

Survey of the Bible part 29 1Chronicles 1:34 – Chapter 9

The book of Chronicles is really a book written to further explain the events of redemptive history through the nation of Israel. In a sense it's the footnote we might have in one our books that gives additional insight about history.

In fact, the book of Chronicles is specifically mentioned for that very purpose all throughout Kings.

2 Kings 1:18 ¹⁸ Now the rest of the acts of Ahaziah which he did, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel?

2 Kings 8:23 ²³ The rest of the acts of Joram and all that he did, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah?

2 Kings 24:5 ⁵ Now the rest of the acts of Jehoiakim and all that he did, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah?

By the way, if this is the case, which books were written first, Kings or Chronicles?

And so, when we come to 1Chronicles what we find is an overview of how God chose to redeem a people for Himself which is why the book begins with a variety of genealogies.

The first genealogy as we saw last week was the lineage of Adam through Noah.

It was this genealogy that named the patriarchs prior to the flood or the pre-diluvian people.

The second genealogy involves post diluvian peoples, which would include Noah and his sons, Shem, Ham and Japheth.

It is from these three sons of Noah that the world will be repopulated. And it is from these three sons that the seed of satan will war against the seed of the woman.

Ham and Japheth will be the two sons through whom the seed of satan will prosper, and the seed of Shem will be the seed through which the Redeemer will come.

Some 15 generations later through the line of Shem will come Abram.

Abraham had two sons who are mentioned here in 1Chronicles: Ishmael and Isaac.

Both of their genealogies are mentioned until we come to Isaac's offspring who was whom?

Jacob. And yet interestingly enough that's not the name that is given in our text.

1 Chronicles 1:34 ³⁴ Abraham became the father of Isaac. The sons of Isaac *were* Esau and Israel.

But what is the name that Abraham gave to this son?

Genesis 25:26 ²⁶ Afterward his brother came forth with his hand holding on to Esau's heel, so his name was called Jacob; and Isaac was sixty years old when she gave birth to them.

In fact, we know that Jacob's name change didn't come until he was an adult.

Genesis 32:24-32 ²⁴ Then Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. ²⁵ When he saw that he had not prevailed against him, he touched the socket of his thigh; so the socket of Jacob's thigh was dislocated while he wrestled with him. ²⁶ Then he said, "Let me go, for the dawn is breaking." But he said, "I will not let you go unless you bless me." ²⁷ So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." ²⁸ He said, "Your name shall no longer be Jacob, but Israel; for you have striven with God and with men and have prevailed." ²⁹ Then Jacob asked him and said, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And he blessed him there. ³⁰ So Jacob named the place Peniel, for *he said*, "I have seen God face to face, yet my life has been preserved." ³¹ Now the sun rose upon him just as he crossed over Penuel, and he was limping on his thigh. ³² Therefore, to this day the sons of Israel do not eat the sinew of the hip which is on the socket of the thigh, because he touched the socket of Jacob's thigh in the sinew of the hip.

Why then, does the writer of 1Chronicles give the name as Israel, when in fact Jacob would not be called Israel until many years later?

Again, keep in mind that this is a genealogy of the redemptive seed of God's people and so this is in keeping with the Messiah being shown here in the pages of 1Chronicles.

An obvious but interesting fact is made at the end of 1Chronicles and that is the fact that there were many kings who reigned in the land long before any king of Israel came to pass.

And so, by the time the seed of the woman continues on through Israel the kings and kingdoms of satan are strong and powerful.

1 Chronicles 1:43 ⁴³ Now these are the kings who reigned in the land of Edom before any king of the sons of Israel reigned. Bela was the son of Beor, and the name of his city was Dinhabah.

It is this verse that takes us back to the books of both 1st and 2nd Kings.

But is it true that there was no King in Israel prior to king Saul?

God Himself was Israel's King and protector and there was no king on earth who could come against Him and yet what did Israel opt for?

1 Samuel 8:4-10 ⁴ Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah; ⁵ and they said to him, "Behold, you have grown old, and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now appoint a king for us to judge us like all the nations." ⁶ But the thing was displeasing in the sight of Samuel when they said, "Give us a king to judge us." And Samuel prayed to the LORD. ⁷ The LORD said to Samuel, "Listen to the voice of the people in regard to all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me from being king over them. ⁸ "Like all the deeds which they have done since the day that I brought them up from Egypt even to this day-- in that they have forsaken Me and served other gods-- so they are doing to you also. ⁹ "Now then, listen to their voice; however, you shall solemnly warn them and tell them of the procedure of the king who will reign over them." ¹⁰ So Samuel spoke all the words of the LORD to the people who had asked of him a king.

But as we come back to our genealogies we see that the genealogy of Israel is thus.

1 Chronicles 2:1-2 ^{NAU} These are the sons of Israel: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun, Dan, Joseph, Benjamin, Naphtali, Gad and Asher.

How many sons do we have here?

Of the twelve sons of Israel who was the son or tribe who would continue the seed through whom the Messiah would come?

Judah. And it is this son in whom we have the next genealogy in the second chapter.

A number of sons are born to Judah and those sons had sons and so on until we come to a man by the name of Nashon.

1 Chronicles 2:11-12 ¹¹ Nahshon became the father of Salma, Salma became the father of Boaz, ¹² Boaz became the father of Obed, and Obed became the father of Jesse;

Does anyone remember anything about Boaz?

He married the servant of Naomi whose name was Ruth.

Does anyone remember of what tribe of Israel Ruth belonged?

She didn't belong to any tribe of Israel, she was a Moabite.

Well, who were the Moabites?

Judges 3:28-30 ²⁸ He said to them, "Pursue *them*, for the LORD has given your enemies the Moabites into your hands." So they went down after him and seized the fords of the Jordan opposite Moab, and did not allow anyone to cross. ²⁹ They struck down at that time about ten thousand Moabites, all robust and valiant men; and no one escaped. ³⁰ So Moab was subdued that day under the hand of Israel. And the land was undisturbed for eighty years.

But where did the Moabites come from?

Genesis 19:32-38 ³² "Come, let us make our father drink wine, and let us lie with him that we may preserve our family through our father." ³³ So they made their father drink wine that night, and the firstborn went in and lay with her father; and he did not know when she lay down or when she arose. ³⁴ On the following day, the firstborn said to the younger, "Behold, I lay last night with my

father; let us make him drink wine tonight also; then you go in and lie with him, that we may preserve our family through our father."³⁵ So they made their father drink wine that night also, and the younger arose and lay with him; and he did not know when she lay down or when she arose.³⁶ Thus both the daughters of Lot were with child by their father.³⁷ *The firstborn bore a son, and called his name Moab; he is the father of the Moabites to this day.*³⁸ As for the younger, she also bore a son, and called his name Ben-ammi; he is the father of the sons of Ammon to this day.

By the time Boaz comes on to the scene the tensions between the Moabites and the Jews were lessened as we see that Naomi's husband took the family and decided to sojourn in the land of Moab for a time. In fact, Naomi's husband together with her two sons died in Moab.

That's when Naomi decided to go back to Bethlehem and it is where she encouraged the two Moabite wives of her two sons to go back to their people. Orpah went back, Ruth didn't, and the rest is history.

The point is that the seed of the woman didn't come from or belong to any one people only, but from many different types of people's who all came from Noah. Many of Noah's descendants rebelled against the Lord, but even in the midst of some of those people God can and did raise up people who would ultimately be a part of Israel, through whom the seed would ultimately come through the specific line of Judah.

1 Chronicles 2:12¹² Boaz became the father of Obed, and Obed became the father of Jesse;

When we look at the genealogy of Jesse we see that he had many sons. But it wasn't until the 7th son comes along that we see the seed continuing through that line.

And who do you think that 7th son was?

David. And he is the king, as the book of 1Kings begins, as his life was coming to a close.

But he is also the King as we come to chapter 3 of 1Chronicles. And his genealogy is laid out here.

But David had many sons who could have continued on the line of the Messiah, but through whom was that line transferred?

Solomon. And who was Solomon's mother?

2 Samuel 12:24 ²⁴ Then David comforted his wife Bathsheba, and went in to her and lay with her; and she gave birth to a son, and he named him Solomon. Now the LORD loved him

1 Chronicles 3:5 ⁵ These were born to him in Jerusalem: Shimea, Shobab, Nathan and Solomon, four, by Bath-shua the daughter of Ammiel;

The name Bath-shua and the name Ammiel appear to be completely different from what we see in 2Sam.12:24

Keep in mind that 1Chronicles was written by different people than the writer of 2Samuel and it is quite possible that their understanding of how the name was spelled or understood phonetically was quite different.

What we do know is that the sons born in Jerusalem to David were from his wife Bathsheba and so this is reflected in 1Chronicles though the variants of their names are a bit different.

But the point is that just like God using pagan people to be part of the covenant people, here we have the line of the Messiah continuing on in what was originally an adulterous affair through Bathsheba and David.

If you and I were going to choose a royal line for someone we would always choose the most holy or beautiful or famous or whatever, but we would probably not choose the dregs of the world to start such a line.

And yet, from a merely human standpoint this is precisely what we see in the line of the Messiah at times in history. I say human standpoint because as God sees His people, they are holy and blameless from a covenantal and positional standpoint.

Romans 4:1-3 ^{NAU} What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh, has found? ² For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not ²before God. ³ For what does the Scripture say? "ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS."

In fact, all who are part of God's people are considered to be special in God's eyes for the sake of His Son Jesus Christ.

Zechariah 2:5-13 ⁵ 'For I,' declares the LORD, 'will be a wall of fire around her, and I will be the glory in her midst.'" ⁶ "Ho there! Flee from the land of the north," declares the LORD, "for I have dispersed you as the four winds of the heavens," declares the LORD. ⁷ "Ho, Zion! Escape, you who are living with the daughter of Babylon." ⁸ For thus says the LORD of hosts, "After glory He has sent me against the nations which plunder you, for he who touches you, touches the apple of His eye. ⁹ "For behold, I will wave My hand over them so that they will be plunder for their slaves. Then you will know that the LORD of hosts has sent Me. ¹⁰ "Sing for joy and be glad, O daughter of Zion; for behold I am coming and I will dwell in your midst," declares the LORD. ¹¹ "Many nations will join themselves to the LORD in that day and will become My people. Then I will dwell in your midst, and you will know that the LORD of hosts has sent Me to you. ¹² "The LORD will possess Judah as His portion in the holy land, and will again choose Jerusalem. ¹³ "Be silent, all flesh, before the LORD; for He is aroused from His holy habitation."

God will dwell among His people; not just the Jews but many nations. This can only be referring to the time in which Christ sits on the throne in the New Jerusalem on the new earth.

The genealogy that takes up the rest of chapter 3 deals with the descendants of Solomon and the line of the Messiah to come.

And then Chronicles goes back to the sons of Jacob or Israel. Chapter 4 deals with the sons of Judah, chapter 5 with Reuben, and so on until all the sons of Israel are mentioned and then we come to chapter 9 where 1Chronicles picks up on the Babylonian captivity.

1 Chronicles 9:1 ^{NAU} So all Israel was enrolled by genealogies; and behold, they are written in the Book of the Kings of Israel. And Judah was carried away into exile to Babylon for their unfaithfulness.

Now we know that Israel had been taken into captivity by the Assyrians many years before, but the rest of God's covenant people are now taken out of the land and interestingly enough it's Judah who, as we saw earlier, is the name of the man through whom the Messiah would come.

And yet what are we told about Judah here in verse one of chapter 9?

Judah was unfaithful.

This actually shows the beauty of God's grace and mercy toward His people, and by this I don't mean just the physical descendants of Abraham. Because as we've seen so far there are many people who were not born into Israel who ended up being part of the promise of God.

Romans 9:6-8 ⁶ But *it is* not as though the word of God has failed. For they are not all Israel who are *descended* from Israel; ⁷ nor are they all children because they are Abraham's descendants, but: "THROUGH ISAAC YOUR DESCENDANTS WILL BE NAMED." ⁸ That is, it is not the children of the flesh who are children of God, but the children of the promise are regarded as descendants.

And so, in the genealogy we see in 1Chronicles, the Holy Spirit is laying out the foundation for the people of promise who will one day inherit all that the Son has bought for them through His atoning death and resurrection.

As we come to chapter 10 of 1Chronicles next week we'll pick up with the exploits of Saul.