

1 Chronicles 7:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the sons of Tola; Uzzi, and Rephaiah, and Jeriel, and Jahmai, and Jibsam, and Shemuel, heads of their father's house, to wit, of Tola: they were valiant men of might in their generations; whose number was in the days of David two and twenty thousand and six hundred.

Analysis

Genealogical Significance: This verse appears within the Northern tribes and their heritage section of Chronicles' genealogical framework. The Hebrew term שבט (shevet) - tribe/scepter 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 All Israel included in God's covenant.

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 Northern tribal genealogies: Issachar, Benjamin, Naphtali, Manasseh, Ephraim, Asher. 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

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

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 All Israel included in God's covenant connect to the New Testament revelation of Jesus Christ as the fulfillment of Old Testament promises?

Interlinear Text

וּבְנֵי י	לְתוֹלַע	עֲזִי י	וּרְפָאִי ה	וְיֵרִיָּאֵל	וְיַחְמֵי י	וְיִבְשָׁם
And the sons	of Tola	Uzzi	and Rephaiah	and Jeriel	and Jahmai	and Jibsam
H1121	H8439	H5813	H7509	H3400	H3181	H3005
וְשִׁמְוֵאל ל	רָאשֵׁי ים	לְבֵית	אֲבוֹתָם	לְתוֹלַע	גִּבּוֹרֵי	
and Shemuel	heads	house	of their father's	of Tola	they were valiant men	
H8050	H7218	H1004	H1	H8439	H1368	
חַיִּים	לְדֹרוֹתָם	מִסְפָּרָם	בַּיּוֹם י	יְדִיד	עֲשָׂרִים	
of might	in their generations	whose number	was in the days	of David	and twenty	
H2428	H8435	H4557	H3117	H1732	H6242	
וּשְׁנַיִם	אֶלֶף	וּשְׁשָׁה	מֵאוֹת:			
two	thousand	and six	hundred			
H8147	H505	H8337	H3967			