

1 Chronicles 1:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Kenan, Mahalaleel, Jered,

Analysis

Kenan, Mahalaleel, Jered—these patriarchs bridge Adam to Noah in the godly line (Genesis 5). The Hebrew name קֵנָן (Qenan) means 'possession' or 'acquisition,' while מַהֲלֵלֵל (Mahalalel) means 'praise of God,' and יֶרֶד (Yered) means 'descent.' The Chronicler omits Cain's line entirely, focusing only on the lineage through which Messiah would come.

This selective genealogy reflects Hebrew historiography's theological purpose—not exhaustive records but heilsgeschichte (salvation history). Every name preserved points toward God's covenant faithfulness across generations, culminating in David and ultimately Christ (Matthew 1:1-17).

Historical Context

Written post-exilic (c. 450-400 BC), Chronicles reestablished Israel's identity after Babylonian captivity by tracing their lineage back to Adam. The Chronicler drew from Genesis 5 but adapted it for returnees needing to reclaim their theological heritage and land rights through documented ancestry.

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does God's preservation of a faithful line through history assure you of His commitment to fulfill His promises?
2. What does it mean that your spiritual lineage traces back through Christ to Adam—both as fallen humanity and redeemed creation?

Interlinear Text

קִנָּן	ל	מַהֲלֵל	יָרֵד
Kenan		Mahalaleel	Jered
H7018		H4111	H3382

Additional Cross-References

Luke 3:37 (Parallel theme): Which was the son of Mathusala, which was the son of Enoch, which was the son of Jared, which was the son of Maleleel, which was the son of Cainan,

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