

Dear Heavenly Father,

### *Praise*

Israel's genealogies begin with Adam. This reminds me of my connection with the two Adams of history. I have a physical union with the first Adam, and because of his sin, I was born separated from you and bent on having my own way (Rom 5:12; Isa 53:6). But now, through the precious blood of the Lamb, I have a spiritual union with the second Adam—your Son, Jesus Christ! (1 Cor 15:45). As Paul told the Corinthians, "For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive" (1 Cor 15:22). Hallelujah!

### *Today in Your Word*

Today you shared with me the first part of the genealogical records of Israel. These records played an important role in the next great event in Israel's history—the return of the Jews to Jerusalem after their long exile in Babylon. The genealogical records kept track of which people belonged to which tribe. This had great significance because you allotted the land on the basis of tribal descent. The records also showed which people were eligible for service in the priesthood. Both Ezra and Nehemiah record that some of the returning "sons of the priests" were excluded from the priesthood as unclean because they could not be found among those enrolled in the genealogies (Ezra 2:61–63; Neh 7:63–65). Also, during Nehemiah's term as governor, you prompted him to make sure the people were enrolled in the genealogies (Neh 7:5). The time and effort you required for maintaining accurate genealogical records teaches me that you care about your promises. You swore to give the land to the sons of Jacob, and you always keep your word. This encourages me to put my trust in you and rest in your leadership.

### *Reflection*

As I thought about why you preserved the genealogical records in the Bible, I was reminded of what I read in Ezekiel 40–48. In the Millennium, the land of Israel will be once again divided into sections and given to the tribes. Also, the Zadokites will serve as priests in the new temple. This shows me that parts of your word are relevant for that future day when your Son will rule the world from Jerusalem!

### *Request*

Father, as I read the names in the genealogies, I realized that I'm related to each and every person. All of us go back to one man, Adam, and everything we do has an impact on the rest of our family. Help me to be a blessing to the line of Adam by bringing glory and honor to you, my Father and my Redeemer!

### *Thanksgiving*

Thank you for the genealogies! They are as much a part of your inspired word as the psalms and the law. It's good to be reminded that I'm just one small part of a vast group of people. One day I plan to join all those who have gone on to be with you in glory! Praise the LORD!

In Jesus' name, Amen.

*Suggested Hymn: "A Song of Joy" – Daniel O. Teasley.*

*Meditation Verse: 1 Chronicles 2:7.*