

Notes on Zerah Judah



W. E. Filmer

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By W. E. Filmer

IT HAS BEEN WIDELY ASSUMED THAT THE DESCENDANTS OF ZERAH, son of Judah (and probably also the descendants of Shelah) migrated to Ireland before the Exodus, because after that, it is said, they disappeared entirely from the Bible story (see *Bible Research Handbook* Ser. 109h). Thus in the Genealogy of the House of David, published by the BIWF, a daughter of Zedekiah is said to have married a descendant of Zerah in Ireland.

In refutation, it is only necessary to point out that:

1) A census of the tribes present in the wilderness taken shortly before the Israelites entered Canaan, says that "the sons of Judah after their families were: of Shelah, the family of Shelanites: of Pharez, the family of Pharzites: of Zerah, the family of Zarhites" (Numbers 26:20).

2) Achan, well known as the one who stole the loot at Jericho, was a zarhite, "For Achan--the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took the accursed thing" (Josh. 7:1, cf. 7:16-18). Again 1 Chron. 2:7 names Achar (Achan), son of Carmi, as the troubler of Israel, among the descendants of Zerah. 1

3) Individual Zarhites are named in 1 Chronicles 27, verses 8, 11 and 13, as in the time of David.

4) 1 Chronicles 9 records that representatives of all three sections of Judah dwelt in Jerusalem after the captivity, namely the children of Pharez (v.4), the Shilonites (v.5), and the sons of Zerah (v.6). See also Nehemiah 11:5 and 11:24.

5) 1 Chronicles 4:21-23 lists whole families of Shilonites and their occupations at named places in Judea and Moab.

6) Among five "sons" of Zerah listed in 1 Chronicles 2:6, are Ethan, Heman, Calcol and Dara (AV marg. Darda), but it is well known that the term "son" may mean any descendant, however remote. These four were contemporary with Solomon whose wisdom was compared with theirs (1 Kings 4:31).

Heman and Ethan were the authors of Psalms 88 and 89, and the titles confirm that they were Ezraites (Zerahites). In Psalm 89 Ethan speaks of David and the Davidic covenant, so he must have lived in the time of Solomon or later; in fact, verses 38-51 indicate that the occasion was the Egyptian invasion in the time of Rehoboam (2 Chron. 12: 1-4). T h i s makes it certain that Ethan was not the son of Zerah in our sense of that word.

Now in 1 Chron. 2:6 Ethan is named before Heman, Calcol and Darda, who are said in 1 Kings 4:31 to have been sons of Mahol. For this reason these three are not likely to have been senior to Ethan. So all these descendants of Zerah lived no earlier than Solomon who died about 930 B.C.

The legendary fall of Troy has been dated not later than the beginning of the 12th century BC., and this occurred in the fourth generation after its founding by Tros, grandson of Dardanus. Taking these four plus two generations as 150 years, this brings Dardanus back to the fourteenth century B.C., at least four centuries before the time of Solomon. It is, therefore, impossible to identify the Biblical Darda with the legendary Greek Dardanus.

Apart from this gross anachronism, there exists no evidence for this identification. The legendary Dardanus was said to be the son of Zeus, whereas the Biblical Darda was the son of Mahol (1 Kings 4:31). The identification was made by W. H. M. Milner in his "Royal House of Britain" on the authority of Smith's Bible Dictionary, which alleges that Josephus called Darda Dardanus. But this is an error (see Josephus, Antiquities, VIII, ii, 5).

The view put forward in the Bible Research Handbook, Ser. 109 that Darda, who lived in the time of Solomon, was, ancestor of the royal lines of Crete, Phrygia, Greece and Ionia, must be rejected. The statement that the descendants of Zerah disappeared from the Bible story after the Exodus is also clearly without foundation. The descendants of Shelah and Zerah were among the house of Judah until after the Babylonian captivity.

The Davidic Genealogy The Trojan Origin of Ancient British Kings

Apart from the erroneous assumption that Biblical Darda is to be identified with the Greek Dardanus, the Trojan origin of the British is based on a fabulous story to be found in the History of the Britons by Nennius. According to the second of the two accounts which he gives, Britain was named after Brutus, grandson of Aeneas, hero of Troy. In four of the existing old manuscripts of Nennius (those designated G, K, L and N) there is a comment, either in the margin or in the text, by a scribe who called himself Samuel, to the effect that this derivation of the Britons from Brutus was a late invention not found in the original. This comment is carried over into all copies of the Irish i.e. Gaelic translation of Nennius, but with the additional remark that "It was in this way that our noble elder Guanach deduced the pedigree of the Britons from the Chronicles of the Romans." (J. H. Todd's translation, p. 37). The Book of Guanach is quoted in the Annals of Ulster for events in the early seventh century.

Now according to the Trojan legend, as adapted by Virgil from Homer's original, Aeneas, after the death of his father Anchises, went to Italy, and there enquired of a pagan prophetess to tell his fortune and that of his posterity. The prophecy included the following: "Silvius of Alban name, thy last born child—will be a king and father of kings; from him shall our race long have sway in Long Alba" (Aeneid VI, lines 756-766, Loeb ed. p. 588/9).

Long Alba was a great city in ancient Italy. Virgil intended the prophecy to mean that the posterity of Silvius would long reign there. But the Irishman Cuana (Genit. Cuanach) evidently did not know this, and jumped to the conclusion that Alba meant Britain, for that was its name in his day.

The name Brutus is quite unknown to both Homer and Virgil; it was clearly invented by Cuana as the eponymous ancestor of the British, it being common practice by early middle age monks, or historians to invent eponymous ancestors for almost all nations, tribes and families.

The Genealogy from Calcol to Eochaid

The genealogy from Gadhol, (supposed son of Calcol), to Breogan may be found (with different spelling) in certain versions of the Lebor Gabala, or Book of Conquests, and in later Irish histories derived from this, such as Keating's (*Bible Research Handbook*, Ser.113d). But in all these Gadhol (Gaedel) is said to have been the son of Nel, or Niul, son of Fenius Farsaid, son of Baath, son of Magog, son of Noah. That is to say that Gaedel lived some six generations after the Flood, and thus long before the time of Abraham. To make Calcol, who lived in the time of Solomon, the father of Gaedel, who lived long before Abraham, is ludicrous, and there is no justification for it.

Anyone acquainted with the Irish "histories" will know that the monks in the seventh or eighth centuries who compiled it, were faced with a total ignorance of their ancestors before they arrived in Ireland in the Sixth century B.C. This long genealogy was their way of filling the gap, and it is entirely fictitious.

According to Irish legend, Breogan was the eponymous founder of Brigantium in northwest Spain. He was a generation or two earlier than Miletus, founder of the Milesian dynasty in the 6th century B.C.. The Book of Conquests, Keating, and all other Irish histories say that Miletus married Scota, daughter of "Pharaoh" in Egypt, and that one of his sons, Erimon, married Tea, daughter of Lugaid, son of Ith, son of Breogan, in Spain before migrating to Ireland. All the named ancestors of Breogan lived during their endless wanderings and migrations from Scythia (BM Ser.114b). There is, therefore, no suggestion that any of them lived in Ireland. Ith, son of Breogan, was the first to have a sight of Ireland.

In the later Irish genealogies, Miletus is said to be son of Bille, son of Breogan; others name Gallam as Bille's son (*Bible Research Handbook*

Ser. 117c). But neither Miletus, Gallam, or any other son of Bille is ever said to have had a son Eochaid. The insertion of this name is false and without any foundation. For further details see my pamphlet "Who were the Scots".

A proper genealogy from Miletus and Scota should be drawn up from *Corpus Genealogiarum Hiberniae*, by M.A. O'Brien, 1962, for the Irish, and *Kings and Kingship in Early Scotland* (1973) by M. O. Anderson.



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