

1 Chronicles

Chapter 7

Descendants of Issachar

The sons of Issachar: Tola, Puah, Jashub, and Shimron, four. 2 The sons of Tola: Uzzi, Rephaiah, Jeriel, Jahmai, Ibsam, and Shemuel, heads of their fathers' houses, namely of Tola, mighty warriors of their generations, their number in the days of David being 22,600. 3 The son of Uzzi: Izrahiah. And the sons of Izrahiah: Michael, Obadiah, Joel, and Isshiah, all five of them were chief men. 4 And along with them, by their generations, according to their fathers' houses, were units of the army for war, 36,000, for they had many wives and sons. 5 Their kinsmen belonging to all the clans of Issachar were in all 87,000 mighty warriors, enrolled by genealogy.

Ch 7 Tribes of Issachar, Benjamin, Naphtali, Manasseh, Ephraim, and Asher rebelled against Rehoboam, David's grandson (2Ch 10). The Chronicler preserves their genealogical records because they were of the house of Israel. Not one branch of Israel would be forgotten. (TLSB)

7:1–5 Parts of the genealogy of Issachar are taken from Ge 46:13; Nu 1:28; 26:23–25, though many of the names are otherwise unattested. This list of the clans appears to come from a military muster (vv. 2, 4–5) from the time of David (v. 2), perhaps reflecting the census of ch. 21 and 2Sa 24. (CSB)

7:1 *sons of Issachar*. Combines genealogical data from Gn 46:13 and Nu 26:23–24, though with spelling differences. (TLSB)

7:2 *days of David*. Very likely, data was taken from the census David made (2Sm 24:1–9). (CSB)

7:3 *five*. Four sons of Izrahiah are named, though the Chronicler counts five sons. It may be that the “five” refers to the sons of Uzzi, the father of Izrahiah and grandfather of the other four, which then would total five sons of Uzzi. (TLSB)

7:1–5 Although little information about Issachar is presented, the Chronicler records the tribe's great numbers. How sad that this prosperous tribe did not also prosper in serving God's Word. Today, focusing on numerical strength remains deceptive. The Lord counts us as His people and grants us strength by grace alone. • Lord, make me a good steward of those in my charge, and teach me to rely on Your strength alone. Amen. (TLSB)

Descendants of Benjamin

6 The sons of Benjamin: Bela, Becher, and Jediael, three. 7 The sons of Bela: Ezbon, Uzzi, Uzziel, Jerimoth, and Iri, five, heads of fathers' houses, mighty warriors. And their enrollment by genealogies was 22,034. 8 The sons of Becher: Zemirah, Joash, Eliezer, Elioenai, Omri, Jeremoth, Abijah, Anathoth, and Alemeth. All these were the sons of Becher. 9 And their enrollment by genealogies, according to their generations, as heads of their fathers' houses, mighty warriors, was 20,200. 10 The son of Jediael: Bilhan. And the sons of Bilhan: Jeush, Benjamin, Ehud, Chenaanah, Zethan, Tarshish, and Ahishahar. 11 All these were the sons of Jediael according to the heads of their fathers' houses, mighty warriors, 17,200, able to go to war. 12 And Shuppim and Huppim were the sons of Ir, Hushim the son of Aher.

7:6–12 There is considerable fluidity among the Biblical sources listing the sons of Benjamin. This list gives three sons; Ge 46:21 records ten; Nu 26:38–39 and 1Ch 8:1–2 both list five (the only name appearing in all these sources is Bela, the firstborn). The variations reflect different origins and

functions for these genealogies. The list here appears to function in the military sphere (vv. 7, 9, 11). (CSB)

7:6 Represents one of several variant listings, which may reflect a military census (cf vv 7, 9, and 11) taken at a particular time, perhaps under David, as in the Issachar material (vv 1–5).

7:12 *of Aher*. Or, “of another.” May refer to Dan, who would otherwise receive no notice in the genealogy of Jacob’s 12 sons. The Hushim were his sons (Gn 46:23). Dan may not have been mentioned to express contempt for the tribe, which in its earlier years was guilty of brazen idolatry (Jgs 17–18). (TLSB)

7:6–12 Benjamin, Jacob’s youngest son and the father of one of the smallest tribes, is given the honor of a genealogy, unlike Dan, who receives almost no notice. The Lord cares for all the faithful, no matter how small or unimportant they appear to the world. • O Lord, thank You for counting me precious through the merits of Your precious Son. Amen. (TLSB)

Descendants of Naphtali

13 The sons of Naphtali: Jahziel, Guni, Jezer and Shallum, the descendants of Bilhah.

7:13 Repeats Ge 46:24; Nu 26:48–50. (CSB)

sons of Naphtali. Unlike vv 1–12, there are no military census records for Naphtali. Instead, genealogies of Gn 46:24–25a and Nu 26:48–50 are reproduced with minor spelling variants. (TLSB)

descendants of Bilhah. Dan and Naphtali were the actual “sons” of Jacob’s concubine Bilhah (Ge 30:3–8), so Naphtali’s sons are Bilhah’s “descendants.” (CSB)

Descendants of Manasseh

14 The sons of Manasseh: Asriel, whom his Aramean concubine bore; she bore Machir the father of Gilead. 15 And Machir took a wife for Huppim and for Shuppim. The name of his sister was Maacah. And the name of the second was Zelophehad, and Zelophehad had daughters. 16 And Maacah the wife of Machir bore a son, and she called his name Peresh; and the name of his brother was Sheresh; and his sons were Ulam and Rakem. 17 The son of Ulam: Bedan. These were the sons of Gilead the son of Machir, son of Manasseh. 18 And his sister Hammolecheth bore Ishhod, Abiezer, and Mahlah. 19 The sons of Shemida were Ahian, Shechem, Likhi, and Aniam.

7:14–19 The sources for this genealogy are Nu 26:29–34; Jos 17:1–18. The daughters of Zelophehad (v. 15) prompted the rulings on the inheritance rights of women (Nu 26:29–34; 27:1–11; 36:1–12; Jos 17:3–4). Of the 13 different clans of the tribe of Manasseh known from these genealogies, seven are mentioned in the Samaria ostraca (about 65 inscribed potsherds containing records of deliveries of wine, oil, barley and other commodities in the eighth century B.C.). The prominence of women in this genealogy is unusual; this suggests that it may have functioned in the domestic sphere, perhaps as a statement of the social status of the various clans of Manasseh. (CSB)

Genealogy is of West Manasseh (see note, 5:23–24, for East Manasseh). Tabulation includes residents on both sides of the river. Women are given a prominent place because they introduced a non-Israelite strain into the tribe. (TLSB)

7:13–19 Summaries of Naphtali and West Manasseh specially note the place of mothers. How great is a mother’s influence on her children, whether for good or for evil! Faithful mothers are God’s gifts to His children, an exceptional blessing. • Lord, grant faithful mothers in the service of Your Church, devoted and humble like Your own dear mother. Amen. (TLSB)

Descendants of Ephraim

20 The sons of Ephraim: Shuthelah, and Bered his son, Tahath his son, Eleadah his son, Tahath his son, 21 Zabad his son, Shuthelah his son, and Ezer and Elead, whom the men of Gath who were born in the land killed, because they came down to raid their livestock. 22 And Ephraim their father mourned many days, and his brothers came to comfort him. 23 And Ephraim went in to his wife, and she conceived and bore a son. And he called his name Beriah, because disaster had befallen his house. 24 His daughter was Sheerah, who built both Lower and Upper Beth-horon, and Uzzen-sheerah. 25 Rephah was his son, Resheph his son, Telah his son, Tahan his son, 26 Ladan his son, Ammihud his son, Elishama his son, 27 Nun his son, Joshua his son. 28 Their possessions and settlements were Bethel and its towns, and to the east Naaran, and to the west Gezer and its towns, Shechem and its towns, and Ayyah and its towns; 29 also in possession of the Manassites, Bethshean and its towns, Taanach and its towns, Megiddo and its towns, Dor and its towns. In these lived the sons of Joseph the son of Israel.

7:20–29 The source for part of the genealogy of Ephraim is Nu 26:35. If Rephah (v. 25) is the grandson of Ephraim, ten generations are recorded from Ephraim to Joshua, a number that fits very well the 400-year interval when Israel was in Egypt. Joshua's Ephraimite ancestry is also mentioned in Nu 13:8 (where he is called "Hoshea"; see Nu 13:16). The raid against Gath (vv. 21–22) must have taken place well before the conquest of Canaan and must have originated in Egypt. The list of settlements (vv. 28–29) summarizes Jos 16–17. (CSB)

Genealogy of Ephraim, brother of Manasseh and son of Joseph and Asenath, daughter of the high priest of On (Gn 41:50–52; 46:20), is naturally linked to that of Manasseh. Genealogy falls into four parts: (1) genealogy through Shuthelah (vv 20–21a); (2) history of Beriah, ancestor of Joshua (vv 21b–24); (3) genealogy of Joshua (vv 25–27); and (4) territorial lists (vv 28–29). (TLSB)

7:20 *Ephraim*. Second tribe of Joseph; occupied territory south of Manasseh and north of Benjamin. See map, p 365. His most illustrious descendant was Joshua (v 27). (TLSB)

7:21–24 *Gath*. Philistine city. Nothing more is known of a raid on the Ephraimites by Canaanites associated with it. *Ephraim ... mourned*. Provides insight into the life of the tribal forefather. This history, set in Egypt where Ephraim was born as the son of Joseph, resembles the story of Job: both Job and Ephraim suffered evil, lost children, were comforted by others, and received new children. Through Beriah, Ephraim's great descendant Joshua was born (vv 25–27). (TLSB)

7:24 *built*. Unusual for a woman to be engaged in building activities. (TLSB)

7:20–29 The touching story of Ephraim's recovery from disaster illustrates brotherly care and personal endurance, as Ephraim became a most powerful tribe in Israel's history. Though we suffer much in this life, our Brother Jesus Christ is full of comfort and supports us through our brothers and sisters in the faith. • Dearest Jesus, comfort us in all our sorrows, that we might comfort others. Amen. (TLSB)

Descendants of Asher

30 The sons of Asher: Imnah, Ishvah, Ishvi, Beriah, and their sister Serah. 31 The sons of Beriah: Heber, and Malchiel, who fathered Birzaith. 32 Heber fathered Japhlet, Shomer, Hotham, and their sister Shua. 33 The sons of Japhlet: Pasach, Bimhal, and Ashvath. These are the sons of Japhlet. 34 The sons of Shemer his brother: Rohgah, Jehubbah, and Aram. 35 The sons of Helem his brother: Zophah, Imna, Shelesh, and Amal. 36 The sons of Zophah: Suah, Harnepher, Shual, Beri, Imrah. 37 Bezer, Hod, Shamma, Shilshah, Ithran, and Beera. 38 The sons of Jether: Jephunneh, Pispa, and Ara. 39 The sons of Ulla: Arah, Hanniel, and Rizia. 40 All of these were men

of Asher, heads of fathers' houses, approved, mighty warriors, chiefs of the princes. Their number enrolled by genealogies, for service in war, was 26,000 men.

7:30–40 The genealogy of Asher follows Ge 46:17 for the first three generations; it is also parallel to Nu 26:44–46, except that the name Ishvah (v. 30) is missing there. This genealogy too reflects a military function (v. 40). (CSB)

7:30–40 *sons of Asher*. Only vv 30–31, 40 are paralleled elsewhere in the OT (Gn 46:17; Nu 26:44–47). Inheritance of Asher was west and north of Zebulun (Jsh 19:10–16, 24–31). (TLSB)

7:40 *mighty warriors, chiefs of the princes*. Only these are mentioned by name (vv 30–39). (TLSB)

26,000. Fewer Asherite troops than the 40,000 in 12:36; 41,500 in Nu 1:41; 2:28; or the 53,400 in Nu 26:47. The differences probably reflect censuses at different times. (TLSB)

7:30–40 Account of Asher concludes the genealogy of the 12 tribes. Leaders of this far-flung tribe receive special emphasis, though their warrior's strength did not sustain them. Our strength and sustenance come from the Lord alone. • Merciful Lord, You make the first last and the last first. Turn our lives around by Your grace. Amen. (TLSB)