

LESSON TWO 4-6

I. GENEALOGIES FROM ADAM TO DAVID (1:1-9:44)

3. THE DESCENDANTS OF THE TRIBE OF JUDAH (2:1-55, 4:23)

INTRODUCTION

The sons of Judah were mothered by Canaanite women, however, Perez was destined to be very important in God's plans. Several familiar names appear in chapters 4-6. The families of the Levites were to have their inheritance in the land of Palestine.

TEXT

Chapter 2-1. These are the sons of Israel: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, and Judah, Issachar, and Zebulun, 2. Dan, Joseph, and Benjamin, Naphtali, Gad, and Asher. 3. The sons of Judah: Er, and Onan, and Shelah; which three were born unto him of Shua's daughter the Canaanitess. And Er, Judah's first-born, was wicked in the sight of Jehovah; and he slew him. 4. And Tamar his daughter-in-law bare him Perez and Zerah. All the sons of Judah were five.

5. The sons of Perez: Hezron, and Hamul. 6. And the sons of Zerah: Zimri, and Ehan, and Heman, and Calcol, and Dara; five of them in all. 7. And the sons of Carmi: Achar, the troubler of Israel, who committed a trespass in the devoted thing. 8. And the sons of Ethan: Azariah.

9. The sons also of Hezron, that were born unto him: Jerahmeel, and Ram, and Chelubai. 10. And Ram begat Amminadab, and Amminadab begat Nahshon, prince of the children of Judah: 11. and Nahshon begat Salma, and Salma begat Boaz. 12. and Boaz begat Obed, and Obed begat Jesse; 13. and Jesse begat his first-born Eliab, and Abinadab the second, and Shimea the third, 14. Nethanel the fourth, Raddai, the fifth, 15. Ozem the sixth, David the seventh; 16. and their sisters were Zeruiah and Abigail. And the sons of Zeruiah: Abishai, and Joab, and Asahel, three. 17. And Abigail bare Amasa: and the father of Amasa was Jether the Ishmaelite.

And Caleb the son of Hezron begat children of Azubah his wife, and of Jerioth; and these were her sons: Jeshur, and Shobab, and Ardon. 19. And Azubah died, and Caleb took unto him Ephrath, who bare him Hur. 20. And Hur begat Uri, and Uri begat Bezalel. 21. And afterward Hezron went in to the daughter of Machir the father of Gilead, whom he took to wife when he was threescore years old; and she bare him Segub. 22. And Segub begat Jair, who had three and twenty cities in the land of Gilead. 23. And Geshur and Aram took the towns of Jair from them, with Kenath, and the villages thereof, even threescore cities. All these were the sons of Machir the father of Gilead. 24. And after that Hezron was dead in Caleb-ephrathah, then Abijah Hezron's wife bare him Ashhur the father of Tekoa.

25. Add the sons of Jerahmeel the first-born of Hezron were Ram the first-born, and Bunah, and Oren, and Ozem, Ahijah. 26. And Jerahmeel had another wife, whose name was Atarah; she was the mother of Onam. 27. And the sons of Ram the first-born of Jerahmeel were Maaz, and Jamin, and Eker. 28. And the sons of Onam were Shammai, and Jada. And the sons of Shammai: Nadab, and Abishur. 29. And the name of the wife of Abishur was Abihail; and she bare him Ahban, and Molid. 30. And the sons of Nadab: Seled, and Appaim; but Seled died without children. 31. And the sons of Appaim: Ishi. And the sons of Ishi: Sheshan. And the sons of Sheshan: Ahlai. 32. And the sons of Jada the brother of Shammai: Jether, and Jonathan; and Jether died without children. 33. And the sons of Jonathan: Peleth, and Zaza. These were the sons of Jerahmeel. 34. Now Sheshan had no sons, but daughters. And Sheshan had a servant, an Egyptian, whose name was Jarha. 35. And Sheshan gave his daughter to Jarha his servant to wife; and she bare him Attai. 36. And Attai begat Nathan, and Nathan begat Zabad, 37. and Zabad begat Ephlal, and Ephlal begat Obed, 38. and Obed begat Jehu, and Jehu begat Azariah, 39. and Azariah begat Helez, and Helez begat Eleasah, 40. and Eleasah begat Sismai, and Sismai begat Shallum, 41. and Shallum begat Jekamiah, and Jekamiah begat Elishama.

And the sons of Caleb the brother of Jerahmeel were Mesha

his first-born, who was the father of Ziph; and the sons of Mareshah the father of Hebron. 43. And the sons of Hebron: Korah, and Tappuah, and Rekem, and Shema. 44. And Shema begat Raham, the father of Jorkeam; and Rekem begat Shammai. 45. And the son of Shammai was Maon; and Maon was the father of Beth-zur. 46. And Ephah, Caleb's concubine, bare Haran, and Moza, and Gazez; and Haran begat Gazez. 47. And the sons of Jahdai: Regem, and Jothan, Geshan, and Pelet, and Ephah, and Shaaph. 48. Maacah, Caleb's concubine, bare Sheber and Tirhanah. 49. She bare also Shaaph the father of Madmannah, Sheva the father of Machbena, and the father of Gibeaz; and the daughter of Caleb was Achsah.

50. These were the sons of Caleb, the son of Hur, the first-born of Ephrathah: Shobal the father of Kiriath-jearim, 51. Salma the father of Beth-lehem, Hareph the father of Beth-gader. 52. And Shobal the father of Kiriath-jearim had sons: Haroeh, half of the Menuhoth. 53. And the families of Kiriath-jearim: the Ithrites, and the Puthites, and the Shumathites, and the Mishraitites; of them came the Zorathites and the Eshtaolites. 54. The sons of Salma: Beth-lehem, and the Netophathites, Atroth-beth-joab, and half of the Manahathites, the Zorites. 55. And the families of scribes that dwelt at Jabez: the Tirathites, the Shimeathites, the Sucathites. These are the Kenites that came of Hammath, the father of the house of Rechab.

Chapter 3-1. Now these were the sons of David, that were born unto him in Hebron: the first-born, Amnon, of Ahinoam the Jezreelitess; the second, Daniel, of Abigail the Carmelitess; 2. the third, Absalom the son of Maacah the daughter of Talmai king of Geshur; the fourth, Adonijah the son of Haggith; 3. the fifth, Shephatiah of Abital; the sixth, Ithream by Eglah his wife: 4. six were born unto him in Hebron; and there he reigned seven years and six months. And in Jerusalem he reigned thirty and three years; 5. and these were born unto him in Jerusalem: Shimea, and Shobab, and Nathan, and Solomon, four, of Bath-shua the daughter of Ammiel; 6. and Ithar, and Elishama, and Eliphelet, 7. and Negah, and Nepheg, and Japhia, 8. and Elishama, and Eliada, and Eliphelet, nine. 9. All these were the

sons of David, besides the sons of the concubines; and Tamar was their sister.

10. And Solomon's son was Rehoboam, Abijah his son, Asa his son, Jehoshaphat his son, 11. Joram his sons, Ahaziah his son, Joash his son, 12. Amaziah his son, Azariah his son, Jotham his son, 13. Ahaz his son, Hezekiah his son, Manasseh his son, 14. Amon his son, Josiah his son. 15. And the sons of Josiah: the first-born Johanan, the second Jehoiakim, the third Zedekiah, the fourth Shallum. 16. And the sons of Jehoiakim: Jeconiah his son, Zedekiah his son. 17. And the sons of Jeconiah, the captive: Shealtiel his son, 18. and Malchiram, and Pedaiah, and Shenazzar, Jekamiah, Hoshama, and Nedabiah. 19. And the sons of Pedaiah: Zerubbabel, and Shimei. And the sons of Zerubbabel: Meshullam, and Hananiah; and Shelomith was their sister; 20. and Hashubah, and Ohel, and Berechiah, and Hasadiah, Jushab-hesed, five. 21. And the sons of Hananiah: Pelatiah, and Jeshaiah; the sons of Rephaiah, the sons of Arnan, the sons of Obadiah, the sons of Shecaniah. 22. And the sons of Shecaniah: Shemaiah. And the sons of Shemaiah: Hattush, and Igal, and Bariah, and Neariah, and Shaphat, six. 23. And the sons of Neariah: Elioenai, and Hizkiah, and Azrikam, three. 24. And the sons of Elioenai: Hodaviah, and Eliashib, and Pelaiah, and Akkub, and Johanan, and Delaiah, and Anani, seven.

Chapter 4-1. The sons of Jusah: Perez, Hezron, and Carmi, and Hur, and Shobal. 2. And Reaiah the son of Shobal begat Jahath; and Jahath begat Ahumai and Lahad. These are the families of the Zorathites. 3. And these were the sons of the father of Etam: Jezreel, and Ishma, and Idbash; and the name of their sister was Hazzelelponi; 4. and Penuel the father of Gedor, and Ezer the father of Hushah. These are the sons of Hur, the first-born of Ephrathah, the father of Bethlehem. 5. And Ashhur the father of Tekoa had two wives, Helah and Naarah. 6. And Naarah bare him Ahuzzam, and Hopher, and Temeni, and Haahashtari. These were the sons of Naarah. 7. And the sons of Helah were Zereth, Izhar, and Ethnan. 8. And Hakkoz begat Anub, and Zobebah, and the families of Aharhel the son of Harum. 9. And Jabez was more honorable than his

brethren: and his mother called his name Jabez, saying, Because I bare him with sorrow. 10. And Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, Oh that thou wouldest bless me indeed, and enlarge my border, and that thy hand might be with me, and that thou wouldest keep me from evil, that it be not to my sorrow! And God granted him that which he requested. 11. And Chelub, the brother of Shuhah begat Mehir, who was the father of Eshton. 12. And Eshton begat Beth-rapha, and Paseah, and Tehinnah the father of Irnahash. These are the men of Recah. 13. And the sons of Kenaz: Othniel, and Seraiah. And the sons of Othniel; Hathath. 14. And Meonothai begat Ophrah: and Seraiah begat Joab the father of Ge-harashim; for they were craftsmen. 15. And the sons of Caleb the son of Jephunneh: Iru, Elah, and Naam; and the sons of Elah; and Kenaz. 16. And the sons of Jehallelel: Ziph, and Ziphah, Tiria, and Asarel. 17. And the sons of Ezrah: Jether, and Mered, and Ephher, and Jalon; and she bare Miriam, and Shammai, and Ishbah the father of Eshtemoa. 18. And his wife the Jewess bare Jered the father of Gedor, and Heber the father of Soco, and Jekuthiel the father of Zanoah. And these are the sons of Bithiah the daughter of Pharaoh, whom Mered took. 19. And the sons of the wife of Hodiah, the sister of Naham, were the father of Keilah the Garmite, and Eshtemoa the Maacathite. 20. And the sons of Shimon: Amnon, and Rinnah, Benhanan, and Tilon. And the sons of Ishi: Zoheth, and Ben-zoheth. 21. The sons of Shelah the son of Judah: Er the father of Lecah, and Laadah the father of Mareshah, and the families of the house of them that wrought fine linen, of the house of Ashbea; 22. and Jokim, and the men of Cozeba, and Joash, and Saraph, who had dominion in Moab, and Jashubi-lehem. And the records are ancient. 23. These were the potters, and the inhabitants of Netaim and Gederah: there they dwelt with the king for his work.

PARAPHRASE

Chapter 2-1. The sons of Israel were: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun, Dan, Joseph, Benjamin, Naphtali,

Gad, Asher. 3. Judah had three sons by Bath-shua, a girl from Canaan: Er, Onan, and Shelah. But the oldest son, Er, was so wicked that the Lord killed him. 4. Then Er's widow, Tamar, and her father-in-law, Judah, became the parents of twin sons, Perez and Zerah. So Judah had five sons.

5. The sons of Perez were Hezron and Hamuel. 6. The sons of Zerah were: Zimri, Ethan, Heman, Calcol, and Dara. 7. (Achan, the son of Carmi, was the man who robbed God and was such a troublemaker for his nation.) 8. Ethan's son was Azariah.

9. The sons of Hezron were Jerahmeel, Ram, and Chelubai. 10. Ram was the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab was the father of Nahshon, a leader of Israel. 11. Nahshon was the father of Salma, and Salma was the father of Boaz. 12. Boaz was the father of Obed, and Obed was the father of Jesse. 13. Jesse's first son was Eliab, his second was Abinadab, his third was Shimea, his fourth was Nethanel, his fifth was Raddai, his sixth was Ozem, and his seventh was David. He also had two girls (by the same wife) named Zeruiah and Abigail. Zeruiah's sons were Abishai, Joab, and Asahel. 17. Abigail, whose husband was Jether from the land of Ishmael, had a son named Amasa.

18. Caleb (the sons of Hezron) had two wives, Azubah and Jerioth. These are the children of Azubah: Jeshur, Shobab, and Ardon. 19. After Azubah's death, Caleb married Ephrath, who presented him with a son, Hur. 20. Hur's son was Uri, and Uri's son was Bezalel. 21. Hezron married Machir's daughter at the age of sixty, and she presented him with a son Segub (Machir was also the father of Gilead.) 22. Segub was the father of Jair, who ruled twenty-three cities in the land of Gilead. 23. But Geshur and Aram wrested these cities from him and also took Kenath and its sixty surrounding villages. 24. Soon after his father Hezron's death, Caleb married Ephrathah, his father's widow, and she gave birth to Ashhur, the father of Tekoa.

25. These are the sons of Jerahmeel (the oldest son of Hezron): Ram (the oldest), Bunah, Oren, Ozem, and Ahijah. 26. Jerahmeel's second wife Atarah was the mother of Onam. 27.

The sons of Ram: Maaz, Jamin, and Eker. 28. Onam's sons were Shammai and Jada. Shammai's sons were Nadab and Abishur. 29. The sons of Abishur and his wife Abihail were Ahban and Molid. 30. Nadab's sons were Seled and Appa-im. Seled died without children, but Appa-im had a son named Ishi; Ishi's son was Sheshan; and Sheshan's son was Ahlai. 32. Shammai's brother Jada had two sons, Jether and Jonathan. Jether died without children, but Jonathan had two sons named Peleth and Zaza. 34,35. Sheshan had no sons, although he had several daughters. He gave one of his daughters to be the wife of Jarha, his Egyptian servant. And they had a son whom they named Attai. 36. Attai's son was Nathan; Nathan's son was Zabad; Zabad's son was Ephlal; Ephlal's son was Obed; 38. Obed's son was Jehu; Jehu's son was Azariah; 39. Azariah's son was Helez; Helez's son was Ele-asah; 40. Ele-asah's son was Sismai; Sismai's son was Shellum; 41. Shallum's son was Jekamiah; Jekamiah's son was Elishama.

42. The oldest son of Caleb (Jerahmeel's brother) was Meshah; he was the father of Ziph, who was father of Mareshah, who was the father of Hebron. 43. The sons of Hebron: Korah, Tappuah, Rekem, and Shema. 44. Shema was the father of Raham, who was the father of Jorke-am. Rekem was the father of Shammai. 45. Shammai's son was Maon, the father of Bethzur. 46. Caleb's concubine Ephah bore him Haran, Moza, and Gazez; Haran had a son named Gazez. 47. The sons of Jahdai: Regem, Jotham, Geshan, Pelet, Ephah, and Shaaph. 48,49. Another of Caleb's concubines, Maacah, bore him Sheber, Tirhanah, Shaaph (the father of Madmannah), and Sheva (the father of Machbenah and of Gibe-a). Caleb also had a daughter, whose name was Achsah.

50. The sons of Hur (who was the oldest son of Caleb and Ephrathah) were Shobal (the father of Kiriath-jearim), 51. Salma (the father of Bethlehem), and Hareph (the father of Beth-gader). 52. Shobal's sons included Kiriath-jearim and Haroeh, the ancestor of half of the Menuhoth tribe. 53. The families of Kiriath-jearim were the Ithrites, the Puthites, the Shumathites, and the Mishraitites (from whom descended the

Zorathites and Eshtaolites). 54. The descendants of Salma were his son Bethlehem, the Netophathites, Atrothbeth-joab, half the Manahathites, and the Zorites; 55. they also included the families of the writers living at Jabez—the Tirathites, Shimeathites, and Sucathites. All these are Kenites who descended from Hammath, the founder of the family of Rechab.

Chapter 3-1. King David oldest son was Amnon, who was born to his wife, Ahino-am of Jezreel. The second was Daniel, whose mother was Abigail from Carmel. 2. The third was Absalom, the sons of his wife Maacah, who was the daughter of King Talmai of Geshur. The fourth was Adonijah, the son of Haggith. 3. The fifth was Shephatiah, the son of Abital. The sixth was Ithream, the son of his wife Eglah. 4. These six were born to him in Hebron, where he reigned seven and one-half years. Then he moved the capital to Jerusalem, where he reigned another thirty-three years. 5. While he was in Jerusalem, his wife Bathsheba (the daughter of Ammi-el) became the mother of his sons Shime-a, Shobab, Nathan, and Solomon. 6-8. David also had nine other sons: Ibhar, Elishama, Eliphelet, Nogah, Nepheg, Japhia, Elishama, Eliada, and Eliphelet. 9. (This list does not include the sons of his concubines.) David also had a daughter Tamar.

10-14. These are the descendants of King Solomon: Rehoboam, Abijah, Asa, Jehoshaphat, Joram, Ahaziah, Joash, Amaziah, Azariah, Jotham, Ahaz, Hezekiah, Manasseh, Amon, Josiah. 15. The sons of Josiah were: Johanan, Jehoiakim, Zedekiah, Shallum. 16. The sons of Jehoiakim: Jeconiah, Zedekiah. 17-18. These are the sons who were born to King Jeconiah during the years that he was under house arrest: She-altiel, Malchiram, Pedaiiah, Shenazzar, Jekamiah, Hoshama, Nedabiah. 19-20. Pedaiiah was the father of Zerubbabel and Shime-i. Zerubbabel's children were: Meshullam, Hananiah, Hashubah, Ohel, Berechiah, Hasadiah, Jushab-hesed, Shelomith (a daughter). 21-22. Hananiah's sons were Pelatiah and Jeshaiiah; Jeshaiiah's son was Rephaiah; Rephaiah's son was Arnan; Arnan's son was Obadiah; Obadiah's son was Shecaniah.

Shecaniah's son was Shemaiah; Shemaiah had six sons, including Hattush, Igal, Bariah, Neariah, and Shaphat. 23. Neariah had three sons: Eli-o-enai, Hizkiah, Azrikam. 24. Eli-o-enai had seven sons: Hodaviah, Eliashib, Pelaiah, Akkub, Johanan, Delaiah, Anani.

Chapter 4-1. These are the sons of Judah: Perez, Hezron, Carmi, Hur, Shobal. 2. Shobal's son Re-aiah was the father of Jahath, the ancestor of Ahumai and Lahad. These were known as the Zorathite clans. 3-4. The descendants of Etam: Jezreel, Ishma, Idbash, Hazzelepni (his daughter), Penuel (the ancestor of Gedor), Ezer (the ancestor of Hushah), The son of Hur, the oldest son of Ephrathah, who was the father of Bethlehem. 5. Ashhur, the father of Tekoa, had two wives-Helah, and Naarah. 6. Naarah bore him Ahuzzam, Nopher, Temeni, and Haahashtari; and Helah bore him Zereth, Izhar, and Ethnan. 8. Koz was the father of Anub and Zobebah; he was also the ancestor of the clan named after Aharhel, the son of Harum. 9. Jabez was more distinguished than any of his brothers. His mother named him Jabez because she had such a hard time at his birth (Jabez means "Distress"). 10. He was the one who prayed to the God of Israel, "Oh, that you would wonderfully bless me and help me in my work; please be with me in all that I do, and keep me from all evil and disaster!" And God granted him his request. 11, 12. The descendants of Recah were: Chelub (the brother of Shuhah), whose son was Mahir, the father of Eshton; Eshton was the father of Bethrapha, Paseah, and Tehinnah; Tehinnah was the father of Irnahash. 13. The sons of Kenaz were Othni-el and Seraiah. Othni-el's sons were Hathath and Meonothai; 14. Meonothai was the father of Ophrah; Seraiah was the father of Joab, the ancestor of the inhabitants of Craftsman Valley (called that because many craftsmen lived there). 15. The sons of Caleb (the son of Jephunneh): Iru, Elah, Naam. The sons of Elah included Kenaz. 16. Jehallelel's sons were: Ziph, Ziphah, Tiri-a, Asarel. 17. Ezrah's sons were: Jether, Mered, Ephher, Jalon. Mered married Bithi-ah, an Egyptian princess. She was the mother of Miriam, Shammai, and Ishbah—an ancestor of Eshtemoa. 18. Eshtemoa's wife was

a Jewess; she was the mother of Jered, Heber, and Jekuthiel, who were, respectively, the ancestors of the Gedorites, Socoites, and Zanoahites. 19. Hodiah's wife was the sister of Naham. One of her sons was the father of Keilah the Garmite, and another was the father of Eshtemoa the Maacathite. 20. The sons of Shimon: Amnon, Rinnah, Ben-hanan, Tilon. The sons of Ishi: Zoheth, Ben-zoheth. 21-22. The sons of Shelah (the son of Judah): Er (the father of Lecah), Laadah (the father of Nareshah), the families of the linen workers who worked at Beth-ashbea, Jokim, the clans of Cozeba, Joash, Saraph (who was a ruler in Moab before he returned to Lehem). These names all come from very ancient records. 23. These clans were noted for their pottery, gardening, and planting; they all worked for the king:

26. Mishma's sons included Hammu-el (the father of Zaccur and grandfather of Shime-i). 27. Shime-i had sixteen sons and six daughters, but none of his brothers had large families—they all had fewer children than was normal in Judah. 28. They lived at Beer-sheba, Moladah, Hazar-shual, 29. Bilhah, Ezem, Tolad, 30. Bethuel, Hormah, Ziklag, 31. Bethmar-caboth, Hazar-susim, Beth-biri, and Sha-araim. These cities were under their control until the time of David. 32-33. Their descendants also lived in or near Etam, Ain, Rimmon, Tochen, and Ashan; some were as far away as Baal. (These facts are recorded in their genealogies.) 34-39. These are the names of some of the princes of wealthy clans who traveled to the east side of Gedor Valley in search of pasture for their flocks: Meshobab, Jamlech, Joshah, Joel, Jehu, Eli-o-enai, Ja-akobah, Jeshohaiah, Asaiah, Adi-el, Jesimi-el, Benaiah, Ziza (the son of Shiphi, son of Allon, son of Jedaiah, son of Shimri, son of Shemaiah).

COMMENTARY

This account of the descendants of the tribe of Judah began in chapter 2 and continues through 4:23. Judah's descendants through Perez are listed in 4:1-23. Judah was the father of five sons. His son, Perez, was the one through whom the line of David passed. 4:1 lists five generations beginning with Perez.

Many of these names in verses 1-23 are not mentioned elsewhere. Hur had been named in 2:19, 20. There was a village in the tribe of Judah called Tekoa. This name appears in the genealogical table (v. 5). Jabez is given some special attention (vv. 9, 10). The experience of sorrow was associated with his birth. He did not want to lead a sorrowful life so he walked with God and he was kept from evil. Buried here in an ancient family record is the affirmation that any person who will trust God can master circumstances which otherwise would defeat him. Othniel (v. 13) was Caleb's nephew and Israel's judge in delivering his people from Cushan-rishathaim and the Mesopotamians (Judges 3:9, 10). Caleb (v. 15) is well known to us. In the hill country of Judah there was a village named "Eshtemoh" (Joshua 15:50). This name is very similar to the "Eshtemoa" of v. 17. The names of Miriam and Shammai are familiar Hebrew names. This Miriam is not to be confused with Moses' sister. A certain woman (v. 18) is called "the Jewess". This is most likely nothing more than a translation of the proper name "Hajehudijah". Another connection with Egypt is reflected in the reference to Bithiah, Pharaoh's daughter, who became wife to Mered. Amnon (v. 20) must be distinguished from David's son by the same name. A brief reference is made to Shelah's sons in verses 21-23. There were among these people some highly skilled craftsmen in the manufacture of fine linen and pottery.

4. THE DESCENDANTS OF THE TRIBE OF SIMEON (4:24-43)

TEXT

Chapter 4:24. The sons of Simeon: Nemuel, and Jamin, Jarib, Zerah, Shaul: 25. Shallum his son, Mibsam his son, Mishma his son. 26. And the sons of Mishma: Hammuel his son, Zaccur his son, Shimei his son. 27. And Shimei had sixteen sons and six daughters; but his brethren had not many children, neither did all their family multiply like to the children of Judah. 28. And they dwelt at Beer-sheba, and Moladah, and

Hazar-shual, 29. and at Billah, and at Ezem, and at Tolad, 30. and at Bethuel, and at Hormah, and at Ziklag, 31. and at Beth-marcaboth, and Hazarsusim, and at Beth-biri, and at Shaaraim. These were their cities unto the reign of David. 32. And their villages were Etam, and Ain, Rimmon, and Tochen, and Ashan, five cities; 33. and all their villages that were round about the same cities, unto Baal. These were their habitations, and they have their genealogy. 34. And Meshobab, and Jamlech, and Joshah the son of Amaziah, 35. and Joe, and Jehu the son of Joshibiah, the son of Seraiah, the son of Asiel, 36. and Elioenai, and Jaakobah, and Jeshohaiah, and Asaiah, and Abiel, and Jesimiel, and Benaiah, 37. and Ziza the son of Shiphi, the son of Allon, the son of Jedaiah, the son of Shimri, the son of Shemaiah; 38. these mentioned by names were princes in their families: and their fathers' houses increased greatly. 39. And they went to the entrance of Gedor, even unto the east side of the valley, to seek pasture for their flocks. 40. And they found fat pasture and good, and the land was wide, and quiet, and peaceable; for they that dwelt there aforetime were of Ham. 41. And these written by name came in the days of Hezekiah king of Judah, and smote their tents, and the Meunim that were found there, and destroyed them utterly unto this day, and dwelt in their stead; because there was pasture there for their flocks. 42. And some of them, even of the sons of Simeon, five hundred men, went to mount Seir, having for their captains Pelatiah, and Neariah, and Rephaiah, and Uzziel, the sons of Ishi. 43. And they smote the remnant of the Amalekites that escaped and have dwelt there unto this day.

PARAPHRASE

Chapter 4:24. The sons of Simeon: Nemu-el, Jamin, Jarib, Zerah, Shaul. 25. Shaul's son was Shallum, his grandson was Mibsam, and his great-grandson was Mishma. 26. Mishma's sons included Hammu-el (the father of Zaccur and grandfather of Shime-i). 27. Shime-i had sixteen sons and six daughters, but none of his brothers had large families—they all had fewer children than was normal in Judah. 28. They lived at

Beer-sheba, Moladah, Hazar-shual, 29. Bilhah, Ezem, Tolad, 30. Bethuel, Hormah, Ziklag, 31. Beth-marcaboth, Hazar-susim, Beth-biri, and Shaaraim. These cities were under their control until the time of David. 32, 33. Their descendants also lived in or near Etam, Ain, Rimmon, Tochen, and Ashan: some were as far away as Baal. (These facts are recorded in their genealogies.) 34-39. These are the names of some of the princes of wealthy clans who traveled to the east side of Gedor Valley in search of pasture for their flocks: Meshobab, Jamlech, Joshah, Joel, Jehu, Eli-o-enai, Ja-akobah, Jeshohaiah, Asaiah, Adi-el, Jesimi-el, Benaiah, Ziza (the son of Shiphi, son of Allon, son of Jedaiah, son of Shimri, son of Shemaiah). 40, 41. They found good pastures, and everything was quiet and peaceful; but the land belonged to the descendants of Ham. So during the reign of King Hezekiah of Judah these princes invaded the land and struck down the tents and houses of the descendants of Ham; they killed the inhabitants of the land and took possession of it for themselves. 42. Later, five hundred of these invaders from the tribe of Simeon went to Mount Seir. (Their leaders were Pelatiah, Ne-ariah; Rephaiah, and Uzziel—all sons of Ishi.) 43. There they destroyed the few surviving members of the tribe of Amalek. And they have lived there ever since.

COMMENTARY

The descendants of Simeon are reviewed in verses 24-43. Since he was not in the direct line of descent leading to Christ, this record is included simply to remind the reader that Jacob had other sons beside Judah. Jacob practically disinherited Simeon at the time of the pronouncement of the patriarchal blessing (Genesis 49:5-7). Simeon had a rather numerous family; however, by God's own design, this tribe was never to be a great one in Israel. The Simeonites took their possession within the limits of the territory of Judah. Some of their chief villages were Beersheba, Hormah, and Ziklag. All of these places are important in Hebrew history. When David came on the scene he found the Simeonites living in the territory which had been theirs since Joshua's day. There was a place in Judah called

“Etam” where Samson took refuge on one occasion (v. 32). The Simeonite people for the most part were shepherds and they lived in good pasture lands. The reference to “Ham” in v. 40 simply states that some of these people who settled mainly in Canaan and Egypt at one time lived in the southern tract of Judah. During Hezekiah’s day (c. 700 B.C.) there had been conflict in Simeon’s territory over pasture lands. The Simeonites were able at that time to take some territory in Edom (Mount Seir). At the same time the Simeonites successfully engaged the Amalekites in war.

5. THE DESCENDANTS OF THE TRIBE OF REUBEN (5:1-10)

TEXT

Chapter 5:1. And the sons of Reuben the first-born of Israel (for he was the first-born; but, forasmuch as he defiled his father’s couch, his birthright was given unto the sons of Joseph the son of Israel; and the genealogy is not to be reckoned after the birthright. 2. For Judah prevailed above his brethren, and of him came the prince; but the birthright was Joseph’s), 3. the sons of Reuben the first-born of Israel: Hanoch, and Pallu, Hezron, and Carmi. 4. The sons of Joel: Shemaiah his son, Gog his son, Shimei his son, 5. Micah his son, Reaiah his son, Baal his son, 6. Beerah his son, whom Tilgath-pilneser king of Assyria carried away captive: he was prince of the Reubenites. 7. And his brethren by their families, when the genealogy of their generations was reckoned: the chief, Jeiel, and Zechariah, 8. and Bela the son of Azaz, the son of Shema, the son of Joel, who dwelt in Aroer, even unto Nebo and Baal-meon: 9. and eastward he dwelt even unto the entrance of the wilderness from the river Euphrates, because their cattle were multiplied in the land of Gilead. 10. And in the days of Saul, they made war with the Hagarites, who fell by their hand: and they dwelt in their tents throughout all the land east of Gilead.

PARAPHRASE

Chapter 5:1. The oldest son of Israel was Reuben, but since

he dishonored his father by sleeping with one of his father's wives, his birthright was given to his half brother, Joseph. So the official genealogy doesn't name Reuben as the oldest son. 2. Although Joseph received the birthright, yet Judah was a powerful and influential tribe in Israel, and from Judah came a Prince. 3. The sons of Reuben, Israel's son, were: Hanoah, Pallu, Hezron, Carmi. 4. Joel's descendants were his son Shemaiah, his grandson Gog, and his great-grandson Shime-i. 5. Shime-i's son was Micah; his grandson was Reaiah; and his great-grandson was Baal. 6. Baal's son was Beerah. He was a prince of the tribe of Reuben and was taken into captivity by King Tilgath-pilneser of Assyria. 7, 8. His relatives became heads of clans and were included in the official genealogy: Je-iel, Zechariah, Bela (the son of Azaz, grandson of Shema, and great-grandson of Joel). These Reubenites lived in Aroer and as far distant as Mount Nebo and Baal-meon. 9. Joel was a cattle man, and he pastured his animals eastward to the edge of the desert and to the Euphrates River, for there were many cattle in the land of Gilead. 10. During the reign of King Saul, the men of Reuben defeated the Hagarites in war and moved into their tents on the eastern edges of Gilead.

COMMENTARY

Once more the natural law of the first-born is violated as the chronicler has already given attention to Judah and Simeon. Reuben was Jacob's first son borne by Leah (Genesis 29:32). This son, who was the hope of Jacob's family, proved unworthy of the trust when he dared to sin sexually with Bilhah, his father's concubine (Genesis 35:22). In the patriarchal meeting (Genesis 49:3, 4), Reuben was disinherited. Genesis, chapter 48, describes the blessings pronounced on Joseph's sons, Ephraim and Manasseh. The record would indicate that Reuben's blessing was shared with the sons of Joseph. Judah, however, received a blessing and a responsibility which was greater than Reuben's and which also exceeded that of the sons of Joseph. Reuben's sons are listed in Numbers 26:5-7 when in the second census his warriors numbered 43,730. These sons are Hanoah, Pallu,

Hezron, and Carmi. The names that follow in verses 4-10 are Reuben's descendants. Reuben's territory lay beyond the Jordan to the south and east. These tribes suffered at the hands of the Assyrians when Tilgath-pilneser and his armies overthrew Samaria and scattered the tribes of Israel in 722-21 B.C. Aroer and Nebo were located beyond the Jordan eastward. Nebo was the region from which Moses once viewed Canaan. The Gilead country bordered the Jordan river on the east and pertained to the territory of Reuben. The Hagrites may have derived from Hagar. There was a tribe by this name in northern Arabia. At some time the Reubenites fought with these people and displaced them in the Gilead region.

6. THE DESCENDANTS OF THE TRIBE OF GAD (5:11-17)

TEXT

Chapter 5:11. And the sons of Gad dwelt over against them, in the land of Bashan unto Salecah: 12. Joel the chief, and Shapham the second, and Janai, and Shaphat in Bashan. 13. And their brethren of their fathers' houses: Michael, and Meshullam, and Sheba, and Jorai, and Jacan, and Zia, and Eber, seven. 14. These were the sons of Abihail and the son of Huri, the son of Jaroah, the son of Gilead, the son of Michael, the son of Jeshishai, the son of Jahdo, the son of Buz; 15. Ahi the son of Abdiel, the son of Guni, chief of their fathers' houses. 16. And they dwelt in Gilead in Bashan, and in its towns, and in all the suburbs of Sharon, as far as their borders. 17. All these were reckoned by genealogies in the days of Jotham king of Judah, and in the days of Jeroboam king of Israel.

PARAPHRASE

Chapter 5:11. Across from them, in the land of Bashan, lived the descendants of Gad, who were spread as far as Salecah. 12. Joel was the greatest and was followed by Shapham, also Janai and Shaphat. 13. Their relatives, the heads of the seven clans, were Michael, Meshullam, Sheba, Jorai, Jacan, Zia, and Eber. 14. The descendants of Buz, in the order of their

generations, were: Jahdo, Jeshishai, Michael, Gilead, Jaroah, Huri, Abihail. 15. Ahi, the son of Abdi-el and grandson of Guni, was the leader of the clan. 16. The clan lived in and around Gilead (in the land of Bashan) and throughout the entire pasture country of Sharon. 17. All were included in the official genealogy at the time of King Jotham of Judah and King Jeroboam of Israel.

COMMENTARY

Gad shared the trans-Jordanic territory with Reuben and Manasseh. These three tribes were in a precarious position because of their nearness to the desert. They were always vulnerable to warring bands of tribesmen and were destined never to play a significant role in Hebrew history. These were the tribes that requested of Moses this part of Palestine for their homeland. Moses suspected that they wanted to avoid military service in the proposed conquest of Canaan (Numbers 32). They assured Moses, Joshua, and Eleazar that they would help take Canaan, but they wanted this land east of the Jordan river because it was good pasture land. In making this choice, they also removed themselves from the main stream of Hebrew history. Bashan lay beyond the Sea of Chinnereth to the east. Salecah was a village on the far east boundary of Bashan. The names that follow in verses 12-15 are Gad's descendants. We know nothing more about them in the Bible record. Through their generations they shared the pasture lands of the Gilead country. There was a beautiful plain of Sharon on the Mediterranean coast in Canaan. This Sharon in v. 16 probably refers to a section in Gilead. There were genealogical studies done in the days of Jotham, King of Judah, (about 740 B.C.) and in the days of Jeroboam II, King of Israel (about 760 B.C.). Perhaps at regular intervals lists of ancestors were revised and brought up to date.

7. THE DESCENDANTS OF REUBEN, GAD, AND MANASSEH, WAR BEYOND THE JORDAN (5:18-26)

TEXT

Chapter 5:18. The sons of Reuben, and the Gadites, and the half-tribe of Manasseh, of valiant men, men able to bear buckler and sword, and to shoot with bow, and skillful in war, were forty and four thousand seven hundred and threescore, that were able to go forth to war. 19. And they made war with the Hagarites, with Jetur, and Naphish, and Nodab. 20. And they were helped against them, and the Hagarites were delivered into their hand, and all that were with them; for they cried to God in the battle, and he was entreated of them, because they put their trust in him. 21. And they took away their cattle; of their camels fifty thousand, and of sheep two hundred and fifty thousand, and of asses two thousand, and of men a hundred thousand. 22. For there fell many slain, because the war was of God. And they dwelt in their stead until the captivity. 23. And the children of the half-tribe of Manasseh dwelt in the land: they increased from Bashan unto Baal-hermon and Senir and Mount Hermon. 24. And these were the heads of their fathers' houses: even Ephraim, and Ishi, and Eliel, and Azriel, and Jeremiah, and Hodaviah, and Jahdiel, mighty men of valor, famous men, heads of their fathers' houses. 25. And they trespassed against the God of their fathers, and played the harlot after the gods of the peoples of the land, whom God destroyed before them. 26. And the God of Israel stirred up the spirit of Pul king of Assyria, and the spirit of Tilgath-pilneser king of Assyria, and he carried them away, even the Reubenites, and the Gadites, and the half-tribe of Manasseh, and brought them unto Halah, and Habor, and Hara, and to the river of Gozan, unto this day.

PARAPHRASE

Chapter 5:18. There were 44,760 armed, trained, and brave troops in the army of Reuben, Gad, and the half-tribe of Manasseh. 19. They declared war on the Hagarites, the Jeturites, the Naphishites, and the Nodabites. 20. They cried out to God

to help them, and he did, for they trusted in him. So the Hagarites and all their allies were defeated. 21. The booty included 50,000 camels, 250,000 sheep, 2,000 donkeys, and 100,000 captives. 22. A great number of the enemy also died in the battle, for God was fighting against them. So the Reubenites lived in the territory of the Hagarites until the time of the Exile. 23. The half-tribe of Manasseh spread through the land from Bashan to Baal-hermon, Senir, and Mount Hermon. They too were very numerous. 24. The chiefs of their clans were the following: Ephraim, Ishi, Eliel, Azri-el, Jeremiah, Hodaviah, Jahdi-el. Each of these men had a great reputation as a warrior and leader. 25. But they were not true to the God of their fathers; instead they worshiped the idols of the people whom God had destroyed. 26. So God caused King Pul of Assyria (also known as Tilgath-pilneser III) to invade the land and deport the men of Reuben, Gad, and the half-tribe of Manasseh. They took them to Halah, Habor, Hara, and the Gozan River, where they remain to this day.

COMMENTARY

There is no indication here as to just when Reuben, Gad and Manasseh went to war against the Hagarites and their allies. It is of interest to note that in Joshua's day when they sent warriors to help conquer Canaan; they sent 40,000 men (Joshua 4:12, 13). In this later day they are able to muster 44,760 men. The Hagarites had been named in 5:10. Nothing more is known about Nodab. Jetur and Naphish are named in Genesis 25:15 among Ishmael's people. The name Jetur is preserved in the name Ituraea (Luke 3:1). The Ituraeans were notorious warriors. As in all other military conflicts in which Israel's cause was righteous and in which she trusted in Jehovah, God gave victory to the transjordanic Hebrew tribes in this conflict. That it was a significant event is evident from the tremendous amount of prey taken. The chronicler is concerned that the reader understand that Jehovah gave the victory—"the war was of God". The land once owned by desert tribes is now possessed by the tribes of Israel. A part of the tribe of Manasseh settled

the Bashan country east of the Sea of Chinnereth. Baal-hermon, Senir, and Mount Hermon all refer to the same area in the north-east corner of Palestine. The descendants of Manasseh (v. 24) are named only here. They were men of war, as was Machir, Manasseh's son. An often used phrase, "played the harlot", is employed here to describe the idolatry of these Hebrew tribes. Jehovah's response to this breach of the covenant is to send "Pul", Tilgath-pilneser, of Assyria, to over-run and deport the transjordanic tribes. This took place about 722-21 B.C. These Israelites beyond the Jordan to the east joined their brethren from Samaria and Israel west of the Jordan in the captivity (II Kings 17:6). They were scattered in the regions of the upper Euphrates river. Hara probably is the same as Haran in Mesopotamia.

8. THE DESCENDANTS OF THE TRIBE OF LEVI (6:1-30)

TEXT

Chapter 6:1. The sons of Levi: Gershon, Kohath, and Merari. 2. And the sons of Kohath: Amram, Izhar, and Hebron, and Uzziel. 3. And the children of Amram: Aaron, and Moses, and Miriam. And the sons of Aaron: Nadab, and Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar. 4. Eleazar begat Phinehas, Phinehas begat Abishua, 5. and Abishua begat Bukki, and Bukki begat Uzzi, 6. and Uzzi begat Zerahiah, and Zerahiah begat Meraioth, 7. Meraioth begat Amariah, and Amariah begat Ahitub, 8. and Ahitub begat Zadok, and Zadok begat Ahimaaz, 9. and Ahimaaz begat Azariah, and Azariah begat Johanan, 10. and Johanan begat Azariah, (he it is that executed the priest's office in the house that Solomon built in Jerusalem,) 11. and Azariah begat Amariah, and Amariah begat Ahitub, 12. and Ahitub begat Zadok, and Zadok begat Shallum, 13. and Shallum begat Hilkiah, and Hilkiah begat Azariah, 14. and Azariah begat Seraiah, and Seraiah begat Jehozadak; 15. and Jehozadak went into captivity, when Jehovah carried away Judah and Jerusalem by the hand of Nebuchadnezzar. 16. The sons of Levi:

Gershom, Kohath, and Merari. 17. And these are the names of the sons of Gershom: Libni and Shimei. 18. And the sons of Kohath were Amram, and Izhar, and Hebron, and Uzziel. 19. The sons of Merari: Mahli and Mushi. And these are the families of the Levites according to their fathers' houses. 20. Of Gershom: Libni his son, Jahath his son, Zimmah his son, 21. Joah his son, Iddo his son, Zerah his son, Jeatherai his son. 22. The sons of Kohath: Amminadab his son, Korah his son, Assir his son, 23. Elkanah his son, and Ebiasaph his son, and Assir his son. 24. Tahath his son, Uriel his son, Uziah his son, and Shaul his son. 25. And the sons of Elkanah: Amasai, and Ahimoth. 26. As for Elkanah, the sons of Elkanah: Zophai his son, and Nahath his son, 27. Eliab his son, Jeroham his son, Elkanah his son. 28. And the sons of Samuel: the first-born Joel, and the second Abijah. 29. The sons of Merari: Mahi, Libni his son, Shimei his son, Uzzah his son, 30. Shimea his son, Haggiah his son, Asaiah his son.

PARAPHRASE

Chapter 6:1. These are the names of the sons of Levi: Gershom, Kohath, Merari. 2. Kohath's sons were: Amram, Izhar, Hebron, Uzziel. 3. Amram's descendants included: Aaron, Moses, Miriam. Aaron's sons were: Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, Ithamar. 4-15. The oldest sons of the successive generations of Aaron were as follows: Eleazar, the father of Phinehas, the father of Abishua, the father of Bukki, the father of Uzzi, the father of Zerachiah, the father of Meraioth, the father of Amariah, the father of Ahitub, the father of Zadok, the father of Ahima-az, the father of Azariah, the father of Johanan, the father of Azariah (the High Priest in Solomon's Temple at Jerusalem), the father of Amariah, the father of Ahitub, the father of Zadok, the father of Shallum, the father of Hilkiah, the father of Azariah, the father of Seraiah, the father of Jehozadak (who went into exile when the Lord sent the people of Judah and Jerusalem into captivity under Nebuchadnezzar). 16. As previously stated, the sons of Levi were: Gershom, Kohath, Merari. 17. The sons of Gershom were:

Libni, Shime-i. 18. The sons of Kohath were: Amram, Izhar, Hebron, Uzziel. 19, 20, 21. The sons of Merari were: Mahli, Mushi. The subclans of the Levites were: In the Gershom clan: Libni, Jahath, Zimmah, Joah, Iddo, Zerah, Jeatherai. 22, 23, 24. In the Kohath clan: Amminadab, Korah, Assir, Elkanah, Ebiasaph, Assir, Tahath, Uriel, Uziah, Shaul. 25, 26, 27. The subclan of Elkanah was further divided into the families of his sons: Amasai, Ahimoth, Elkanah, Zophai, Nahath, Eliab, Jeroham, Elkanah. 28. The families of the subclan of Samuel were headed by Samuel's sons: Joe, the oldest; Abijah, the second. 29, 30. The subclans of the clan of Merari were headed by his sons: Mahi, Libni, Shime-i, Uzzah, Shime-a, Haggiah, Asaiah.

COMMENTARY

The sons of Levi and their descendants are named in 6:1-30.¹ Levi attained a real importance among the twelve sons of Jacob. He and Simeon were guilty of taking vengeance upon the Shechemites (Genesis 34:25) for which action they were severely rebuked by their father. Jacob remembered this event (Genesis 49:5) at the time of the patriarchal blessing. Because of his share in the slaughter of the Shechemites, Levi was destined to be given the assignment of the priesthood and tabernacle service. His descendants would be scattered throughout Israel. The tribe of Levi was the smallest of the twelve tribes of Israel. Whatever glory was associated with the work the Levites were to do was theirs because they had distinguished themselves as faithful servants of Jehovah at Sinai when many other Hebrews were involved in worshipping the golden calf (Exodus 32:26).

Levi's sons were Gershom, Kohath, and Merari. The record here turns immediately to Kohath because his is the high priestly house. Kohath's sons are named and the most important of these is Amram because he was the father of Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. Aaron was the father of four sons:

¹Clarke, Adam, *A Commentary and Critical Notes*, Vol. II, Carlton and Porter, New York, n.d., p. 588.

Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar.¹ Nadab and Abihu used strange fire in offering sacrifices and were struck down by Jehovah (Numbers 3:4). Aaron was the first high priest in Israel. He was succeeded by his son, Eleazar. The next twenty names in the list, from Phinehas through Seraiah, are believed to be names of high priests. Phinehas served as high priest in Joshua's day (Joshua 22:10-33). Seraiah (Jeremiah 52:24) was high priest in the days of Zedekiah, Judah's last king. Some significant events related to the lives of some of these men are recorded in the Bible. Ahitub is identified as the father of Zadok. There are several references to him in the books of Samuel and Kings. Zadok and Abiathar were the leading priests at the time of David's flight from Absalom (II Samuel 15:24). Later, Abiathar cast his lot with Adonijah (I Kings 1:7, 8); but Zadok remained loyal to David. Zadok probably died before the Temple was built. Ahimaaz, Zadok's son, was faithful to David in the Absalom crisis (II Samuel 15:36) and is well known as a post or a runner. In bringing the news of Absalom's death, Ahimaaz outran the Cushite messenger, but could not bring himself to tell David the bad news (II Samuel 18:19ff). Azariah (v. 10) is identified as a priest who served in Solomon's Temple. Ahimaaz' son was named Azariah and there was another priest by the same name who lived in Uzziah's day, about 750 B. C. (II Chronicles 26:17, 20). Since some of these priestly names recur, it is not strange that the names of Ahitub and Zadok appear in verse 8 and also in verse 12. One of the most important names in this priestly list is that of Hilkiah. He was high priest when Josiah was king of Judah (640-609 B. C.). He was a leading spirit in the great religious revival of that era. This revival was launched with the discovery of "the book of the Law in the house of the Lord" (II Kings 22:8). II Chronicles 35:1-19 describes the great Passover in the eighteenth year of Josiah's reign under the leadership of Hilkiah. Seraiah is identified as the high priest in the days of Zedekiah (Jeremiah 52:24-27) when Jerusalem fell to Babylon. Jehozadak never attained to the high priestly office because of the overthrow of

¹Spence, H. D. M. *The Pulpit Commentary, I Chronicles*, p. 83.

Jerusalem; but he is renowned as the father of Jeshua who served as high priest with Zerubbabel when Israel returned from Babylon.

Having traced the high priestly register, the chronicler now turns (verses 16-30) to a general listing of Levi's people. The principal families of Gershom, Kohath, and Merari are named in verses 17-19. Then the lines of descent are traced through Levi's grandsons. Verses 22-28 trace the descendants of Kohath to Joel, Samuel's son. Elkanah, Samuel's father, was a Kohathite Levite. Samuel was the father of Joel and Abijah who were not good priests (I Samuel 8:2, 3).

The regular responsibilities of the Levites are detailed in verses 31-48. David gave special attention to the organization of worship after he set up a tent for the ark in Jerusalem. The Levitical ministry of sacred music comes into its own at that time and was well ordered by the time the Temple was built. Heman, son of Joel, a Kohathite Levite is called a "singer".¹ Careful attention is given in tracing his pedigree back to Israel or Jacob. Asaph is identified as Heman's "brother". He is "brother" in the sense that the two men hold similar offices. Asaph's lineage is traced back to Levi and Jacob through Gershom, son of Levi. Ethan shared the office of musical direction with Heman and Asaph. He descended from Merari, son of Levi. In these three men all of the branches of Levi's tribe were represented. We are advised in verse 48 that Kohathites, Gershonites, and Merarites continued to perform their respective duties at the tabernacle.

Once more, in verses 49-53, Aaron's family is singled out for special attention. Some of Aaron's descendants down to the time of David are mentioned. Earlier (v. 15), the list carried down to the overthrow of Jerusalem.

The rest of chapter six (verses 54-81) is concerned about the villages of the Levites. When the land of Palestine was originally apportioned among the tribes of Israel, the tribe of Levi did not receive a designated plot like Judah or Ephraim. To the tribe of Levi forty-eight villages were assigned. These villages were

¹Spence, H. D. M., *The Pulpit Commentary, I Chronicles*, p. 85.

located throughout Palestine and included the six cities of refuge (Numbers 35:1-8). The Kohathite villages were located in Judah, Benjamin, Ephraim, and Manasseh (verses 57-61). Since the Kohathites would provide the officiating priests, their villages were nearer the location of the tabernacle and the temple. Among the Kohathite villages were Hebron and Shechem, cities of refuge. The Gershonite (Gershon) villages were situated in the tribes of Issachar, Asher, Naphtali, and Manasseh (east of Jordan). Golan and Kedesh Naphtali were the Gershonite cities of refuge. The Merarite villages were located in the territories of Reuben, Gad, and Zebulun. The cities of refuge pertaining to Merari were Bezer and Ramoth. The "suburbs" of the Levitical cities encompassed an area extending one thousand cubits (about 500 yards) from the wall of the city all the way around the city (Numbers 35:4). This area was used as a pasture land for the Levites' flocks.

SUMMARY QUESTIONS

LESSON TWO 4-6

51. Why would special attention be given to Judah's family?
52. Who is this Jabéz named in 4:9?
53. Identify Othniel (4:13). What do you know about him from other references in the Bible?
54. Fully identify Caleb.
55. Who was Shelah? What do you learn about him from earlier Biblical reference?
56. What were some of the occupations of the descendants of Judah?
57. Where did the tribe of Simeon take its possession? Name some of the principal cities.
58. What was meant by the expression "a wide land"?
59. Carefully locate Mt. Seir.
60. Who was the great ancestor of the Amalekites?
61. Why did Reuben lose his birthright? Name the person with whom he was involved.
62. With regard to the birthright, why was Judah preferred

over Joseph?

63. Identify the Tilgath-pileser of 5:6.
64. Where did the tribe of Reuben take its possession? Locate the territory.
65. Carefully locate the regions inhabited by the tribe of Gad.
66. Name the three Hebrew tribes that lived beyond the Jordan eastward.
67. With whom did these tribes East of the Jordan go to war? Why were they able to win?
68. What is meant by "the captivity"?
69. Locate Mount Hermon and name the Hebrew tribe located in this region.
70. Why were the trans-Jordanic tribes deported? Who carried them away?
71. Name the sons of Levi.
72. Who was Amram? Name his children.
73. Name the sons of Aaron.
74. Identify Phinehas.
75. Who was Ahitub? In what other connection do you learn of him in the Bible?
76. What distinction did Azariah hold (6:10)?
77. Identify the Hilkiah of 6:13?
78. Who was Jehozadak?
79. In regard to the tabernacle, what special responsibilities were fulfilled by the sons of Levi? Check Exodus references.
80. Who is the Elkanah of 6:27?
81. Name the sons of Samuel. What kind of men were they?
82. What did David do with the Levites?
83. Who was Heman?
84. Identify Korah. What do you know about him from an earlier record?
85. Identify Asaph.
86. What special services were performed by Aaron and his sons?
87. Trace other Bible references to Zadok.

88. Name and locate the main Kohathite villages.
89. Carefully locate Anathoth.
90. What are "suburbs"?
91. Where were the Gershonite villages located?
92. Describe the general location of the Merarite villages.
93. Name the cities of refuge. Compare these names with the record in Joshua 21:20-39.
94. Why were cities of refuge appointed?