VIDEO LECTURE MODULE:

BIBLE FOR 6TH GRADE STUDENTS

Old Testament

Lesson 63:

The Genealogies of Israel

Lecture Presenter: Mr. Daniel Van Brugge



Entrusting our Reformed Inheritance to the Church Worldwide

John Knox Institute of Higher Education

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Mr. Daniel Van Brugge is a teacher at Timothy Christian School in Chilliwack, British Columbia, Canada.

www.timothychristian.ca

Module

BIBLE FOR 6TH GRADE STUDENTS

Old Testament

113 LESSONS

77 Lessons presented by Mr. Daniel Van Brugge 36 Lessons presented by Dr. Daniel Sweetman

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Lesson 63

The Genealogies of Israel The First Book of the Chronicles, chapters 1 to 9

Memory Verse

"And Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, Oh that thou wouldest bless me indeed, and enlarge my coast, and that thy hand might be with me, and that thou wouldest keep me from evil, that it may not grieve me! And God granted him that which he requested."

1 Chronicles 4:10

Historical Summary

Now we are going to jump over the books of the Kings for just a little while, so that we can see a little more of the life of King David as recorded in I Chronicles. Then we'll come back to the Books of the Kings.

The books of Chronicles are books of statistics and history. The first nine chapters are primarily genealogies of the family of Israel, dating back to Adam and dating forward to the family of



Jacob's sons. Much of the two books of Chronicles also contain history which verifies and reflects what we find in the books of Samuel and the books of the Kings. The books of Chronicles were most likely written by Ezra after the children of Israel had returned from their 70-year captivity in Babylon. They are part of God's Word to us, they are written for our instruction and edification, and we hope their study will be a blessing to each of us.

All of Scripture is given by inspiration of God, including the names and genealogies of I Chronicles 1 to 9. What is the purpose of all these names and connections? If they are studied carefully, they contain an important message.

One purpose of this list of names is to show the position of God's covenant people in land of Canaan. These people had sinned and forsaken God's commands many times, and for this reason

they were carried away captive. But these genealogies show that God had not forsaken his people. He remembers them with covenant mercies and in fact shows, from this list of names, that through this lineage he would bring forth his promised Messiah.

A second reason these genealogies are important is because of their usefulness in showing the relationships within families. This was used when Israel needed to re-divide the land upon their return from Babylon. God had apportioned each son of Jacob a section of Canaan, and that was to be their inheritance for generations to come. Now, with the genealogies, they could determine where families were to live in this restored nation.

A third purpose for these genealogies is to show the importance of the family of Judah and David. After showing how Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob descended from Adam, Ezra then writes about the generations of Jacob's son Judah, and then David. Joseph and Mary were descended from these two tribes. Looking into why they were so arranged would lead us to the promised Messiah who came to be the Savior of sinners, the Lord Jesus Christ.

There are several lessons which can be learned from these genealogies. One is that God thinks about specific people. He knows who they are and what they are. He is the all-knowing and all-seeing one. He also knows our needs today. We should each seek to know him in a personal way for our own heart and life. May our names also be written in the Lamb's book of life.

The second lesson is that the history of Israel is based on recorded facts. The stories of the people in the Bible are part of history. Other religions today have their stories and teachings, but they are not rooted in historical facts. The lessons we learn from the Bible are taken from things and from people that really existed.

Another lesson we can learn is that God works by his grace from one generation to another. There are many people named in these genealogies, and some of them were redeemed by faith in the promised Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the one to whom all of history points. He is the Lion of the tribe of Judah who has come so that people in every generation and time can find reconciliation and peace with God.

The following is an outline of the generations of people listed in the genealogies in 1 Chronicles, chapters 1 to 9.

- a. Chapter 1—from Adam to Esau.
- b. Chapter 2—from Jacob to David.
- c. Chapter 3—David's family to Zedekiah.
- d. Chapter 4, verses 1 to 23—Judah's family up to the captivity.
- e. Chapter 4, verse 24 to chapter 8—families of the other sons of Jacob to the captivity.
- f. Chapter 9—the first returning inhabitants;
 - the task of the Levites; and Saul's ancestors and descendents.

The Gospel in the Old Testament

These nine chapters, at first glance, do not seem to tell a story. But if their contents and purpose are carefully considered, the Bible student will find it rich in spiritual instruction. That is because all Old Testament history is redemptive history. It tells about the nation of Israel as the nation from whom the Messiah, the Savior of sinners, would come. God showed through the history of Israel the way of redemption in Christ Jesus for guilty sinners. These genealogies include names even of notorious sinners—just so that no one could glory in their family line. Their hope could only be founded in Jesus Christ, the sinless Lamb of God who became the Savior of many of the people listed in these genealogies. Has he become the Savior also to you and to me?

Questions

- 1. The books of Chronicles were most likely written by
 - a. Ezra the scribe.
 - b. Nehemiah the king.
 - c. Jeremiah the prophet.
 - d. Samuel the judge.
- 2. Which of the following is NOT part of the definition of the word "chronicle"?
 - a. A list of names, dates or events.
 - b. A dependable legal record.
 - c. Usually written without additional explanation.
 - d. Usually addressed as a letter to be read publicly.
- 3. Which of the following is NOT a reason for all the genealogies in the book of 1 Chronicles?
 - a. To highlight the descendents of David from whom Christ came.
 - b. To help re-divide the land when Israel returned from Babylon.
 - c. To show that God had not forsaken His guilty people, the nation of Israel.
 - d. To list the names of all the people of Israel who would be saved.
- 4. When were the books of Chronicles written?
 - a. Most likely they were written just before Moses died.
 - b. Probably when the children of Israel were returning from Babylon.
 - c. Possibly after slaying the priests of Baal.
 - d. Probably written by David before he wrote some of the Psalms.

5. Chapter 7 gives the names of various military personal who fought for Israel. What most notable name is mentioned there of one who led Israel into Canaan?

- a. Moses
- b. Joshua
- c. Samuel
- d. Elijah

Essay Questions

1. Try to make a "family tree" of one or more of the first nine chapters of 1 Chronicles. Notice how detailed they are. Note also that these genealogies serve as historical records that could be used for legal purposes. Do you notice any names that you recognize from other Bible stories?

2. All the genealogies in this book point back to Adam. He is the head of the human race; and because of the fall in Adam, all humanity is depraved and alienated from God. Each one of us has also descended from Adam. What does that tell you about our spiritual needs?

3. Notice that chapter 6 mentions the line of priests also who were part of this returning multitude. What comfort and instruction might these names provide for people who knew they were guilty before God?

4. With what events or people do the first nine chapters of 1 Chronicles begin or end? What characterized the history of that time period? What lessons are there to be learned from it?

5. Name at least two people from chapter 2 who were examples of noted wickedness, and yet were part of the lineage of Christ. What does this show about the abounding grace of God to sinners?

6. What did Jabez pray for in chapter 4 verse 9 and 10?

7. How can you tell from his prayer that Jabez was a child of God?

8. Reuben's adultery and Israel's idol worship are examples of the waywardness of all mankind. What is spiritual adultery and spiritual idol worship?