

# 1 Chronicles 7:38

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the sons of Jether; Jephunneh, and Pispah, and Ara.

## Analysis

**And the sons of Jether**—this genealogical fragment lists **Jephunneh** (יֶפְנֶה 'he will be turned'), **Pispah** (פִּסְפָּה 'expansion' or 'dispersion'), and **Ara** (אַרָּה 'wandering' or 'wayfaring'). These names appear in Asher's tribal register (v. 30-40), one of Scripture's least-developed tribal genealogies. Asher's relative obscurity in biblical narrative (rarely mentioned after Joshua's allocation) makes every detail significant.

The name **Jephunneh** notably appears as Caleb's father (Numbers 13:6), though that Jephunneh was a Kenizzite (Numbers 32:12) incorporated into Judah, not this Asherite Jephunneh. The name recurrence shows how names circulated across tribes—shared linguistic heritage even when family lines diverged. 'He will be turned' as a name suggests covenantal hope: God turns wanderers home, a theme especially poignant for northern tribes like Asher who largely vanished after Assyrian exile.

**Pispah** ('expansion') and **Ara** ('wandering') create narrative tension: expansion versus wandering, settlement versus dispersion. Asher's allotment along the Phoenician coast provided prosperity through Mediterranean trade but also constant temptation to assimilate with Canaanite culture. These names reflect both blessing and danger inherent in their geographic position.

## Historical Context

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Asher's coastal territory (from Mount Carmel to Phoenicia) made them economically prosperous through trade with Tyre and Sidon but spiritually vulnerable to Baalism. Jacob's blessing promised Asher 'royal dainties' (Genesis 49:20), fulfilled through agricultural abundance and maritime commerce. By the Chronicler's time, Asher's tribal identity had dissolved—most were absorbed into Assyrian deportations (722 BC) or assimilated into Phoenician culture. Anna the prophetess (Luke 2:36) represents a rare post-exilic Asherite maintaining tribal identity.

## Related Passages

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**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## Study Questions

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1. How do the names 'expansion' and 'wandering' in Asher's genealogy illustrate the tension between material blessing and spiritual rootedness?
2. What does Asher's eventual disappearance as a distinct tribe warn about the long-term costs of cultural assimilation over covenant faithfulness?

## Interlinear Text

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וּבְנֵי י	יֶתֶר	יֶפְנֵה	וּפִסָּפָה	אַרָּא:
And the sons	of Jether	Jephunneh	and Pispah	and Ara
H1121	H3500	H3312	H6462	H690

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