

1 Chronicles 4:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And his wife Jehudijah bare Jered the father of Gedor, and Heber the father of Socho, and Jekuthiel the father of Zanoah. And these are the sons of Bithiah the daughter of Pharaoh, which Mered took.

Analysis

Genealogical Significance: This verse appears within the Judah's expansion and conquest section of Chronicles' genealogical framework. The Hebrew term נִכְלָה (nachalah) - inheritance is central to understanding this passage's purpose. The Chronicler, writing to post-exilic Israel (c. 450-400 BCE), uses these genealogies not merely as historical records but as theological statements about covenant continuity and divine faithfulness.

The genealogical structure serves multiple purposes:

1. establishing Israel's connection to God's creation plan from Adam
2. legitimizing post-exilic community's claim to covenant promises
3. emphasizing Judah and Levi's special roles in God's redemptive plan,
4. demonstrating that despite exile, God's covenant purposes continue.

The selection and arrangement of names is intentional, highlighting God's faithfulness in land promises.

Chronicles diverges from Genesis and Samuel-Kings in its genealogical presentation, reflecting the Chronicler's distinct theological agenda. Where earlier texts focus on narrative history, Chronicles emphasizes continuity, legitimacy, and

hope for restoration. This verse contributes to the larger argument that the post-exilic community is the rightful heir of God's ancient covenant promises.

Historical Context

Post-Exilic Context: The Chronicler wrote during the Persian period (450-400 BCE) to a community returned from Babylonian exile, struggling with identity and purpose. These genealogies answered crucial questions: Who are we? What is our relationship to ancient Israel? Do God's promises still apply to us?

The historical setting influences the text's emphasis on Genealogies of Judah's clans and territorial expansions. Ancient Near Eastern cultures valued genealogies for establishing land rights, royal legitimacy, and tribal identity. Chronicles' genealogies served similar functions while adding theological depth. The inclusion of specific names and details reflects the author's access to temple archives, royal records, and earlier biblical texts.

Archaeological evidence from Persian-period Judah shows a small, struggling community centered around Jerusalem and the rebuilt temple. The genealogies reinforced their connection to the glorious past and provided hope for future restoration through God's covenant faithfulness.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does understanding genealogies as theological statements rather than mere historical records change your reading of Chronicles and other biblical genealogies?
2. What does this verse teach about God's faithfulness across generations, and how does that apply to your own family's spiritual legacy?
3. How does God's faithfulness in land promises connect to the New Testament revelation of Jesus Christ as the fulfillment of Old Testament promises?

Interlinear Text

וְאֶשְׁתִּי	בַּיּוֹדֵה	אֶת	יְלִדָּה	יְרֵד	אָבִי	אָבִי	גָּדוֹר	וְאֶת
And his wife	Jehudijah	bare	H853	Jered	the father	of Gedor	H853	
H802	H3057	H3205		H3382	H1	H1446		
וְאֶת	בַּרְתָּה	אָבִי	שָׂוֵךְ	וְאֶת	לִקְוּתִיא	אָבִי	זָנוֹחַ	וְאֶת
and Heber	the father	of Socho	H853	and Jekuthiel	the father	of Zanoah	H2182	
H2268	H1	H7755		H3354	H1			
וְאֶת	בָּנִים	בְּתִי	בְּתִי	בְּתִי	בְּתִי	בְּתִי	פָּרָעָה	וְאֶת
וְאֶת	בָּנִים	בְּנִי	בְּנִי	בְּנִי	בְּנִי	בְּנִי	וְאֶת	בָּנִים
H428	And these are the sons	of Bithiah	the daughter	of Pharaoh	H834			
	H1121	H1332	H1323	H6547				
וְאֶת	מְרֵדָה	וְאֶת	מְרֵדָה	וְאֶת	מְרֵדָה	וְאֶת	מְרֵדָה	וְאֶת
took	which Mered							
H3947	H4778							

Additional Cross-References

1 Chronicles 2:42 (Parallel theme): Now the sons of Caleb the brother of Jerahmeel were, Mesha his firstborn, which was the father of Ziph; and the sons of Mareshah the father of Hebron.

1 Chronicles 4:4 (Parallel theme): And Penuel the father of Gedor, and Ezer the father of Hushah. These are the sons of Hur, the firstborn of Ephratah, the father of Beth-lehem.

1 Chronicles 4:39 (Parallel theme): And they went to the entrance of Gedor, even unto the east side of the valley, to seek pasture for their flocks.

Joshua 15:58 (Parallel theme): Halhul, Beth-zur, and Gedor,