

September 11 Answers

- 1) Part 1 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 God 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, God prompted him to make sure the people were enrolled in the genealogies (Neh 7:5). The time and effort God required for maintaining accurate genealogical records teaches us that God cares about His **promises**. God swore to give the land to the sons of Jacob, and He always keeps His word. This encourages us to put our **trust** in Him and rest in His leadership. Israel's genealogies begin with Adam. This reminds us of our connection with the two Adams of history. We have a **physical** union with the first Adam, and because of his sin, we were born separated from God and bent on having our own way (Rom 5:12; Isa 53:6). But now, through the precious blood of the Lamb, we have a **spiritual** union with the second Adam, 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).