

I CHRONICLES

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to I Chronicles chapter 4 as we continue our study through the Word of God. As you have seen in our previous studies, as we have been going through the genealogies and now we are moving into the genealogies of Israel, we have been moving kind of fast. There are many names that we know nothing about and I can mispronounce them just as easy as you can. Now some of the names we are familiar with and we have dug into their history a little, looking at how this points to the Messianic line and the coming of the Messiah and also, those things that God wants us to know regarding His plans for various people.

Let me share with you this regarding this portion of Scripture that may seem dry, maybe not too important, but all of Scripture is here for a reason. G. Campbell Morgan wrote, "Here tribes, and individual men, are seen as gaining importance and value in proportion as they co-operated in the purpose of God." You see, even those who reject God are fulfilling His plans, His purposes no matter if they agree with that or not, history itself shows us this truth!

Also, Adam Clarke wrote, “How barren to us is this register, both of incident and interest! And yet, as barren rocks and sandy deserts make integral and necessary parts of the globe; so do these genealogical tables make necessary parts of the history of providence and grace in the maintenance of truth, and the establishment of the church of Christ. Therefore, no one that fears God will either despise or lightly esteem them.” You see, all these are bringing us to the Messiah, and thus, they are important for us to look at. Again, we don’t know a lot about many of these people, but the ones we do, the ones that I feel are important for us to dig into, we will look at more in-depth. I am sure that when we get to heaven we will clearly see why every name is in here and the importance of each one, but until then, or until the Holy Spirit shows me more, we will leave it at that.

With that said, let’s begin reading in I Chronicles chapter 4, starting in verse 1 and see what the Lord has for us as we study through His Word.

I CHRONICLES 4

VERSES 1-8

1. Back in I Chronicles chapter 2 we covered the genealogy of Judah leading up to David and here in chapter 4 there are others listed. Now keep in mind that Perez is Judah’s own son and Hezron is his grandson, Carmi is his nephew and Hur is the Grandson of Hezron, and Shobal is the grandson of Hur. Now I don’t want to confuse you too much here but just keep in mind that the Jews had a historical record of the various tribes and people so you could go back and check your genealogy to prove what land was yours and ultimately it will prove who the Messiah was, the tribe of Judah, the lineage of David!

VERSES 9-10

1. Now when we think of Jabez, we think of the book by Bruce Wilkinson called The Prayer of Jabez. Now I don't recommend this book, it is a formula book that you repeat this prayer and God will answer it for you just as He did for Jabez. Now, because of that many have gone to the opposite end of the spectrum and negate this prayer altogether, which is foolish. Folk's, God placed this prayer in here for a reason and just because someone mishandles this doesn't negate what God is saying here. Thus, we will look at this prayer because I believe it is important for us.

Now we don't know a lot about him and yet from the time he was born, he was trouble. You see, all that we know of Jabez comes from these two short verses here in I Chronicles, and yet, in these verses we see volumes spoken of this man, giving us lessons we can apply to our own life.

In his name alone we see trouble, for his name "**Jabez**" means, "he causes pain." His life somehow brought sorrow to his mother and thus, she names him Jabez. Can you imagine going through life and people saying, "Here comes pain!" Now we don't know exactly why she called him this and we can only speculate on the reasons. It could be that her labor was hard, it was difficult, and thus, his name. Or maybe he was born with some kind of birth defect or handicap and so every time she looked at him she was reminded of the pain that he has caused her, and thus his name.

And yet we are told, “**Jabez was more honorable than his brothers.**” You see, God looks at the heart and not just the physical aspects of the person, which can be deceiving. And thus, God is holding up this man as an example to all of us. But what turned his life around? What made a difference in his life that God wants us to learn from him?

I believe it is his prayer that shows where his heart was at. And in this prayer of Jabez he asks God for four requests. He asks God to bless him, to enlarge his borders, that the hand of God may be upon him, and to keep him from evil. So I want to take just a few minutes to look at these requests that Jabez brought before God because we can learn a lot from them and we are to apply them to our lives, to our prayers I believe!

The first prayer request you might say is that Jabez asks God to ***BLESS HIM***. Now understand that Jabez is not asking for health, wealth or even prosperity, but a blessing from God that would be real. He was asking for a blessing from God that would be permanent. Not a blessing that in the end would turn out to be a curse upon his life. We all want what God wants for our life. Prayer, in reality, is seeking the will of God to be done in us and through us. That is the best for us.

Jesus said in Matthew 5:1, “**Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of God.**” You see, before you can inherit the blessing, the kingdom of God, you must be broken, you must realize that you are a sinner and humbly come before the Lord. Thus, before the blessing, comes the brokenness of heart. And even now, how often is there the pain, the hurt and out of all that God is preparing to bless us mightily. May we not lose site of that because that is how God works many times.

The same is true in the life of Jabez, before he was blessed, he was a broken man. He realized his situation was truly hopeless. He realized that his life brought pain to those around him. And it is out of this pain and brokenness that Jabez cries out to the Lord to ***BLESS HIM***.

The next prayer that Jabez makes is that he asks God to ***ENLARGE HIS BOARDERS***. Jabez did not limit his boarders to his ability. Yes he could not do it on his own, whatever handicap he may have had, but that did not stop him. Whatever it takes, he was willing to do for God so that the boarders of his ministry may be enlarged. And please understand that Jabez was not asking for a bigger house, or a faster camel, or whatever physical or earthly treasures you could think of.

Jabez simply turned to God by faith and asked for his boarders of ministry to be enlarged, even if it meant fighting against the enemy to re-take the land. You see, we must remember what God said in Zechariah 4:7, that it is **“Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit says the Lord of hosts.”** Don’t look to your strength, your ability, or even your talents, just ask God to use you to the fullest - to enlarge your boarders, to make the ministry that God has given to you even more fruitful, Jabez did! He asked the Lord to ***ENLARGE HIS BOARDERS***.

The next prayer that Jabez brought before God was ***THAT THE HAND OF GOD MAY BE UPON HIM***. What a beautiful prayer, that God’s hand would be upon his life and guide him in the things he is to do. It is as David cried out in Psalm 42:1, **“As the deer pants for the water brooks, So pants my soul for You, O God.”** It should be the desire of our hearts to have God’s presence in our life, guiding us and directing us.

The prayer of Jabez was simple, “Lord, be the center of my life so that I might be guided by you. May Your hand be upon me every step of the way.” I think all of us want that for our life, and so like Jabez, ask and let God direct you as you are in fellowship with Him, as Jabez did, ***THAT THE HAND OF GOD MAY BE UPON HIM.***

And lastly Jabez prays to God that He would ***KEEP HIM FROM EVIL.*** Jabez recognized that his life may have caused others pain, and he simply asks that no longer would that be the result of his life, but that he would bring blessings to those around him.

Jabez recognized that he wanted his life to cause no more pain or hardships, but to be a blessing unto God and to his fellow man. Thus he asked that God would keep him from any kind of evil that would not only hurt the Lord, but those around him. What a great prayer by Jabez, God ***KEEP HIM FROM EVIL.***

You see, there is nothing wrong with that prayer unless you make it into some kind of formula that you repeat and God must answer. If I remember from the book, he even said that anyone can apply this to their lives, and that is wrong! It truly is a beautiful prayer that God has preserved for us in His Word! May we not lose sight of that.

VERSES 11-23

1. We now finish up looking at the descendants of Judah and I want you to look at verse 23 once again, which says, “**These were the potters and those who dwell at Netaim and Gederah; there they dwelt with the king for his work.**” Notice that these men not only worked for the king, but they lived with the king. I think there are some lessons we can learn from this. Charles Spurgeon made these remarks regarding this verse in a sermon he called, ***WITH THE KING FOR HIS WORK!*** Let me share with you his four points.

- The first point is that ***Our King has many kinds of servants***. Spurgeon wrote, “He has soldiers, watchmen, heralds, scribes, musicians, house servants, gardeners, servants for the children. We should therefore value the different servants and understand and value our own place of service.”
- The second point is that ***All who live with our King must work***. Spurgeon said this in regards to this point, “They did not live on the king’s bounty and dwell on the king’s country estates to do nothing, but they dwelt there for his work. I do not know whether all that call my Master ‘Lord’ have caught this idea. I have thought that some of our church members imagine that the cause of Christ was a coach, and that they were to ride on it, and that they would prefer the box seat.”

- The third point that he made was that *Those that work for the King ought to live with Him*. Spurgeon continued on to say, “Now, those that live with Jesus Christ have a sort of secret alphabet between themselves and him. Oftentimes when a Christian man does the right thing . . . Do you know why he had that knack? He lived with his Master, so he knew what you knew not. He knew the meaning of his Master’s eye, and it guided him.”

- And the fourth and last point was that *We are working for the King*. And Spurgeon concluded by saying, “And after you have received Christ then you shall go forth and serve him. Put out an empty hand and receive Christ into it by a little faith, and then go and serve him, and the Lord bless you henceforth and for ever.”

What a great lesson for each of us to learn and grow in, that our Lord has many different kinds of servants, that if we live with the King then we must work for Him, and the reality is, we should all be living with the King, and we must not lose sight that we are working for the King and not for ourselves!

VERSES 24-43

1. Now we are looking at the genealogy of Simeon in verses 24-43 and specifically in verses 39-43 we see the Simeonites try to enlarge their borders. They felt restricted, their families had grown as well as their flocks and herds, and they needed more room. Thus, they wipe out the enemy and enlarge their borders. Now that is not wrong and I think many times we restrict what God wants to do in our lives by having a very narrow view of our borders.

You see, may the desire of our heart be open to what God wants to do and to see the borders of our ministry enlarged. It is when we become comfortable that we, as soldiers, become vulnerable to the attack of the enemy, for we are not on guard. I think the key is to look beyond your borders, have a vision of ministry beyond the borders you have right now and then step out in faith, after being in prayer and take those new lands that God has for you in ministry. Be sensitive to what God wants to do and pray that God would enlarge your borders, just as Jabez prayed.

I CHRONICLES 5

VERSE 1

1. In verses 1-10 we will be looking at the genealogy of Reuben and we are told here in verse 1 that Reuben, who was the firstborn, lost that right of the double portion of the inheritance because he slept with Bilhah, his father's concubine. We read of this incident back in Genesis 35:22, which said, "**And it happened, when Israel dwelt in that land, that Reuben went and lay with Bilhah his father's concubine; and Israel heard about it.**" Jacob or Israel not only heard about it, but he took away the birthright from Reuben because of it. Thus, the right of the firstborn was given to the son's of Joseph, Manasseh and Ephraim.

VERSE 2

1. As we have seen, the birthright belonged to Joseph, but we are told that "**Judah prevailed**" over all of his brothers and that "**from him came a ruler.**" You see, from Judah would come the lineage of David and his dynasty on the throne in the land. But this is ultimately looking at the Messianic line which was to come from Judah, the lineage of David.

In Genesis chapter 49, Jacob is giving his blessings to his sons before he dies. And in speaking of Judah he says in Genesis 49:10, "**The scepter shall not depart from Judah, Nor a lawgiver from between his feet, Until Shiloh comes; And to Him shall be the obedience of the people.**"

Shiloh is a word from which Shalom comes from. And Shalom speaks of peace. Thus, this is speaking of the Prince of Peace, the Messiah. When the Romans took over Israel they also took away the right of the Jews to issue capital punishment. That is why they had to go to the Roman leadership to have Jesus executed, for they could no longer put anyone to death. The scepter speaks of a king who has the right to execute capital punishment, he holds a persons life in his hands. He decides who will live and who will die.

When this right was taken away from Israel, the Rabbis walked through the streets of Jerusalem wearing sackcloth and ashes, weeping, because in their hearts and minds they believed the Word of God had been broken. For some 400 years God had been silent, as the Old Testament closed and the New Testament began, and now this, God had forsaken them, or at least that is what they thought. You see, the scepter had been taken away before the Messiah had come, and thus, God's Word failed, again, that is what they thought.

The reality was that only some 70 miles to the north, in a town called Nazareth, there was a young boy working in his fathers carpenter shop, by the name of Jesus. You see, Messiah had come before the scepter had departed. And yet He was not revealed to them as yet. God's Word stands strong, it will not fail, may we not forget that fact!

VERSES 3-10

1. Now we see specifically the genealogy of the tribe of Reuben. And keep in mind that Reuben, Gad and the half tribe of Manasseh all settled on the east side of the Jordan River, an area known as the Trans-Jordan area and not in the Promise Land as God had instructed them and thus, they were the first to go into captivity because they did not have the protection of the other tribes to help them out.

VERSES 11-22

1. In verses 11-22 we see the genealogy of Gad, who again settled in on the east side of the Jordan River, outside the Promise Land. What I want to focus on here are verses 18-22. Here we see these 2½ tribes go against the enemy and they are victorious, not because of their own strength. How do I know that? Remember what we read, “**they cried out to God in battle.**” You see, they put their trust in the Lord after they cried out to him, and they were victorious against the enemy. God gave them the victory. We must remember that lesson, that our victory will not be won in the flesh, but as we surrender ourselves to God’s Spirit and allow Him to conform us into the image of God. In other words, cry out to Him and then trust in Him to give you the victory, see the salvation that He will bring into your life!

VERSES 23-26

1. Here we see the genealogy of the half tribe of Manasseh, that part of Manasseh that settled in on the east side of the Jordan River, outside the Promise Land as did the whole tribe of Reuben and Gad.

2. Now look at what we are told in verses 25-26. It is not only the half tribe of Manasseh but the tribes of Rueben and Gad, these 2½ tribes who were located on the east side of the Jordan River, they were taken captive by the king of Assyria, Tiglath-Pileser (or Pul). They were defenseless and cut off from their brethren who were on the west side of the Jordan River in the Promise Land.

What happened to them? I think one reason they were the first to go into captivity is that they did not cross the Jordan River. The Jordan River means, “judging” and speaks of or symbolizes the death to self, the death of the flesh. Because of that, not crossing over the Jordan River, the enemy took them away captive. Not only that but they had let the immorality, the idolatry, the wickedness of the nations that were around them influence them and they deteriorated and thus, God judged them for their unfaithfulness to Him, they went into captivity!

For us, if we refuse to die to self and live that carnal Christian life, not desiring to walk in the Spirit, we too will be the first to go into captivity. The flesh will cause us to be in bondage. God is calling for us to die to self, cross over the Jordan River, and enter into the Promised Land, the life of the Spirit. The Lord is calling for us to be in this world but not of this world. He does not want us to be conformed to this world but to be transformed by the renewing of our minds, and thus, we can impact the world for Jesus. If we let the world into our lives it is the world that will be seen in us and not Jesus. It is like a boat in water, it needs to be in water to function but if you let water get into the boat, you will sink! Don't live on the outer edges of the Promise Land, enter in and see what the Lord can do in you and through you for His glory! May we not forget that! Don't let apostasy bring you into captivity, be close to the Lord and stay on fire for Him!

I CHRONICLES 6

VERSES 1-30

1. Here we see the genealogy of the tribe of Levi. Keep in mind that the tribe of Levi was chosen by God to minister to Him, their service was unto God. Then, within the tribe of Levi there was the priesthood which came from the descendents of Aaron. Thus, all priests were Levites but not all Levites were priests!

2. Also, the sons of Levi were given specific duties in the care of the tabernacle, that portable worship structure that the children of Israel carried with them throughout their 40 years of wilderness wanderings. Let me give you a quick run down of what these three sons did, the things that their families were to care for in the tabernacle.

- ***GERSHONITES:*** They were responsible for the fabrics of the tabernacle, the coverings, tents, clothes, curtain's, cords and-so-on.

- ***KOHATHITES:*** They were responsible for the Ark, table of showbread, the oil burning lamp, the altars of burnt offering and incense, the sacred vessels, the veil and-so-on. This was the priestly line which Aaron came from.

- ***MERARITES:*** They were responsible for the boards, sockets, walls, floors, and-so-on.

Now why is that so important to us as Christians. It is very simple. God has given to each of us specific duties or responsibilities within the body of Christ in general and the church. The problem arises when we don't fulfill those responsibilities or we want to be something that God has not called us to be. First of all, if we don't exercise our gift, then the body suffers. In I Timothy 6:18-19 we read, **“Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.”**

And we are told in I Corinthians 12:11, as Paul is speaking of the various Spiritual gifts that God has for us and Paul reminds us, **“But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.”** The Amplified Bible puts this verse like this, **“All these [gifts, achievements, abilities] are inspired and brought to pass by one and the same [Holy] Spirit, Who apportions to each person individually [exactly] as He chooses.”** And The Living Bible puts it like this, **“It is the same and only Holy Spirit who gives all these gifts and powers, deciding which each one of us should have.”** You see, God gives to us these gifts as we need them and it is up to us to use them for the glorifying of God and the edification of the body of Christ!

Secondly, it is always a disaster when someone tries to be something they are not called to be. What a mistake and what a problem. Remember the rebellion of Korah in Numbers 16. They were rebelling against the leadership of Moses; they wanted to do what he was doing. And for their rebellion, God caused the earth to swallow them up. Also, do you ever see a foot saying, “Hey, wait a minute here, I am tired of being a foot, I am always stuck in this dirty, smelly shoe! I want to be a hand. I want people to notice me! I want to be somebody!” If our body acted like that there would be utter chaos and we would not be able to function. The same is true in the body of Christ; use the gifts that God has given to you as I have said, to glorify God and to build up the body of Christ!

VERSES 31-48

1. From the tribe of Levi came these worship singers for the temple and we see here that David hires professional worship people. Why would David do this? Keep in mind that David was called the sweet Psalmist of Israel and thus, David was truly a man of worship. Can you imagine going to this tent where the Ark was located and later on by the temple Solomon built for the Lord and day or night you could hear the worship of God being sung out? One of the problems today in the church is worship. There are those that negate worship, kind of a filler before the message is given and that is very wrong. When we sing out who are we singing to? We are singing to the Lord, praising Him and as we do our hearts and minds become focused on Him and thus, we are ready to receive from Him. We carry a lot of things with us to church and I truly believe worship helps us to get refocused and to praise the Lord!

Also, there are those that put such a focus on worship that it replaces the teaching of God's Word or it is so theatrical that the worship is of the musicians instead of the One who created them, God! There truly needs to be a balance here in regards to singing and keep in mind there are many styles out there. And I am sorry to say that I have seen people come and go because of a style of worship and they leave mad, they leave angry and that is wrong. Folk's, during Bible times they did not play the organ! In fact, we are told in Psalm 150, **"Praise the Lord! Praise God in His sanctuary; Praise Him in His mighty firmament! Praise Him for His mighty acts; Praise Him according to His excellent greatness! Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet; Praise Him with the lute and harp! Praise Him with the timbrel and dance; Praise Him with stringed instruments and flutes! Praise Him with loud cymbals; Praise Him with clashing cymbals! Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord!"** Psalm 150:1-6. Did you notice that, **"loud cymbals"** **"clashing cymbals."** Folk's, worship was a celebration not a funeral! And may we never lose sight of how important worship is. And let me say this, these guys were not wimps that sang these worship songs. They were not weaklings. No Elton John's here because in verse 33 we are told that one of the singers was **HEMAN!**

VERSES 49-53

1. Here we see the descendants of Aaron, the priestly line from the tribe of Levi. And if you noticed, there are two names absent from this list of the sons of Aaron. Those two sons were Nadab and Abihu who offered profane fire before the Lord and the Lord struck them dead. God doesn't even list them here!

2. Now it was only the descendants of Aaron that could offer sacrifices on the altar and to make atonement for Israel and that brings up an interesting question. If Jesus is not from the tribe of Levi, a descendant of Aaron, how could He offer Himself as a sacrifice for our sins? Keep in mind that Jesus was a priest from the order of Melchizedek and not Aaron! Let me share with you what Paul has to say about Jesus being our Great High Priest even though He was not from the family of Aaron or the tribe of Levi. In Hebrews 7:14-28 we are told, **“For it is evident that our Lord arose from Judah, of which tribe Moses spoke nothing concerning priesthood. And it is yet far more evident if, in the likeness of Melchizedek, there arises another priest who has come, not according to the law of a fleshly commandment, but according to the power of an endless life. For He testifies: ‘You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek.’ For on the one hand there is an annulling of the former commandment because of its weakness and unprofitableness, for the law made nothing perfect; on the other hand, there is the bringing in of a better hope, through which we draw near to God. And inasmuch as He was not made priest without an oath (for they have become priests without an oath, but He with an oath by Him who said to Him: ‘The Lord has sworn And will not relent, “You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek””), by so much more Jesus has become a surety of a better covenant. Also there were many priests, because they were prevented by death from continuing. But He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood. Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.”**

For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens; who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people's, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself. For the law appoints as high priests men who have weakness, but the word of the oath, which came after the law, appoints the Son who has been perfected forever.”

So Jesus is from a better priesthood, an eternal priesthood and thus, He could offer Himself as a sacrifice for our sins because He is our Great High Priest!

VERSES 54-81

1. In these verses we have the cities where the priests and Levites resided in. Remember that the Levites, which included the descendants of Aaron, did not inherit any land, the Lord was their inheritance. Thus, throughout Israel there were 48 cities for these Levites to live in and to minister to the people from. That meant that no one was more than a day's journey from one of these cities. So there was no excuse not to hear the Words of God and the same is true today. If you truly want to hear God's Word you will find a church that teaches it and you will make the effort to go if it is that important to you!

I CHRONICLES 7**VERSES 1-5**

1. In these verses we see the Genealogy of Issachar, they were strong warriors.

VERSES 6-12

1. Here we have the genealogy of Benjamin and from this tribe can you name two famous people in Israel's history? One of them was Saul, the first king in Israel and the other was also called Saul, latter to be called Paul who gave forth to us the Gospel of Peace that is found in Jesus Christ! (Philippians 3:5).

VERSE 13

1. In this one verse we have some of the genealogy of Naphtali and one of the more notable people from this tribe was Barak, who was the general that accompanied Deborah into battle in Judges 4 and 5.

VERSES 14-19

1. Next we have the genealogy of the ½ tribe of Manasseh that was on the west side of the Jordan River, in the Promise Land.

VERSES 20-29

1. Here we have the genealogy of the tribe of Ephraim and a couple things to note from this section. There was a man named Nun who had a son by the name of Joshua and he not only loved the Lord but he led the nation into the Promise Land! He took over to lead the children of Israel after the death of Moses. Also, Samuel was the last of Israel's Judges and the first of her prophets and he was from the tribe of Ephraim.

VERSES 30-40

1. And closing out chapter 7 we see the genealogy of Asher, and we are told that they were mighty men of valor or very courageous. But as you come to the New Testament there is a woman from the tribe of Asher who was very courageous, not a man, and her name was Anna. In Luke 2:36-38 we are told, **“Now there was one, Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, and had lived with a husband seven years from her virginity; and this woman was a widow of about eighty-four years, who did not depart from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day. And coming in that instant she gave thanks to the Lord, and spoke of Him to all those who looked for redemption in Jerusalem.”** What made her so strong, so courageous, what made her a woman of valor? She was looking for Jesus and that is true in our own lives. We should seek Him out every day and also anticipate that He is coming back very soon. Apart from that, we are not men and women of valor because it is only Jesus who makes us that way!

I CHRONICLES 8**VERSES 1-40**

1. We already dealt with the tribe of Benjamin back in I Chronicles 7:6-12 and here they are again. Now the problem is that it seems like they don't match, that even with the sons of Benjamin there are different names, how can that be? First of all we see this tribe listed once again because we are going to focus on Saul and his son Jonathan. But the difference in names may be as simple as this. According to Genesis 46:21 Benjamin had 10 sons and thus, not all of them are listed here in I Chronicles 8:1-2 or in I Chronicles 7:6-7. Now Aharah and Nohah and Rapha are not listed in Genesis 46:21 and many speculate that some of their names were changed, and that is very possible. According to William MacDonald, he gives us some helpful points regarding some of the Biblical names. He says:

1. Some men had more than one name.
2. The spelling of some names changed over the years.
3. Some names are omitted because the men died early or childless.
4. The word translated *son* (ben) can mean son, grandson, great-grandson, ect.
5. Some names are left out because they don't serve the chronicler's purpose.

- William MacDonald, Believer's Bible Commentary, p. 430

2. Saul was a Benjamite and the first king in Israel and when we get to I Chronicles chapters 9 and 10 we will see the death of Saul, and there is a little more information on him and we will cover more of the details then. We also see Saul's son Jonathan and Esh-Baal, which means "fire of Baal" which is another name given to Saul's son, Ishbosheth, who would take over the kingdom for his father Saul who was killed in battle. Why did he have this pagan name, Esh-Baal? It shows how far Saul had succumbed to false worship and it is possible that the writers of II Samuel attempted to downplay the pagan connotations of the name Esh-Baal and they called him Ishbosheth, which means "Man of Shame." (II Samuel 2:8).

Also, Jonathan's sons name is Merib-Baal, and it means "contender against Baal" This is interesting because his name was changed to Mephibosheth or the "destroyer of shame". And, according to Gesenius, he feels it means the exterminator of idols. Which does fit Jonathan, as he was a lover of God and thus, his son was properly named?

3. As we close keep in mind that we are just moving to the dynasty of David but to get there the Lord is showing us other genealogies but ultimately, we are moving to the Messiah through David and folk's, whatever we do, whatever we are teaching on, we should always be moving towards the Messiah, towards Jesus!