

---

1CHRONICLES 5: 1 The sons of Reuben the firstborn of Israel (for he was the firstborn; but, because he defiled his father's couch, his birthright was given to the sons of Joseph the son of Israel; and the genealogy is not to be reckoned after the birthright.

---

The genealogies of Reuben, 1Chr 5:1-10. Of Gad, 1Chr 5:11-17. The exploits of Reuben, Gad, and the half tribe of Manasseh, 1Chr 5:18-22. The genealogy of the half tribe of Manasseh, 1Chr 5:23, 1Chr 5:24. The idolatry of these tribes and their captivity by the Assyrians, 1Chr 5:25, 1Chr 5:26.

Verse 1

The sons of Reuben the first-born - As Reuben was the eldest son of Jacob, why was not his genealogy reviewed first? This verse answers the question; he lost the birth-right because of the transgression mentioned Gen 35:22; Gen 49:4, and the precedence was given to Judah; from him therefore came the chief ruler. This appears to be the meaning of the place.

---

1CHRONICLES 5: 2 For Judah prevailed above his brothers, and of him came the prince; but the birthright was Joseph's:)

---

Verse 2

And of him came the chief ruler - This is, by both the Syriac and Arabic, understood of Christ: "From Judah the King Messiah shall proceed." The Chaldee paraphrases the verse thus: "Seeing Judah prevailed over his brethren, so the kingdom was taken from Reuben and given to Judah; and because he was strong, so was his kingdom. Levi also was godly, and did not transgress in the matter of the golden calf; therefore the high priesthood was taken away from the children of Reuben, and on their account from all the first-born, and given to Aaron and his sons. The custody of the sanctuary belonged to the Levites, but the birthright to Joseph." - T.

---

1CHRONICLES 5: 3 the sons of Reuben the firstborn of Israel: Hanoch, and Pallu, Hezron, and Carmi.

1CHRONICLES 5: 4 The sons of Joel: Shemaiah his son, Gog his son, Shimei his son,

1CHRONICLES 5: 5 Micah his son, Reaiah his son, Baal his son,

1CHRONICLES 5: 6 Beerah his son, whom Tilgath Pilneser king of Assyria carried away captive: he was prince of the Reubenites.

---

Verse 6

Beerah his son - After their separation from the house of David the ten tribes continued to have princes of the tribes; and this continued till the time that Tiglath-pileser carried them captives into Assyria. At that time Beerah was their prince or chief; and with him this species of dominion or precedence terminated. According to the Targum, Beerah was the same as Baruch the prophet.

1CHRONICLES 5: 7 His brothers by their families, when the genealogy of their generations was reckoned: the chief, Jeiel, and Zechariah,

1CHRONICLES 5: 8 and Bela the son of Azaz, the son of Shema, the son of Joel, who lived in Aroer, even to Nebo and Baal Meon:

---

Verse 8

Who dwelt in Aroer - This town was situated on the river Arnon; and Nebo was both a city and a mountain in the same country. They both lay on the other side of Jordan.

---

1CHRONICLES 5: 9 and eastward he lived even to the entrance of the wilderness from the river Euphrates, because their livestock were multiplied in the land of Gilead.

1CHRONICLES 5: 10 In the days of Saul, they made war with the Hagarites, who fell by their hand; and they lived in their tents throughout all the land east of Gilead.

---

Verse 10

And they dwelt in their tents - The Hagarites were tribes of Nomade, or Scenite, Arabs; people who lived in tents, without any fixed dwellings, and whose property consisted in cattle. The descendants of Reuben extirpated these Hagarites, seized on their property and their tents, and dwelt in their place.

---

1CHRONICLES 5: 11 The sons of Gad lived over against them, in the land of Bashan to Salecah:

1CHRONICLES 5: 12 Joel the chief, and Shapham the second, and Janai, and Shaphat in Bashan.

---

Verse 12

Joel the chief - "Joel, prince of the Sanhedrin; and Shapham, master of the college; and Jaanai and Shaphat, judges in Mathnan." - T.

---

1CHRONICLES 5: 13 Their brothers of their fathers' houses: Michael, and Meshullam, and Sheba, and Jorai, and Jacan, and Zia, and Eber, seven.

---

Verse 13

And their brethren - This verse is wanting both in the Syriac and in the Arabic.

---

1CHRONICLES 5: 14 These were the sons of Abihail, the son of Huri, the son of Jaroah, the son of Gilead, the son of Michael, the son of Jeshishai, the son of Jahdo, the son of Buz;

1CHRONICLES 5: 15 Ahi the son of Abdiel, the son of Guni, chief of their fathers' houses.

1CHRONICLES 5: 16 They lived in Gilead in Bashan, and in its towns, and in all the suburbs of Sharon, as far as their borders.

---

Verse 16

The suburbs of Sharon - There were three places of this name: that mentioned here was a district in the country of Bashan beyond Jordan, (see Jos 12:18); there was another that lay between Caesarea of Palestine and Joppa; and there was a third between Mount Tabor and the Sea of Tiberias. See Calmet.

---

1CHRONICLES 5: 17 All these were reckoned by genealogies in the days of Jotham king of Judah, and in the days of Jeroboam king of Israel.

1CHRONICLES 5: 18 The sons of Reuben, and the Gadites, and the half-tribe of Manasseh, of valiant men, men able to bear buckler and sword, and to shoot with bow, and skilful in war, were forty-four thousand seven hundred and sixty, that were able to go out to war.

1CHRONICLES 5: 19 They made war with the Hagarites, with Jetur, and Naphish, and Nodab.

---

Verse 19

They made war with the Hagarites - This is probably the same war that is mentioned 1Chr 5:10. Those called Hagarites in the text are everywhere denominated by the Targum "הונגראי" Hongaraai, Hongarites.

---

1CHRONICLES 5: 20 They were helped against them, and the Hagarites were delivered into their hand, and all who were with them; for they cried to God in the battle, and he was entreated of them, because they put their trust in him.

---

Verse 20

They put their trust in him - Or, as the Targum says, "Because they trusted במימריה bemeymriah, in his Word."

---

1CHRONICLES 5: 21 They took away their livestock; of their camels fifty thousand, and of sheep two hundred fifty thousand, and of donkeys two thousand, and of men one hundred thousand.

---

Verse 21

They took away their cattle - This was a war of extermination as to the political state of the people, which nothing could justify but an especial direction of God; and this he could never give against any, unless the cup of their iniquity had been full. The Hagarites were full of idolatry: see 1Chr 5:25.

---

1CHRONICLES 5: 22 For there fell many slain, because the war was of God. They lived in their place until the captivity.

---

#### Verse 22

For there fell down many slain - The hundred thousand men mentioned above were probably made slaves, and were not slain. The Targum says, one hundred thousand souls of men.

The war was of God - The Targum says, the war was מן מימרא דיי min meymera dayai, "from the Word of the Lord."

---

1CHRONICLES 5: 23 The children of the half-tribe of Manasseh lived in the land: they increased from Bashan to Baal Hermon and Senir and Mount Hermon.

1CHRONICLES 5: 24 These were the heads of their fathers' houses: even Epher, and Ishi, and Eliel, and Azriel, and Jeremiah, and Hodaviah, and Jahdiel, mighty men of valor, famous men, heads of their fathers' houses.

1CHRONICLES 5: 25 They trespassed against the God of their fathers, and played the prostitute after the gods of the peoples of the land, whom God destroyed before them.

---

#### Verse 25

The gods of the people of the land - We see the reason why God delivered the Hagarites into the hands of these tribes; they were abominable idolaters, and therefore God destroyed them.

---

1CHRONICLES 5: 26 The God of Israel stirred up the spirit of Pul king of Assyria, and the spirit of Tilgath Pilneser king of Assyria, and he carried them away, even the Reubenites, and the Gadites, and the half-tribe of Manasseh, and brought them to Halah, and Habor, and Hara, and to the river of Gozan, to this day.

---

#### Verse 26

Tilgath-pilneser - Many MSS. have תגלת Tiglath instead of תלגת Tilgath. The Syriac, the Septuagint, and the Chaldee, have the same reading as in 2Kgs 15:29, etc.

Brought them unto Halah - See the notes on 2Kgs 17:6 (note), and 2Kgs 18:11 (note), for many particulars of these wars, and consequent captivity. It is a pity that some method were not found out to harmonize the books of Kings with the books of Chronicles, that the variations might be seen at one view.