

1 Chronicles 1:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Ebal, and Abimael, and Sheba,

Analysis

Ebal, and Abimael, and Sheba—these sons of Joktan represent Arabian tribal founders descended from Shem. The Hebrew עֹבָל (Obal/Ebal) possibly means 'bare' or 'stripped,' while אֲבִימָלֵךְ (Abimael) means 'my father is God,' and שֶׁבָא (Sheba) denotes 'seven' or 'oath.'

Sheba particularly matters: this Arabian kingdom (modern Yemen) produced the Queen who visited Solomon (1 Kings 10), testing his wisdom with hard questions. These Semitic peoples, though outside Israel's covenant line, shared linguistic and cultural connections, and some like Sheba acknowledged Yahweh's supremacy through Solomon.

Historical Context

The Joktanite tribes settled southern Arabia, establishing trade networks dealing in spices, gold, and incense. Sheba became wealthy through controlling trade routes, evident in archaeological remains at sites like Marib. The Queen of Sheba's visit (c. 950 BC) represents these kingdoms' recognition of Israel's God during Solomon's zenith.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does the Queen of Sheba's seeking wisdom from Solomon challenge you to pursue spiritual wisdom with equal diligence?
2. What does it mean that even peoples outside the covenant line could recognize and honor Yahweh?

Interlinear Text

וְאֶת	לְ עֵיבָל	וְאֶת	לְ אֲבִימָאֵל	וְאֶת	לְ שֶׁבָא:
H853	And Ebal H5858	H853	and Abimael H39	H853	and Sheba H7614

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 10:28 (Parallel theme): And Obal, and Abimael, and Sheba,
