

in the first eight chapters of the first book of Chronicles, there has been discovered a series of Gentile genealogies relating to the period of the formation of nations, with which other facts of the Bible, monumental records, and the truths embodied in national traditions may be compared, connected or identified.⁹ Such comparison and identification I have so far been enabled to make with some measure of success in the case of the two important families of Shobal and Ashchur.¹⁰

The family to which I at present direct attention is that of Onam. Onam, the ancestor of this line, occupies a peculiar position, being counted in two genealogies relating to diverse stocks, the one being that of Shobal the Horite, the other that of Jerachmeel.¹¹ After going carefully over the field of monumental history and tradition, I am convinced that there were not two Onams but one only. As mentioned among the sons of Shobal, I have already referred to him in my paper on the Horites, as the eponym of On or Heliopolis in Egypt, and the brother of Ra and Month or Reiah and Manahath.¹² But in 1 Chron. ii. 26, we read: "Jerachmeel had also another wife, whose name was Atarah; she was the mother of Onam." At the 28th verse, the descendants of Onam are given very fully, affording ample opportunities for safe comparison and identification with other genealogical records. Before proceeding, however, to the history of Onam, I must briefly introduce the family of Jerachmeel, who is called his father.

In 1 Sam. xxvii. 10, xxx. 29, the Jerachmeelites, or rather a remnant of them, are represented as inhabiting the southern part of Judah, together with the Kenites, in the time of David; and the manner in which they are mentioned leaves no doubt that they are a Gentile family.¹³ Referring to Jerachmeel's descendants other than Onam, we find (1 Chron. ii. 25) Ram, Bunah, Oren and Ozem as his sons. Ahijah may be the name of his first wife.¹⁴ Then, in the 27th verse, the three sons of Ram are given: Maaz, Jamin and Eker. Here the list seems to end; but when we turn to the 7th chapter of the same book, at the 6th verse we read, not "the sons of Benjamin" but "the sons of Jamin," who is the second son of Ram mentioned

⁹ This discovery was first stated by me in my article on the Horites.

¹⁰ *Vide* the Horites and the Shepherd Kings.

¹¹ Gen. xxxvi. 23; 1 Chron. i. 40, ii. 26.

¹² Canadian Journal, Vol. xii. No. 6, 526.

¹³ *Ib.* 519.

¹⁴ Patrick's Commentary on Chronicles in *loc.*