

1 Chronicles

Chapter 3

Descendants of David

These are the sons of David who were born to him in Hebron: the firstborn, Amnon, by Ahinoam the Jezreelite; the second, Daniel, by Abigail the Carmelite, 2 the third, Absalom, whose mother was Maacah, the daughter of Talmai, king of Geshur; the fourth, Adonijah, whose mother was Haggith; 3 the fifth, Shephatiah, by Abital; the sixth, Ithream, by his wife Eglah; 4 six were born to him in Hebron, where he reigned for seven years and six months. And he reigned thirty-three years in Jerusalem. 5 These were born to him in Jerusalem: Shimea, Shobab, Nathan and Solomon, four by Bath-shua, the daughter of Ammiel; 6 then Ibhar, Elishama, Eliphelet, 7 Nogah, Nepheg, Japhia, 8 Elishama, Eliada, and Eliphelet, nine. 9 All these were David's sons, besides the sons of the concubines, and Tamar was their sister. 10 The son of Solomon was Rehoboam, Abijah his son, Asa his son, Jehoshaphat his son, 11 Joram his son, Ahaziah his son, Joash his son, 12 Amaziah his son, Azariah his son, Jotham his son, 13 Ahaz his son, Hezekiah his son, Manasseh his son, 14 Amon his son, Josiah his son. 15 The sons of Josiah: Johanan the firstborn, the second Jehoiakim, the third Zedekiah, the fourth Shallum. 16 The descendants of Jehoiakim: Jeconiah his son, Zedekiah his son; 17 and the sons of Jeconiah, the captive: Shealtiel his son, 18 Malchiram, Pedaiah, Shenazzar, Jekamiah, Hoshama and Nedabiah; 19 and the sons of Pedaiah: Zerubbabel and Shimei; and the sons of Zerubbabel: Meshullam and Hananiah, and Shelomith was their sister; 20 and Hashubah, Ohel, Berechiah, Hasadiah, and Jushab-hesed, five. 21 The sons of Hananiah: Pelatiah and Jeshaiah, his son Rephaiah, his son Arnan, his son Obadiah, his son Shecaniah. 22 The son of Shecaniah: Shemaiah. And the sons of Shemaiah: Hattush, Igal, Bariah, Neariah, and Shaphat, six. 23 The sons of Neariah: Elioenai, Hizkiah, and Azrikam, three. 24 The sons of Elioenai: Hodaviah, Eliashib, Pelaiah, Akkub, Johanan, Delaiah, and Anani, seven.

3:1–9 This list of David's children is largely drawn from 2Sa 3:2–5; 5:13–16; 13:1. The sons born in Jerusalem are repeated in 1Ch 14:3–7. The name Eliphelet occurs twice (vv. 6, 8); in 14:5, 7 two spellings of the name are given (only one son having this name is mentioned in 2Sa 5:14–16). The reference to David's seven-year rule in Hebron (v. 4) is repeated in 29:27, though the Chronicler does not deal with this period in his narrative. The references to Absalom, Tamar, Adonijah, Amnon and Bathsheba all recall unhappy incidents in the life of David, incidents the Chronicler has omitted from his later narrative (see 2Sa 11–15; 17–18; 1Ki 1). (CSB)

Just as names today have long and short versions, different pronunciations, and different spellings, so did Hbr names. Daniel is Chileab in 2Sm 3:3. Shimea is Shammua in 1Ch 14:4 and 2Sm 5:14. Ammiel is Eliam in 2Sm 11:3. Elishama is Elishua in 1Ch 14:5 and 2Sm 5:15. Bath-shua is a variant of Bathsheba. (TLSB)

3:1 *Abigail the Carmelite*. Wife of Nabal the Carmelite (2Sm 3:3). The Chronicler assumes that the readers know the disgraceful history of 1Sm 25 and does not reflect on it so as not to detract from David's image. In this way, David is idealized even in the genealogies. (TLSB)

3:5 *Bath-shua*. Variant spelling of Bathsheba. (TLSB)

3:8 *Eliada*. Cf 2Sm 5:16. Known as "Beeliada" in 14:7, but here reflects removal of the name Baal from the first part of the name. (TLSB)

3:10–16 Davidic kings, from Solomon to the exile. Vv 10–14 are a lineal genealogy, tracing David’s line through each successor. Vv 15–16 are collateral genealogies. Each king will be discussed in 2Ch. (TLSB)

3:10 *Rehoboam*. See 2Ch 10–12. (CSB)

Abijah. See 2Ch 13:1–14:1. (CSB)

Asa. See 2Ch 14–16. (CSB)

Jehoshaphat. See 1Ki 22. (CSB)

3:11 *Jehoram*. See 2Ch 21. (CSB)

3:13 *Ahaz*. See 2Ch 28. (CSB)

Hezekiah. See 2Ch 29–32. (CSB)

Manasseh. See 2Ch 33:1–20. (CSB)

3:14 *Amon*. See 2Ch 33:21–25. (CSB)

Josiah. See 2Ki 22:1–23:30; 2Ch 34:1–36:1. (CSB)

3:15–16 “Johanah the firstborn” is not mentioned elsewhere and may have died before Josiah. The genealogy is segmented at this point, instead of linear as in vv. 10–14. Since Josiah’s other three sons would all occupy the throne, the succession was not uniformly father to son. Shallum/Jehoahaz (2Ch 36:2–4; 2Ki 23:30–35) was replaced by Jehoiakim (2Ch 36:5–8; 2Ki 23:34–24:6); Jehoiakim was succeeded by his son Jehoiachin (2Ch 36:9–10; 2Ki 24:8–16). After Jehoiachin was taken captive to Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar, Josiah’s third son Zedekiah (2Ki 24:18–20; 2Ch 36:11–14) became the last king of Judah. (CSB)

3:15 *Johanah*. Josiah’s firstborn is not found in any list of his successors. (TLSB)

Shallum. Cf Jer 22:11. Also known as Jehoahaz. Pharaoh Neco ended Jehoahaz’s reign after three months (2Ch 36:3–4). (TLSB)

3:16–24 Davidic kings during exilic and postexilic generations. The line of Jeconiah is important for dating the Chronicler’s work. Jeconiah’s son Pedaiah was born c 595 BC. The following generations would extend to 440 BC (at c 20 years per generation) or 415 BC (at c 25 years per generation), providing an approximate date for the Chronicler’s work. (TLSB)

3:16 *Jeconiah*. Shorter form “Coniah” (Jer 22:24), also referred to as “Jehoiachin” (2Ki 24:6; 2Ch 36:9). (TLSB)

3:17–20 Seven sons are attributed to Jehoiachin, but not one succeeded him (see notes on vv. 15–16; Jer 22:30). Tablets found in Babylon dating from the 10th to the 35th year of Nebuchadnezzar (595–570 B.C.) and listing deliveries of rations mention Jehoiachin and five sons as well as other Judahites held in Babylon. Jehoiachin received similar largess from Nebuchadnezzar’s successor Evil-Merodach (562–560 B.C.; see 2Ki 25:27–30). (CSB)

3:17 *the captive*. Reference to Babylonian exile. (TLSB)

Shealtiel. One leader in the postexilic period of reconstruction was Zerubbabel, called “the son of Shealtiel” (cf Ezr 3:2; 5:2; Hg 1:1). Vv 18–19 indicate that the word “son” is used in the broader sense of grandson or successor, as it is in other instances (cf Gn 31:55). (TLSB)

3:18 *Shenazzar*. May be another spelling of the name Sheshbazzar. If so, the treasures of the temple were consigned to his care for return to Judah (Ezr 1:11). He also served for a short time as the first governor of the returnees and made an initial attempt at rebuilding the temple (Ezr 5:14–16). Little is known of him; he soon disappeared from the scene and was overshadowed by his nephew Zerubbabel, who assumes such importance in Ezra, Haggai and Zechariah. But see note on Ezr 1:8. (CSB)

3:19 *sons of Zerubbabel*. Two grandsons are mentioned. Vv 22–24 trace his line of descent into the fourth generation. (TLSB)

Pedaiah. Other texts name Shealtiel (v. 17) as Zerubbabel’s father (Ezr 3:2, 8; Ne 12:1; Hag 1:12, 14; 2:2, 23). Suggestions offered to resolve this difficulty are: 1. Shealtiel may have died early, and Pedaiah became the head of the family. 2. Pedaiah may have married the childless widow of Shealtiel; Zerubbabel would then be regarded as the son of Shealtiel according to the law of levirate marriage (Dt 25:5–6). In Lk 3:27 Neri instead of Jehoiachin (v. 17) is identified as the father of Shealtiel. Similar suggestions to those above could be made in this instance as well. It is also interesting to note that the genealogies of Jesus in Mt 1 and Lk 3 both trace his descent to Zerubbabel, but that none of the names subsequent to Zerubbabel (v. 19–24) is found in the NT genealogies. (CSB)

Archaeologists discovered her name on a scarab-shaped, black-stone seal associated with the governor of Judah. (TLSB)

3:20 *five*. May have been sons of Zerubbabel, but no kinship terms are provided. Since the sons of Hananiah (v. 19) are specified in v. 21, they could also be the sons of Meshullam (v. 19). (CSB)

3:21 *sons of Rephaiah . . . Shecaniah*. Probably other Davidic families at the time of Zerubbabel (v. 19) or Pelatiah and Jeshaiiah. If they are understood as contemporary with Zerubbabel, his genealogy was carried only two generations (his sons and grandsons) and a date for Chronicles as early as 450 B.C. is possible (see Introduction: Author, Date and Sources). (CSB)

3:22 *six*. Shemaiah appears to have five sons, but the total is given as six. Either one of the six names is missing, or Shemaiah is to be understood as the brother of the five persons named (in which case there should be a semicolon after “sons” instead of a colon)—all six then being sons of Shecaniah. (CSB)

3:24 *Anani*. Mentioned in a letter by the Jews of Elephantine, Egypt, whose temple had been threatened by troops. The letter complains that the leadership in Jerusalem never responded to them during their crisis. (TLSB)

Ch 3 David’s dynasty ruled all Israel for 80 years and the Southern Kingdom of Judah for over 400 years; his descendants continued to lead after the return from the Babylonian exile. From a small beginning with a shepherd boy, the Lord wrought great things. Today, through prayer and godly leadership, humbly commend your family to God’s service. Jesus, David’s greatest descendant, will lead you into a blessed future. • O great David’s greater Son, build my family up in lasting devotion through Your Holy Word. Amen. (TLSB)