

Ezra 7:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The son of Amariah, the son of Azariah, the son of Meraioth,

Analysis

The son of Amariah, the son of Azariah, the son of Meraioth—continuing backwards through generations, this verse traces Ezra's ancestry through significant priestly names. **Amariah** (אַמְרִיָּה) means 'Yahweh has said,' emphasizing the prophetic/teaching role of priests who declared God's word. **Azariah** (עֲזַרְיָה, 'Yahweh has helped') and **Meraioth** (מְרִיּוֹת, 'rebellions' or possibly 'Yahweh is obstinate/firm') reflect the covenant relationship.

These names form a theological testimony: God speaks (Amariah), God helps (Azariah), and God remains faithful despite human rebellion (Meraioth). The genealogy itself preaches—God maintains His purposes through generations, preserving a priesthood to minister His word and grace.

The compressed genealogy (compare with 1 Chronicles 6:3-15) omits some generations, following common Hebrew practice. The purpose isn't exhaustive ancestry but establishing legitimate connection to Aaron through the proper line. Genealogies establish continuity of God's covenant faithfulness across history's disruptions.

Historical Context

These ancestors served during the divided monarchy period. Amariah appears in 2 Chronicles 19:11 as high priest under Jehoshaphat, indicating Ezra descended from high priests. This connection gave Ezra authority beyond ordinary Levites—he represented the highest priestly line.

The selective nature of genealogies in Ezra-Nehemiah reflects post-exilic concern with establishing legitimacy. With the temple destroyed and monarchy ended, priestly credentials became crucial for community leadership. Ezra's impeccable lineage positioned him as authoritative teacher and reformer.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. What do the theophoric names (incorporating 'Yah'/Yahweh) in Ezra's genealogy teach about naming children as testimony to faith?
2. How does generational faithfulness, evidenced in this genealogy, encourage long-term perspective in discipleship and family faith?
3. What principles emerge from genealogical concern about proper qualifications for spiritual leadership today?

Interlinear Text

בֶּן	אֲמַרְיָה ה	בֶּן	עֲזַרְיָה ה	בֶּן	מֵרַיִת:
The son	of Amariah	The son	of Azariah	The son	of Meraioth
H1121	H568	H1121	H5838	H1121	H4812