

# 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

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**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 melek (מֶלֶךְ, 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

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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

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

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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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

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τοῦ G3588	Μελχὶ <b>Which was the son of Melchi</b> G3197	τοῦ G3588	Ἀδδὶ <b>which was the son of Addi</b> G78	τοῦ G3588
	Κωσὰμ <b>which was the son of Cosam</b> G2973	τοῦ G3588	Ἐλμωδὰμ, <b>which was the son of Elmodam</b> G1678	τοῦ G3588
	Ἑρ <b>which was the son of Er</b> G2262			

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