

Ezra 7:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The son of Shallum, the son of Zadok, the son of Ahitub,

Analysis

The son of Shallum, the son of Zadok, the son of Ahitub—this genealogy traces Ezra's priestly lineage backwards toward Aaron. The name **Zadok** (צָדָק) means 'righteous' and connects Ezra to the Zadokite priestly line that Solomon installed after deposing Abiathar (1 Kings 2:35). This legitimized Ezra's priestly authority, tracing to the line God designated.

Genealogies in Scripture serve theological purposes beyond mere ancestry. This lineage establishes Ezra's credentials as authentic priest and Torah scholar. **Ahitub** (אַחִיטוּב, 'my brother is good') appears multiple times in priestly genealogies, connecting to the high priestly line through Eleazar, Aaron's son.

The repetitive 'son of' formula (ben) emphasizes continuous transmission of priestly office and Torah knowledge. Ezra didn't claim authority through personal achievement but through legitimate succession. This underscores that spiritual leadership requires both divine calling and proper authorization through established order.

Historical Context

The exile disrupted priestly succession, making genealogical records critical for re-establishing legitimate priesthood. Those unable to prove Aaronic descent were excluded from priestly service (Ezra 2:61-63). Zadok's descendants had served as high priests from Solomon's time, representing the legitimate priestly line.

Ezra's genealogy bridges the exile, showing continuity despite the seventy-year disruption. This continuity was essential for maintaining covenant identity and proper worship. The Persian period saw increased emphasis on Torah study, with priests like Ezra becoming scribes and teachers, not merely sacrificial officiants.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does Ezra's legitimate priestly lineage illustrate the importance of proper spiritual authority in teaching God's Word?
2. What does the preservation of genealogical records through exile teach about maintaining identity during displacement?
3. How should modern believers balance respect for historical Christian tradition with direct relationship with God?

Interlinear Text

בֶּן	שָׁלֵם	בֶּן	צָדֵק	בֶּן	אַחִיטוּב
The son	of Shallum	The son	of Zadok	The son	of Ahitub

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