

Numbers 26:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the sons of Pharez were; of Hezron, the family of the Hezronites: of Hamul, the family of the Hamulites.

Analysis

The sons of Pharez were; of Hezron...of Hamul—Judah's genealogy uniquely extends to a third generation, listing Pharez's sons Hezron and Hamul. Hezron (הֶצְרוֹן, 'enclosed' or 'courtyard') became the ancestor of the Hezronites, the clan that produced Ram, Amminadab, Nahshon, Salmon, Boaz, and eventually David (Ruth 4:18-22). This makes Hezron a critical link in the messianic genealogy.

The subdivision into mishpachōt (family clans) within Pharez's line emphasizes its dominance within Judah—the royal line would emerge from Hezron, not Shelah or Zerah. Hamul (חָמוּל, 'spared' or 'pitied') represents divine mercy preserving Judah's line despite the Er/Onan judgments. No other tribe receives this three-generation detail, highlighting Judah's messianic significance.

Historical Context

Hezron was born in Canaan before the descent to Egypt (Genesis 46:12) and likely died in Egypt. His son Ram continued the line through the Egyptian bondage, emerging with Amminadab and Nahshon at the Exodus. This genealogical continuity demonstrates God's preservation of the messianic seed through four centuries of slavery.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. Why does the census single out Pharez's subdivision when other tribes stop at the second generation, and what does this reveal about God's redemptive plan?
2. How does Hezron's name ('enclosed') and position in the genealogy picture God's protective preservation of the messianic line through hostile circumstances?
3. What does the prominence of Pharez over Shelah (Judah's legitimate son by Bathshua) teach about God's sovereign election based on grace rather than human merit?

Interlinear Text

וְהִי ו	בְּנֵי	פָּרֶז	לְהֵזֶרֶן	מִשְׁפַּחַת	הֵזֶרֶן י
H1961	And the sons	of Pharez	were of Hezron	the family	of the Hezronites
	H1121	H6557	H2696	H4940	H2697
לְחָם וּלְ	מִשְׁפַּחַת	הַחֲמוּלִי:			
of Hamul	the family	of the Hamulites			
H2538	H4940	H2539			