

**1Chronicles 4:1** ¶ The sons of Judah; Pharez, Hezron, and Carmi, and Hur, and Shobal.

**1Chronicles 4:2** And Reaiah the son of Shobal begat Jahath; and Jahath begat Ahumai, and Lahad. These *are* the families of the Zorathites.

**1Chronicles 4:3** And these *were* of the father of Etam; Jezreel, and Ishma, and Idbash: and the name of their sister *was* Hazeleponi:

**1Chronicles 4:4** 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 Bethlehem.

This chapter opens by identifying descendants of Judah through Pharez. Hur is recognized as the father of Bethlehem, the birthplace of both David and Jesus the Messiah.

**1Chronicles 4:5** And Ashur the father of Tekoa had two wives, Helah and Naarah.

**1Chronicles 4:6** And Naarah bare him Ahuzam, and Hopher, and Temeni, and Haahashtari. These *were* the sons of Naarah.

**1Chronicles 4:7** And the sons of Helah *were*, Zereth, and Jezoar, and Ethnan.

**1Chronicles 4:8** And Coz begat Anub, and Zobebah, and the families of Aharhel the son of Harum.

**1Chronicles 4:9** And Jabez was more honourable than his brethren: and his mother called his name Jabez, saying, Because I bare him with sorrow.

**1Chronicles 4:10** And Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, Oh that thou wouldest bless me indeed, and enlarge my coast, and that thine 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.

Jabez is singled out in recognition of his prayer of faith before the LORD. I liked Guzik's observation: "One way to gain honor in the Kingdom of God is through prayer, instead of through ambition and achievement."

JFB offers this insight: "His prayer which is here recorded, and which, like Jacob's, is in the form of a vow (Genesis 28:20), seems to have been uttered when he was entering on an important or critical service, for the successful execution of which he placed confidence neither on his own nor his people's prowess, but looked anxiously for the aid and blessing of God. The enterprise was in all probability the expulsion of the Canaanites from the territory he occupied; and as this was a war of extermination, which God Himself had commanded, His blessing could be the more reasonably asked and expected in preserving them from all the evils to which the undertaking might expose him. In these words, "that it may not grieve me," and which might be more literally rendered, "that I may have no more sorrow," there is an allusion to the meaning of his name, Jabez, signifying "grief"; and the import of this petition is, Let me not experience the grief which my name implies, and which my sins may well produce."

I liked these comments from Clarke: "On these accounts he was more honorable than his brethren. He was of the same stock and the same lineage; he had neither nobility of birth, nor was distinguished by earthly titles; in all these respects he was on a level with his brethren: but God tells us that he was more honorable

than them all; and why? because he prayed, because he served his Maker, and because he lived to do good among men; therefore he received the honor that cometh from God. Reader, imitate the conduct of this worthy Israelite, that thou mayest be a partaker of his blessings.”

**1Chronicles 4:11** ¶ And Chelub the brother of Shuah begat Mehir, which *was* the father of Eshton.

**1Chronicles 4:12** And Eshton begat Bethrapha, and Paseah, and Tehinnah the father of Irnash. These *are* the men of Rechah.

**1Chronicles 4:13** And the sons of Kenaz; Othniel, and Seraiah: and the sons of Othniel; Hathath.

**1Chronicles 4:14** And Meonothai begat Ophrah: and Seraiah begat Joab, the father of the valley of Charashim; for they were craftsmen.

**1Chronicles 4:15** And the sons of Caleb the son of Jephunneh; Iru, Elah, and Naam: and the sons of Elah, even Kenaz.

**1Chronicles 4:16** And the sons of Jehaleleel; Ziph, and Ziphah, Tiria, and Asareel.

**1Chronicles 4:17** And the sons of Ezra *were*, Jether, and Mered, and Epher, and Jalon: and she bare Miriam, and Shammai, and Ishbah the father of Eshtemoa.

**1Chronicles 4:18** And his wife Jehudijah bare Jered the father of Gedor, and Heber the father of Socho, and Jekuthiel the father of Zanoah. And these *are* the sons of Bithiah the daughter of Pharaoh, which Mered took.

**1Chronicles 4:19** And the sons of *his* wife Hodiah the sister of Naham, the father of Keilah the Garmite, and Eshtemoa the Maachathite.

**1Chronicles 4:20** And the sons of Shimon *were*, Amnon, and Rinnah, Benhanan, and Tilon. And the sons of Ishi *were*, Zoheth, and Benzoheth.

**1Chronicles 4:21** The sons of Shelah the son of Judah *were*, 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,

The house of Ashbea is noted for the making of fine linen.

**1Chronicles 4:22** And Jokim, and the men of Chozeba, and Joash, and Saraph, who had the dominion in Moab, and Jashubilehem. And *these are* ancient things.

**1Chronicles 4:23** These *were* the potters, and those that dwelt among plants and hedges: there they dwelt with the king for his work.

These people were noted for their skill as potters and their work for the king.

Commentators note that “plants and hedges” are probably places names—Netaim and Gederah.

I had no further comments on the rest of the chapter.

**1Chronicles 4:24** ¶ The sons of Simeon *were*, Nemuel, and Jamin, Jarib, Zerach, and Shaul:

**1Chronicles 4:25** Shallum his son, Mibsam his son, Mishma his son.

**1Chronicles 4:26** And the sons of Mishma; Hamuel his son, Zacchur his son,

Shimei his son.

**1Chronicles 4:27** 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.

**1Chronicles 4:28** And they dwelt at Beersheba, and Moladah, and Hazarshual,

**1Chronicles 4:29** And at Bilhah, and at Ezem, and at Tolad,

**1Chronicles 4:30** And at Bethuel, and at Hormah, and at Ziklag,

**1Chronicles 4:31** And at Bethmarcaboth, and Hazarsusim, and at Bethbirei, and at Shaaraim. These *were* their cities unto the reign of David.

**1Chronicles 4:32** And their villages *were*, Etam, and Ain, Rimmon, and Tochen, and Ashan, five cities:

**1Chronicles 4:33** And all their villages that *were* round about the same cities, unto Baal. These *were* their habitations, and their genealogy.

**1Chronicles 4:34** And Meshobab, and Jamlech, and Joshah the son of Amaziah,

**1Chronicles 4:35** And Joel, and Jehu the son of Josibiah, the son of Seraiah, the son of Asiel,

**1Chronicles 4:36** And Elioenai, and Jaakobah, and Jeshohaiah, and Asaiah, and Adiel, and Jesimiel, and Benaiah,

**1Chronicles 4:37** And Ziza the son of Shiphi, the son of Allon, the son of Jedaiah, the son of Shimri, the son of Shemaiah;

**1Chronicles 4:38** These mentioned by *their* names *were* princes in their families: and the house of their fathers increased greatly.

**1Chronicles 4:39** And they went to the entrance of Gedor, *even* unto the east side of the valley, to seek pasture for their flocks.

**1Chronicles 4:40** And they found fat pasture and good, and the land *was* wide, and quiet, and peaceable; for *they* of Ham had dwelt there of old.

**1Chronicles 4:41** And these written by name came in the days of Hezekiah king of Judah, and smote their tents, and the habitations that were found there, and destroyed them utterly unto this day, and dwelt in their rooms: because *there was* pasture there for their flocks.

**1Chronicles 4:42** 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.

**1Chronicles 4:43** And they smote the rest of the Amalekites that were escaped, and dwelt there unto this day.