

I WANT TO KNOW MY BIBLE

Why the Genealogies?

TEXT: 1 Chronicles 1-6

Introduction: Congratulations to all of you who are persevering through the reading through the Bible chronologically.

I want to encourage those who have fallen behind. Do not give up. Pick up some of the Bible Book studies at the Welcome Desk to catch up on the story, and resume where we are. As you have opportunity you can go back and read what you missed, but that will be easier than always being behind. Just don't quit! We are already through 30% of the Scriptures.

And that means we have come to 1 Chronicles, the first part of which is filled with seemingly endless genealogies. So, this week we read a multitude of verses like

1 Chronicles 2:5–10

⁵ The sons of Perez were Hezron and Hamul. ⁶ The sons of Zerah were Zimri, Ethan, Heman, Calcol, and Dara—five of them in all.

⁷ The son of Carmi was Achar, the troubler of Israel, who transgressed in the accursed thing.

⁸ The son of Ethan was Azariah.

⁹ Also the sons of Hezron who were born to him were Jerahmeel, Ram, and Chelubai. ¹⁰ Ram begot Amminadab, and Amminadab begot Nahshon, leader of the children of Judah;

And you say out of the more than a dozen names in that list, I can identify one.

Two or three others sound a little familiar, but I could not say for sure who they are.

The rest are total strangers!

No wonder at this point that many people ask, "Why does the Bible have all of these genealogies?"

This morning I hope to answer that question, not because the question is of such great importance; but because **the answer is of very great importance.**

I. THE DETAIL SUCH AS CONTAINED IN THE GENEALOGIES CONFIRMS THE RELIABILITY OF THE BIBLE.

A. Guinness World Records says that without question, the Bible is the most widely distributed book in the world, placing the number of printed copies at more than 5 billion.

1. The bible has been fully translated into 349 languages.

2. 2,123 languages have at least one book of the Bible.

- B.** Not only because of its wide distribution but because of its supreme importance, **the Bible is probably the most criticized book in the world as well.**
- C.** There are many people, even pastors and theologians, who say the Bible is erroneous when it comes to science or history.
- D.** The view that the Bible, at best, is only a book of religious truth, is the most common view of the Bible today being taught in seminaries around the world.

(Thankfully, our six Southern Baptist Seminaries are an exception to this rule!)

- E.** This is a critical issue. If the Bible is not historically and scientifically true, we lose all reason for believing that
- **Jesus is the Son of God.**
 - **Jesus' death paid the penalty for our sins.**
 - **Jesus rose from the dead.**
 - **Those who trust in Jesus will have eternal life.**
- F.** A surprising testimony not only for the reliability but for the inerrancy of the Bible comes from the genealogies and other such detailed passages that seem somewhat perfunctory in the Scriptures.
- G.** Allow me to introduce you to **Robert Dick Wilson.**

A google search will reveal some interesting facts including the following.....

1. Robert Wilson was **born in 1856 in Pennsylvania.** He **could read by age 4** and began school when he was 5. He was educated in the public schools until **he was prepared to enter the Sophomore Class at Princeton University when he was 14** years old. **Due to illness, he did not enter until he was 17, so he did not graduate until he was 20.**
2. He proved to be an extraordinary language student. **While still at Princeton, he was able to read the New Testament in 9 languages,** and **eventually learned a total of 45 languages.** He graduated from Princeton University at the age of 20 and went on to earn both a Masters Degree and a Ph.D. He then did further post-graduate work at the Humboldt University of Berlin.
3. **Wilson was 25 years old when he decided to invest years of careful study in the text of the Old Testament,** so that he could speak with authority as to its accuracy and reliability.

He wrote,

"I was twenty-five then; and I judged from the life of my ancestors that I should live to be seventy; so that I should have forty-five years to work. I divided the period into three parts.

- *The first fifteen years I would devote to the study of the languages necessary.*
- *For the second fifteen I was going to devote myself to the study of the text of the Old Testament; and*
- *I reserved the last fifteen years to the work of writing the results of my previous studies and investigations, so as to give them to the world".*

For the **first 15 years**, he studied every language that had a bearing on the text of the Old Testament. He not only became an expert in Hebrew, but **learned all the languages the Scriptures had been translated into down to the year A.D. 600.**

In the **second 15 years** Wilson **dedicated himself to studying the text of the Old Testament** itself. He **looked at every consonant in the Old Testament text (the Hebrew Old Testament has no vowels)** - about one and a quarter million of them. He made a thorough scientific investigation of the Old Testament text, as compared to other writings of antiquity.

Wilson noted that there are **29 ancient, pagan kings of various nations** which are mentioned in the Bible whose names are also found in the writings of their own lands.

The names of these kings consist of **195 consonants.**

He discovered that in the Old Testament, there are only **two or three of the letters - of the entire 195 – that are in question as to spelling when compared to the monuments and archeological artifacts.**

In contrast, in secular literature of the same period, the names of those rulers frequently are so garbled that one can scarcely identify the person.

Ptolemy, an ancient writer, drew up a list of 18 Babylonian kings, and not a one of them is spelled correctly.

The last 15 years were spent writing the results of his research. In a short work entitled "Is the Higher Criticism Scholarly?" he said,

Having given such care to the names of heathen kings, it is to be presumed that they would give no less attention to what these kings said and did; and so we have in this incontestable evidence from the order, times, and spelling of the names of the kings, an indestructible basis upon which to rest our faith in the reliability of the history recorded in the books of the Old Testament Scriptures.

He authored "A Scientific Investigation of the Old Testament", in which he confidently affirmed "we are scientifically certain that we have substantially the same [OT] text that was in the possession of Christ and the apostles and, so far as anybody knows, the same as that written by the original composers of the Old Testament documents."

H. Conclusion: The extreme detail offered in the genealogies and other such passages of the Scripture offers to the careful student a place of examination where the authenticity, reliability, even the inerrancy of the Scriptures can be clearly seen.

When such detail is thoroughly examined, it proves the Bible to be true and accurate.

II. THE GENEALOGIES CONFIRM THE FULFILLMENT OF PROPHECY AND IDENTIFY JESUS AS THE PROMISED MESSIAH.

- A.** God began even in the Garden of Eden to give prophecies of the coming of a Messiah, which means "Anointed One."
- B.** Across the years, God offered more and more detail about this Messiah so that when He did come, people would have the opportunity to recognize Him for Who He was.
- C.** These same details offer us today the opportunity to verify whether an historical personage fit God's description of the Messiah or not.
- D. Some of the declarations God made in advance concerning the Messiah:**
- He would be a descendant of Abraham.
 - He would be a descendant of Isaac.
 - He would be a descendant of Jacob.
 - He would be from the tribe of Judah.
 - He would be a descendant of David.
 - He would be the rightful heir to David's throne.
- E. Both Matthew and Luke offer genealogies of Jesus of Nazareth.**
- Matthew's genealogy is through Joseph, the adoptive father of Jesus and demonstrates Jesus' legal right to the throne of David.
 - Luke's genealogy is through Mary, the physical mother of Jesus and demonstrates Jesus' physical right to the throne of David.

F. The Old Testament Genealogies of Genesis and 1 Chronicles validate the genealogies of Matthew and Luke.

<p>1 Chronicles 2:5–10 ⁵ The sons of Perez were Hezron and Hamul. ⁶ The sons of Zerah were Zimri, Ethan, Heman, Calcol, and Dara—five of them in all. ⁷ The son of Carmi was Achar, the troubler of Israel, who transgressed in the accursed thing. ⁸ The son of Ethan was Azariah. ⁹ Also the sons of Hezron who were born to him were Jerahmeel, Ram, and Chelubai. ¹⁰ Ram begot Amminadab, and Amminadab begot Nahshon, leader of the children of Judah;</p>	<p>Matthew 1:4 Ram begot Amminadab, Amminadab begot Nahshon, and Nahshon begot Salmon.</p> <p>Luke 3:32 the son of Jesse, the son of Obed, the son of Boaz, the son of Salmon, the son of Nahshon,</p>
---	--

G. To the open minded, this offers irrefutable proof that Jesus of Nazareth is the promised Messiah of God.

CONCLUSION: That is why we celebrate the birth of Jesus in this holiday called Christmas.

We celebrate that God sent His own Son, the Son of God, as that promised Messiah.

We celebrate that Jesus Messiah entered the world as a tiny baby, born of a virgin.

We celebrate that Jesus Messiah lived a sinless life in full obedience to the Father.

We celebrate that Jesus Messiah died a vicarious death, paying the price for our sins.

We celebrate that Jesus Messiah rose from dead, and offers eternal life to all who will trust in Him.