

### Genealogies from Adam to Jacob

#### 1 Chronicles 1

**1 Chronicles 1:1-27** - *“Adam, Seth, Enosh, <sup>2</sup> Cainan, Mahalalel, Jared, <sup>3</sup> Enoch, Methuselah, Lamech, <sup>4</sup> Noah, Shem, Ham, and Japheth.*

*<sup>5</sup> The sons of Japheth were Gomer, Magog, Madai, Javan, Tubal, Meshech, and Tiras. <sup>6</sup> The sons of Gomer were Ashkenaz, Diphath, and Togarmah. <sup>7</sup> The sons of Javan were Elishah, Tarshishah, Kittim, and Rodanim.*

*<sup>8</sup> The sons of Ham were Cush, Mizraim, Put, and Canaan. <sup>9</sup> The sons of Cush were Seba, Havilah, Sabta, Raama, and Sabtecha. The sons of Raama were Sheba and Dedan. <sup>10</sup> Cush begot Nimrod; he began to be a mighty one on the earth. <sup>11</sup> Mizraim begot Ludim, Anamim, Lehabim, Naphtuhim, <sup>12</sup> Pathrusim, Casluhim (from whom came the Philistines and the Caphtorim). <sup>13</sup> Canaan begot Sidon, his firstborn, and Heth; <sup>14</sup> the Jebusite, the Amorite, and the Girgashite; <sup>15</sup> the Hivite, the Arkite, and the Sinite; <sup>16</sup> the Arvadite, the Zemarite, and the Hamathite.*

*<sup>17</sup> The sons of Shem were Elam, Asshur, Arphaxad, Lud, Aram, Uz, Hul, Gether, and Meshech. <sup>18</sup> Arphaxad begot Shelah, and Shelah begot Eber. <sup>19</sup> To Eber were born two sons: the name of one was Peleg, for in his days the earth was divided; and his brother's name was Joktan. <sup>20</sup> Joktan begot Almodad, Sheleph, Hazarmaveth, Jerah, <sup>21</sup> Hadoram, Uzal, Diklah, <sup>22</sup> Ebal, Abimael, Sheba, <sup>23</sup> Ophir, Havilah, and Jobab. All these were the sons of Joktan. <sup>24</sup> Shem, Arphaxad, Shelah, <sup>25</sup> Eber, Peleg, Reu, <sup>26</sup> Serug, Nahor, Terah, <sup>27</sup> and Abram, who is Abraham.”*

#### Background Notes

1 & 2 Chronicles cover the same period in the history of the nation of Israel as 2 Samuel through 2 Kings. 1 Chronicles corresponds with 2 Samuel, and 2 Chronicles corresponds with 1 & 2 Kings.

Although there are some similar passages, 1 & 2 Chronicles are not a mere repetition of the same material. The perspective is different. The purpose of 2 Samuel and 1 & 2 Kings is to give a **political history** of the kingdoms of Israel and Judah, whereas the purpose of 1 & 2 Chronicles is to give a **religious history** of David's dynasty of the kingdom of Judah. Samuel and Kings were written from a prophetic and moral viewpoint, whereas Chronicles were written from a priestly and spiritual viewpoint.

In chapters 1-9 we have the largest collection of biblical genealogies in the Bible, that go all the way from Adam to the return of the Jews from their captivity in Babylon. Ezra is most likely the author of 1 & 2 Chronicles, although his name is not given. Ezra was a scribe who came back to Jerusalem in 458BC, with the second wave of captives returning from Babylon. Ezra was very concerned about the spiritual condition of the nation.

The book of Ezra also contains genealogical material. The last two verses of 2 Chronicles are almost identical to the first three verses of the book of Ezra. *“Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the Lord by the mouth of*

*Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the Lord stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and also put it in writing, saying, Thus says Cyrus king of Persia: 'All the kingdoms of the earth the Lord God of heaven has given me. And He has commanded me to build Him a house at Jerusalem which is in Judah. Who is among you of all His people? May the Lord his God be with him, and let him go up!'" (2 Chronicles 32:22-23).*

*Ezra 1:1-3: "Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the Lord stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and also put it in writing, saying, Thus says Cyrus king of Persia: 'All the kingdoms of the earth the Lord God of heaven has given me. And He has commanded me to build Him a house at Jerusalem which is in Judah. Who is among you of all His people? May his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem which is in Judah, and build the house of the Lord God of Israel (He is God), which is in Jerusalem'"*

You can see just by the similarity in those verses that Ezra is the most likely candidate as author of 1 & 2 Chronicles, even though his name is not given.

## **Doctrinal Points**

### **1. The genealogy from Adam to Abraham is important.**

Most people would say that biblical genealogies don't make for exciting reading! In fact, let's be honest. Most of us have only scanned the first few chapters of 1 Chronicles. But biblical genealogies are important. Why? The primary purpose of biblical genealogies is to trace the line from Adam to the Messiah, but a number of other reasons could be given as well. Let's list a couple of other reasons why God included this genealogy.

#### **a. The genealogy from Adam to Abraham is real history.**

Critics of the Bible like to say that the stories in Genesis are just "Jewish legends" – that they're not true history. Well, the critics have a tough time tossing out the biblical genealogies. These genealogies support the fact that the biblical characters of Abraham, Noah, Adam and the others were real people who lived in real history.

#### **b. The genealogies show that mankind has not been on earth for a million years.**

Those who believe the theory of evolution postulate that humans have been around for a million years, and "pre-humans" have been in existence for at least four million years. These folks take a low view of the biblical genealogies in Genesis 5 and 1 Chronicles 1. The biblical genealogy shows that mankind has been on earth only a few thousand years. If there are no gaps in the chronologies of Genesis 5 and Genesis 11, then Adam came from the hand of God during Creation Week only 4000 years before Christ. Even if there are a couple of gaps in the chronological tables of Genesis 5 and 11, they are small. There is **no way** Adam can be pushed back a million years!

Cross-checking Bible passages prevents us from stretching out the early biblical genealogies. For example, Jude 14 says that Enoch was the “seventh from Adam.” Count the names in the first few verses of 1 Chronicles 1 – Adam, Seth, Enosh, Cainan, Mahalalel, Jared and Enoch. Seven generations. No gaps. **The biblical genealogies refute the theory of evolution.**

***c. God included the genealogy from Adam to Abraham for important background.***

For example, verses 13-14: *“Canaan begot Sidon, his firstborn, and Heth; the Jebusite, the Amorite, and the Girgashite.”* When Israel came into the land of Canaan at the time of the Conquest, they conquered the Jebusites, the Amorites, and the Girgashites, as well as others. 1 Chronicles 1 says that they were all Canaanites - descendants of Canaan - and thus the land Israel entered was called the land of Canaan.

Verse 19: *“To Eber were born two sons: the name of one was Peleg, for in his days the earth was divided.”* *“In his days the earth was divided”* refers to the Tower of Babel, when God **divided** the families of the earth by giving them different languages. This background verse supports the biblical account of the Tower of Babel in Genesis 11.

In verses 25-27, we see that Eber was Abraham’s great-great-great-great-grandfather. The Eber who is mentioned on the very ancient Ebla Tablets discovered in Syria is quite likely the same Eber mentioned here, again supporting the biblical record. So the genealogy from Adam to Abraham is important.

**2. The genealogy from Abraham to Jacob is important.**

1 Chronicles 1:28-54 - *“The sons of Abraham were Isaac and Ishmael.”* The sons of Ishmael are listed in verses 29-31. Verses 32-33: *“Now the sons born to Keturah, Abraham’s concubine, were Zimran, Jokshan, Medan, Midian, Ishbak, and Shuah. The sons of Jokshan were Sheba and Dedan. <sup>33</sup> The sons of Midian were Ephah, Epher, Hanoch, Abida, and Eldaah. All these were the children of Keturah.”*

From verse 35 to the end of the chapter, we have the descendants of Esau. Remember, Esau was the father of the Edomites, and thus the chapter closes with *“These were the chiefs of Edom.”* We’ll follow the line from Jacob to David in 1 Chronicles 2.

The purpose of Chronicles is to show the lineage from Adam to Abraham, and then from Abraham to David, to lay the groundwork for the coming of the Messiah through the line of David. So why did God choose to include the sons of Ishmael, the sons of Abraham by Keturah, and the sons of Esau in these genealogies?

Again, all these details show that the Bible is about **real people** and **real history**. It also shows that God is concerned about individual people, not just masses of people - even though these individual people may not be the main focus of God's plans and program for the coming of the Messiah.

And there's even more important background in this complete genealogy from Abraham to Jacob. For example, the Arab people today descend not only from Abraham and Hagar's son Ishmael, but also from the six other sons Abraham had with his second wife Keturah, whom he married after Sarah died. We learn other important biblical background in verse 43: *"Now these were the kings who reigned in the land of Edom before a king reigned over the children of Israel."* So the genealogy from Abraham to Jacob is important.

## Practical Application

### Remember Enoch!

Enoch is listed in 1 Chronicles 1:3 and in the book of Jude. What do you remember about Enoch? He "walked with God" - and he never died.

Genesis 5:21-24 tells us, *"Enoch lived sixty-five years, and begot Methuselah. After he begot Methuselah, Enoch walked with God three hundred years, and had sons and daughters. So all the days of Enoch were three hundred and sixty-five years. And Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him."*

In Hebrews 11:5, the author of Hebrews mentions Enoch in his list of faith heroes. *"By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, and was not found, because God had taken him; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God."* What a great testimony!

Enoch was "raptured" – or caught up - to Heaven before the great Flood of God's judgment in Genesis. This may be a spiritual picture of a "catching-up" of believers to Heaven before the great flood of God's judgment during the future tribulation period.

So - remember Enoch! And let's all have testimonies like Enoch!