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Advisory Committee
FROM ADAM TO ESAU AND ISRAEL: 
AN ANTI-EDOMITE IDEOLOGY IN
1 CHRONICLES 1

by

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I

Chapters i-ix of I Chronicles constitute a collection of genealogical
lists comprising a prologue to the book.¹ Chapters ii-ix present the
genealogies of the Israelite tribes.² Chapter i is the foreword to this
prologue, presenting the genealogical lists from Adam to Jacob. All
the genealogical lists in chapter i are based exclusively on the paral-
lel lists in the book of Genesis. Some are a quotation of the original
in Genesis, while in other cases the Chronicler gave a brief summary
of long lists (see for instance I Chron. i 1-3 in comparison with Gen.
v 1-31). The abridgement is expressed also in the omission of the
opening and closing sentences of the original in Genesis, and in the omis-
sion of informative remarks, for instance of geographical descriptions
of the lands of the peoples.

The chapter begins with Adam and passes through his third son,
Seth, to Noah without indicating names that are not related to this

Chronicles (AB, New York 1965), p. 6; W. Rudolph, Chronikbücher (HAT, Tubingen
Welch was of the opinion that chapters I Chron. i-ix is a late addition, A. C. Welch,
Post-Exilic Judaism (Edinburgh and London 1935), pp. 185-187; also F. M. Cross, “A
Reconstruction of Judean Restoration”, JBL 94 (1975), pp. 11-14. This view has not
been adopted in modern research. See e.g. H. G. M. Williamson, Israel in the Books of
Chronicles (Cambridge 1977), pp. 71-86; H. G. M. Williamson, I and 2 Chronicles (NCBC,
Grand Rapids and London 1982), pp. 12-13; Japhet, I & II Chronicles, A Commentary,
pp. 5-7. Willi views these chapters as the foundation of the Book of Chronicles, see:

² For the purpose of biblical genealogies in general see: R. R. Wilson, Genealogy and
History in the Biblical World (Yale near Eastern Researches, 7, New Haven and London
On the reliability of biblical genealogies see G. A. Rendsburg, “The internal consistency
and historical reliability of biblical genealogies”, VT 40 (1990), pp. 185-206.

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