

1 Chronicles 3:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the sons of Neariah; Elioenai, and Hezekiah, and Azrikam, three.

Analysis

And the sons of Neariah; Elioenai, and Hezekiah, and Azrikam, three—these descendants of David's royal line lived post-exilic, after the Babylonian captivity ended monarchy. אֶלְיָעֵנִי (Elyoenai) means 'my eyes are toward Yahweh,' חִזְקִיָּה ('Hizkiyah) means 'Yahweh strengthens,' and עַזְרִיקָם (Azrikam) means 'my help has risen.' The careful specification 'three' emphasizes completeness and accuracy in record-keeping.

Though kingship ended with Zedekiah (586 BC), God preserved David's line through exile, fulfilling His covenant promise that David's house wouldn't fail (2 Samuel 7:16). These obscure descendants maintained Davidic identity across exile's dark centuries, unknowingly preserving Messiah's genealogical pathway until Christ's birth seven generations later (Matthew 1:1-17). Faithfulness in obscurity prepares for God's purposes.

Historical Context

After Babylonian exile (539 BC return), Davidic descendants like Zerubbabel led returnees but didn't regain kingship. The family maintained identity through careful genealogical records, anticipating messianic fulfillment. These names appear in Chronicles' unique post-exilic extension (1 Chronicles 3:17-24), possibly updated during Ezra-Nehemiah's era.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does God's preservation of David's line through obscure descendants encourage you when your faithfulness seems insignificant?
2. What does it mean that Messiah's genealogy depended on unknown believers maintaining covenant identity through exile?

Interlinear Text

And the sons	of Neariah	Elioenai	and Hezekiah	and Azrikam	three
H1121	H5294	H454	H2396	H5840	H7969

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