

Luke 3:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Which was the son of Joanna, which was the son of Rhesa,
which was the son of Zorobabel, which was the son of
Salathiel, which was the son of Neri,

Analysis

Which was the son of Joanna, which was the son of Rhesa, which was the son of Zorobabel—Here Luke intersects with Old Testament history: Zerubbabel (Ζοροβάβελ, Zorobabel) was the governor who led the first return from Babylonian exile (Ezra 3:2) and rebuilt the temple. Haggai and Zechariah prophesied during his leadership, and God called him His "signet ring" (Haggai 2:23), reversing the curse on his ancestor Jeconiah.

Salathiel (Shealtiel, שאלתיאל) was Zerubbabel's father according to Ezra 3:2, connecting Jesus's lineage to the post-exilic restoration. The inclusion of these historically verifiable figures anchors the genealogy in documented history, demonstrating Luke's careful research (Luke 1:3: "having followed all things closely," ἀκριβῶς παρηκολουθηκότι).

Historical Context

Zerubbabel (circa 520 BC) represents a pivotal figure connecting pre-exilic Israel to post-exilic Judaism. His temple reconstruction (completed 516 BC) restored central worship and prepared for Messiah's coming. Luke's inclusion demonstrates Jesus as the ultimate temple builder and restoration figure Zerubbabel foreshadowed.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does Zerubbabel's role as temple builder foreshadow Jesus as the ultimate temple (John 2:19-21)?
2. What does God's reversal of the curse on Jeconiah through Zerubbabel reveal about His redemptive power over generational consequences?
3. How does Jesus's connection to the post-exilic restoration fulfill the 'greater exodus' theme in Luke's Gospel?

Interlinear Text

τοῦ G3588	Ἰωάννα Which was the son of Joanna G2490	τοῦ G3588	Ῥησὰ which was the son of Rhesa G4488	τοῦ G3588
	Ζοροβαβὲλ which was the son of Zorobabel G2216	τοῦ G3588	Σαλαθιήλ which was the son of Salathiel G4528	τοῦ G3588
	Νηρὶ which was the son of Neri G3518			

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 1:12 (Parallel theme): And after they were brought to Babylon, Jechonias begat Salathiel; and Salathiel begat Zorobabel;