

1 Chronicles 9:39

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Ner begat Kish; and Kish begat Saul; and Saul begat Jonathan, and Malchi-shua, and Abinadab, and Esh-baal.

Analysis

And Ner begat Kish; and Kish begat Saul—This genealogy establishes Saul's legitimate royal lineage from Benjamin. The name **Esh-baal** ('man of Baal') instead of the more familiar Ish-bosheth reveals the original name before later scribes substituted bosheth ('shame') for Baal. Chronicles preserves the authentic form, showing how Israelite names initially incorporated pagan elements before monotheistic reform.

The listing of Saul's genealogy in Chronicles' post-exilic context serves theological purposes: legitimizing Benjaminite claims while explaining why God transferred kingship to Judah. The Chronicler doesn't erase Saul from Israel's history but contextualizes his failed kingship within God's larger plan for David's dynasty.

Historical Context

1 Chronicles was written after the Babylonian exile (c. 450-400 BC) to help returning Jews understand their identity. Including Saul's genealogy here connects the pre-monarchic tribal period to David's kingdom, showing continuity in God's covenant purposes despite Saul's failure.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does God's sovereignty work through flawed human leaders and failed dynasties?
2. What does the preservation of Saul's genealogy teach about God's faithfulness to all Israel's tribes?

Interlinear Text

וְנֶר הוֹלִיד אֶת יִשְׁכָּיִשׁ יִשְׁכָּיִשׁ הוֹלִיד אֶת שָׁאֹול שָׁאֹול
And Ner **begat** H5369 H3205 **Kish** **Kish** **begat** H853 H7027 H3205 **Saul** **Saul** H7586 H7586

וְהוֹנָתָן אֶת מַלְכִּישׁוּא וְאַבִּינָדָב
begat H3205 H853 **Jonathan** H3083 H853 H0 **and Malchishua** H4444 H853 **and Abinadab** H41

וְאַשְׁבַּעַל:
H853 **and Eshbaal** H792

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 13:22 (Parallel theme): So it came to pass in the day of battle, that there was neither sword nor spear found in the hand of any of the people that were with Saul and Jonathan: but with Saul and with Jonathan his son was there found.