

1 Chronicles 2:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the sons of Onam were, Shammai, and Jada. And the sons of Shammai; Nadab, and Abishur.

Analysis

And the sons of Onam were, Shammai, and Jada—these Jerahmeelite clans descended from Judah's firstborn line. 'שָׁמְאי' (Shammai) means 'desolate' or possibly 'renowned,' while 'יָדָה' (Yada) derives from 'to know.' The Jerahmeelites occupied southern Judah's wilderness regions, maintaining tribal identity distinct from main Judahite settlements.

Nadab, Shammai's son, bears the same name as Aaron's son who died offering strange fire (Leviticus 10:1-2). Names recurred across Israelite families, sometimes honoring ancestors, sometimes carrying prophetic or memorial significance. The preservation of these marginal clans demonstrates God's covenant includes not just prominent lines but obscure families whose faithfulness mattered equally.

Historical Context

The Jerahmeelites dwelt in the Negev wilderness south of Hebron, mentioned when David shared spoils with them (1 Samuel 30:29). They represented semi-nomadic pastoral clans who maintained Judahite identity while living frontier existence. Their territory bordered Edom and the Kenites.

Related Passages

[John 3:16](#) — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does God's careful record of 'marginal' clans like the Jerahmeelites encourage you if you feel spiritually insignificant?
2. What does the recurrence of names like Nadab across generations teach about how families process tragedy and hope?

Interlinear Text

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