— 33 and all the villages around these towns as far as Baalath. These were their settlements. And they kept a genealogical record. 34 Meshobab, Jamlech, Joshah son of Amaziah, 35 Joel, Jehu son of Joshibiah, the son of Seraiah, the son of Asiel, 36 also Elioenai, Jaakobah, Jeshohaiah, Asaiah, Adiel, Jesimiel, Benaiah, 37 and Ziza son of Shiphi, the son of Allon, the son of Jedaiah, the son of Shimri, the son of Shemaiah. 38 The men listed above by name were leaders of their clans. Their families increased greatly, 39 and they went to the outskirts of Gedor to the east of the valley in search of pasture for their flocks. 40 They found rich, good pasture, and the land was spacious, peaceful and quiet. Some Hamites had lived there formerly. 41 The men whose names were listed came in the days of Hezekiah king of Judah. They attacked the Hamites in their dwellings and also the Meunites who were there and completely destroyed them, as is evident to this day. Then they settled in their place, because there was pasture for their flocks. 42 And five hundred of these Simeonites, led by Pelatiah, Neariah, Rephaiah and Uzziel, the sons of Ishi, invaded the hill country of Seir. 43 They killed the remaining Amalekites who had escaped, and they have lived there to this day.**

**4:24–43** The genealogy of Simeon is also found in Ge 46:10; Ex 6:15; Nu 26:12–13. Simeon settled in part of the territory of Judah; the list of occupied towns should be compared with Jos 15:26–32, 42; 19:2–7. Since Simeon occupied areas allotted to Judah, this tribe was politically incorporated into Judah and appears to have lost much of its own identity in history (see Ge 34:24–31; 49:5–7; see also notes on Ge 34:25; 49:7). Geographical and historical notes are inserted in the genealogy (see note on vv. 9–10). Apparently two genealogies are included here: vv. 24–33—ending with the formula, “they kept a genealogical record”—and vv. 34–43. Overpopulation (v. 38) caused them to expand toward Gedor and east toward Edom at the time of Hezekiah (vv. 39–43). The long hostility between Israel and Amalek surfaced once again (v. 43; cf. Ex 17:8–16; Dt 25:17–19; 1Sa 15; see Introduction to Esther: Purpose and Theme). (CSB)