

# 1 Chronicles 4:41

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And these written by name came in the days of Hezekiah king of Judah, and smote their tents, and the habitations that were found there, and destroyed them utterly unto this day, and dwelt in their rooms: because there was pasture there for their flocks.

## Analysis

**Genealogical Significance:** This verse appears within the Judah's expansion and conquest section of Chronicles' genealogical framework. The Hebrew term נַחֲלָה (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

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**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

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

## Study Questions

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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

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מֶלֶךְ יְחִזְקִיָּהוּ הֵיוּ הַיָּמִים בְּשֵׁם וְזֶה הַכְּתוּב יֵם אֵלֶּה וַיָּבֹא אֹ  
king of Hezekiah in the days by name And these written came  
H4428 H3169 H3117 H8034 H3789 H428 H935

אֶשְׁרֵי הַמְּעִינִים וְאֵת אֶהְלֵיהֶם אֶת וַיִּכּוּ וַיְהוּדָה  
and the habitations their tents and smote of Judah  
H834 H4583 H853 H168 H5221 H3063

הָזֶה הֵיוּ הַיָּמִים עַד וַיִּהְיוּ שָׁמָּה וַיִּמָּצְאוּ  
in the days there and destroyed that were found  
H2088 H3117 H5704 H2763 H8033 H4672

מִרְעָה הָיָה כִּי תַחְתֵּיהֶם וַיֵּשְׁבוּ  
in their rooms because there was pasture and dwelt  
H4829 H3588 H8478 H3427

שָׂם: לְצֹאֲנָם  
there for their flocks  
H8033 H6629

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