

Luke 3:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Which was the son of Melchi, which was the son of Addi,
which was the son of Cosam, which was the son of Elmodam,
which was the son of Er,

Analysis

Which was the son of Melchi, which was the son of Addi—Following Zerubbabel, the genealogy continues through lesser-known post-exilic descendants. The name Melchi (Μελχί) derives from Hebrew melekh (מלך, king), ironically pointing toward Jesus's true kingship despite these ancestors' lack of royal power after the exile.

This section covers the "silent centuries" between the Old Testament's close and Jesus's birth—approximately 400 years when Israel had no prophetic voice. Yet God was sovereignly preserving the messianic line through faithful, ordinary Israelites. Their obscurity magnifies grace: Jesus came not through continuing royal splendor but through humble preservation of covenant lineage.

Historical Context

The period from Zerubbabel (520 BC) to Jesus (4 BC) encompassed Persian rule, Alexander's conquest, the Maccabean revolt, and Roman occupation. These ancestors lived through centuries of foreign domination, messianic expectation, and religious development that shaped Second Temple Judaism into which Jesus was born.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does God's preservation of the messianic line through centuries of political subjugation encourage your faith during times of waiting?
2. What does the 'silent' period between testaments teach about trusting God's purposes even when He seems inactive?
3. How might the humble circumstances of Jesus's ancestors have prepared His mission to the poor and marginalized?

Interlinear Text

τοῦ

Μελχὶ

τοῦ

Ἄδδὶ

τοῦ

G3588

Which was the son of Melchi

G3197

G3588

which was the son of Addi

G78

Κωσὰμ

τοῦ

Ἐλμωδὰμ

τοῦ

which was the son of Cosam

G2973

G3588

which was the son of Elmodam

G1678

“Ηρ

which was the son of Er

G2262

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