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BIBLE STUDY

Greater Refuge Memorial Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith, Inc.

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“GOD USES ORDINARY PEOPLE TO DO EXTRAORDINARY THINGS”

1 Chronicles 4:1-8

1 Chronicles 4:1-4

1 "The sons of Judah; Pharez, 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 of] the father of Etam; Jezreel, and Ishma, and Idbash: and the name of their sister [was] Hazelelponi:"

4 "And Penuel the father of Gedor, and Ezer the father of Hushah. These [are] the sons of Hur, the firstborn of Ephratah, the father of Beth-lehem."

Likely written between 450 and 425 BC, 1 and 2 Chronicles include many lists of genealogies, and much of the content covers the same events found in the books of Samuel and Kings. Surely, God had a purpose for inspiring the writing of the Chronicles, even with its similar content. By tracing the history of God's people, the author of the Chronicles reminded the new generation that God had been their help in ages past. By emphasizing the unconditional Davidic Covenant, he gave them hope for the future. By including the genealogies, he showed them that they were the ones to continue the legacy. In short, the author of the Chronicles showed a despairing people that they had a powerful, faithful God who knows them by name and would strengthen them to rebuild the temple and the city. 1 Chronicles 4 serves as a record of the tribes of **Judah** and **Simeon**. "Judah" means God be praised. The chapter begins by reaffirming the lineage of Judah, the tribe from which the Messiah would eventually come. This connects the reader to the larger redemptive story—reminding Apostolic believers that their spiritual inheritance is rooted in a long history of God's chosen people.

Romans 15:4 "For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope."

Pharez is one of the twin sons of Judah by his daughter-in-law Tamar. Hezron is Judah's grandson. Carmi is his descendant through the other twin Zarah. Hur is his descendant through Caleb. Shobal is a descendant of Hur. Often, the word "sons" is used loosely to refer to descendants. In an Apostolic study, these genealogies are not merely lists of names but are a testament to God's covenant faithfulness and the individual's ability to transcend their circumstances through prayer and faith.

Acts 17:26 "And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation."

1 Chronicles 4:5-8

5 "And Ashur the father of Tekoa had two wives, Helah and Naarah."

6 "And Naarah bare him Ahuzam, and Hopher, and Temeni, and Haahashtari. These [were] the sons of Naarah."

7 "And the sons of Helah [were], Zereth, and Jezoar, and Ethnan."

8 "And Coz begat Anub, and Zobebah, and the families of Aharhel the son of Harum."

Tekoa is a place that was founded by Ashur. This is speaking of the two wives of Ashur. Ashur was a son of Hezron, who was born after the death of his father. Ashur had two wives named Helah and Naarah. Each of his wives had several sons, and they all seemed to settle in Tekoa. The mention of families like Ashur's emphasizes that God values the details of every household, no matter how "ordinary". Biblical scripture frequently highlights that God chooses those who may seem unqualified, weak, or common by worldly standards to accomplish His greatest purposes.

Moses: A Murdering shepherd with a stutter who was chosen to lead Israel out of Egypt.

Exodus 4:10-12

¹⁰ And Moses said unto the Lord, O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither heretofore, nor since thou hast spoken unto thy servant: but I am slow of speech, and of a slow tongue.

¹¹ And the Lord said unto him, Who hath made man's mouth? or who maketh the dumb, or deaf, or the seeing, or the blind? have not I the Lord?

¹² Now therefore go, and I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say.

Gideon: Described himself as the "least" in his family and was hiding in a winepress when called to lead an army.

Judges 6:15-16

¹⁵ And he said unto him, Oh my Lord, wherewith shall I save Israel? behold, my family is poor in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house.

¹⁶ And the Lord said unto him, Surely I will be with thee, and thou shalt smite the Midianites as one man.

David: An overlooked shepherd boy who defeated the giant Goliath and became king.

1 Samuel 16:11-13

¹¹ And Samuel said unto Jesse, Are here all thy children? And he said, There remaineth yet the youngest, and, behold, he keepeth the sheep. And Samuel said unto Jesse, Send and fetch him: for we will not sit down till he come hither.

¹² And he sent, and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and withal of a beautiful countenance, and goodly to look to. And the Lord said, Arise, anoint him: for this is he.

¹³ Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the Lord came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah.

Esther: An orphan who became queen to save the Jewish people from extermination.

Esther 2:7 "And he brought up Hadassah, that is, Esther, his uncle's daughter: for she had neither father nor mother, and the maid was fair and beautiful; whom Mordecai, when her father and mother were dead, took for his own daughter."

Esther 4:13-16

¹³ *Then Mordecai commanded to answer Esther, Think not with thyself that thou shalt escape in the king's house, more than all the Jews.*

¹⁴ *For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, then shall there enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place; but thou and thy father's house shall be destroyed: and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?*

¹⁵ *Then Esther bade them return Mordecai this answer,*

¹⁶ *Go, gather together all the Jews that are present in Shushan, and fast ye for me, and neither eat nor drink three days, night or day: I also and my maidens will fast likewise; and so will I go in unto the king, which is not according to the law: and if I perish, I perish.*

The Apostles: Many were simple fishermen (Peter, Andrew, James, John) or social outcasts like Matthew the tax collector.

Acts 4:13 "Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus."

Mary Magdalene: An ordinary woman delivered from demons who became the first person to witness and proclaim Jesus' resurrection

Luke 8:1-2

¹ *And it came to pass afterward, that he went throughout every city and village, preaching and shewing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God: and the twelve were with him,*

² *And certain women, which had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities, Mary called Magdalene, out of whom went seven devils,*

Joanna, Susanna, and many other women: Ministered to the needs of Jesus out of their substance.

Luke 8:3 "And Joanna the wife of Chuza Herod's steward, and Susanna, and many others, which ministered unto him of their substance."

The Church: Chosen by God to evangelize the world.

1 Corinthians 1:26-29

²⁶ *For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called:*

²⁷ *But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;*

²⁸ *And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are:*

²⁹ *That no flesh should glory in his presence.*

Isaiah 40:29-31

²⁹ *He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength.*

³⁰ *Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall:*

³¹ *But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.*

2 Corinthians 12:9-10

⁹ *And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.*

¹⁰ *Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.*

Hebrews 11:32-34

³² *And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets:*

³³ *Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions.*

³⁴ *Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.*

QUESTIONS

1. Name the sons of Judah?
2. What does "Judah" mean?
3. Who was the mother of Pharez?
4. Are those listed, in verse 1, really sons of Judah?
5. Hur is his descendent through whom?
6. 1 Chronicles 4 serves as a record of the tribes of _____ and _____.
7. _____ is a place that was founded by Ashur.
8. Who were the two wives of Ashur?
9. Who does God often choose?
10. Who was Moses?