

# Ezra 7:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The son of Zerahiah, the son of Uzzi, the son of Bukki,

## Analysis

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**The son of Zerahiah, the son of Uzzi, the son of Bukki**—the genealogy continues reaching back to earlier priestly generations. **Zerahiah** (זֶרְחִיָּה) means 'Yahweh has risen/shone,' suggesting divine glory and revelation. **Uzzi** (עָזָז, 'my strength') and **Bukki** (בָּקִי, 'proved' or 'waste') connect to still earlier generations serving in the pre-monarchical and early monarchical periods.

The pattern continues: names bear witness to God's character and faithfulness. This genealogical chain links Ezra to Israel's foundational period, showing that post-exilic restoration connected to original Mosaic covenant, not innovation. The continuity validates Ezra's teaching authority—he represented an unbroken tradition from Sinai.

Theologically, this illustrates that God's work in history shows continuity, not constant new beginnings. The faith 'once delivered to the saints' (Jude 3) passes through generations. Ezra didn't invent new religion but faithfully transmitted received truth from authoritative lineage.

## Historical Context

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These names appear in 1 Chronicles 6:4-6, confirming the genealogical tradition. Uzzi and Bukki served during the judges period or early monarchy, representing the priesthood as it transitioned from tabernacle to temple worship. The genealogy thus spans Israel's entire covenant history from Sinai to the return from exile.

The preservation of such detailed genealogies through the exile demonstrates the community's commitment to maintaining identity and proper worship structures. Without temple or land, genealogical purity became paramount for preserving distinctive covenant people.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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1. How does the multi-generational scope of Ezra's genealogy challenge contemporary short-term thinking in ministry and discipleship?
2. What does the continuity from Sinai through exile teach about God's faithfulness to preserve His covenant people?
3. How should believers today maintain connection to historical orthodox Christianity while addressing contemporary contexts?

## Interlinear Text

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בֶּן	זֶרְהַיָּה	בֶּן	עָזָזִי	בֶּן	בָּקָי
<b>The son</b>	<b>of Zerahiah</b>	<b>The son</b>	<b>of Uzzi</b>	<b>The son</b>	<b>of Bukki</b>
H1121	H2228	H1121	H5813	H1121	H1231

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