

1 Chronicles 2:38

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Obed begat Jehu, and Jehu begat Azariah,

Analysis

And Obed begat Jehu, and Jehu begat Azariah—this genealogical fragment traces Judahite lineage through names rich with theological meaning. עֹבֵד (Obed) means 'servant' or 'worshiper,' יְהוּ (Yehu) means 'Yahweh is He,' and אֶזְרִיָּה (Azaryah) means 'Yahweh has helped.' These theophoric names (containing God's name) demonstrate covenant consciousness persisting through generations.

While seemingly mundane, such genealogies established legal identity and theological continuity. Every 'begat' represented God's faithfulness across decades, even centuries. The chain from Judah to David to Christ depended on each link holding—one broken generation would have severed Messiah's lineage. God preserves His purposes through ordinary faithfulness.

Historical Context

Genealogies served multiple purposes: establishing tribal membership, determining inheritance rights, priestly qualification, and maintaining covenant identity. Post-exilic returnees needed documented lineage to reclaim properties under Ezra-Nehemiah's reforms. Names were chosen carefully to express faith, commemorate events, or honor ancestors.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How does seeing your life as one link in God's larger chain of faithfulness across generations affect your sense of purpose?
2. What spiritual legacy are you leaving for those who will come after you, even if you never know their names?

Interlinear Text

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|-----------------|--------------|------|-------------|-------------|--------------|------|----------------|
| וְעֹבֵד | הוֹלִיד | אֶת | יְהוּ | וְיָהּ | הוֹלִיד | אֶת | עֲזַרְיָה׃ |
| And Obed | begat | H853 | Jehu | Jehu | begat | H853 | Azariah |
| H5744 | H3205 | | H3058 | H3058 | H3205 | | H5838 |

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