

Matthew 1 - CHAPTER 1

THEME: *The genealogy of Jesus Christ and record of the virgin birth of Jesus.*

THE GENEALOGY

The genealogy which opens the Gospel of Matthew and the New Testament is in many respects the most important document in the Scriptures. The entire Bible rests upon its accuracy. You will notice it has three divisions:

1. Genealogy from Abraham to David (vv. 1–6).
2. Genealogy from Solomon to the Babylonian captivity (vv. 7–11).
3. Genealogy from the Babylonian captivity to Joseph, the carpenter (vv. 12–17).

In our study of Genesis, we note the fact that it is a book about families. The genealogies there are very important, and we see them here as we start the New Testament.

Note: Genealogies typically are not the thing we get excited about, but we should understand the purpose for them in the Bible. Without Jesus being established as the rightful Messiah going through the door or the sheep gate as opposed to robbers, liars, and thieves that go over the fence.

Joh 10:1-3 "I tell you the truth, anyone who sneaks over the wall of a sheepfold, rather than going through the gate, must surely be a thief and a robber! But the one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep recognize his voice and come to him. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.

Also, this book is written to the Jewish believers and their birth right and status was secured through the temple records to prove they were rightful heirs from their tribe. This is the genealogy of the Lord Jesus on Joseph's side. We'll have another when we get over to Luke, and that will be from Mary's side.

Do you think the Pharisees and teachers of the law looked Jesus trying to prove he was not the rightful heir?

Mat 1:1-2 This is a record of the ancestors of Jesus the Messiah, a descendant of David and of Abraham: Abraham was the father of Isaac. Isaac was the father of Jacob. Jacob was the father of Judah and his brothers.

The KJV version states this is the book of the generation which is only mentioned that way one other time (Genesis 5:1). You see the text is making it clear that there are two books of the generations that you are born into Adam and Jesus. Everyone is in the book of Adam, but only those listed in the generation of Jesus are in the Book of Life. **Are you in both books?** When we get to John 3, we will discuss how to be born again and list in the Book of Life (Book of the Generation of Jesus), but you don't have to wait till then!

Mat 1:3-4 And Judah begat Phares and Zara of Thamar; and Phares begat Esrom; and Esrom begat Aram; And Aram begat Aminadab; and Aminadab begat Naasson; and Naasson begat Salmon;

His genealogy are the names of four gentile women—two of them were Canaanites, one was a Moabite, and the fourth was a Hittite! You would naturally ask the question, "How did *they* get into the genealogy of Christ?"

Thamar (Tamar) is the first of the bad girls in the genealogy. She is list in what maybe the most graphic and odd chapter of the bible (Gen 38). Vernon McGee calls it the worst chapter in the bible.

PG Version – Judah's first son take Tamar as wife he is evil, so the Lord takes him. Then, Judah tells his second son to fulfill his commitment to his brother. The second son does not want to fulfill it, and willfully disobeys, so he too dies. Then, Judah promises third son when he becomes of age, but does not fulfill his promise. Meanwhile, Tamar is living life as a childless widow in her father-in-law's house. She hears that Judah after his wife died is going to shear the sheep, so she plays the harlot with a veil to conceive with Judah and has twins. When Judah finds out she is pregnant and played

the harlot proclaims she must be burned, but she shows his staff and signet ring as proof that he is the father! He repents and calls her more righteous than he! BTW, the second born not the first was listed in the genealogy.

Why would God put such a sordid story in the bible and have a lady like Tamar in the line of Christ? Who are you in this story? How can you relate?

Mat 1:5-6 And Salmon begat Booz of Rachab; and Booz begat Obed of Ruth; and Obed begat Jesse; And Jesse begat David the king; and David the king begat Solomon of her that had been the wife of Urias;

“Rachab” is better known as Rahab back in Joshua chapter 2. But she did become a wonderful person after she came to a knowledge of the living and true God. “By faith the harlot Rahab perished not with them that believed not, when she had received the spies with peace” ([Heb 11:31](#)). She got into the genealogy of Christ for the simple reason that she *believed*. She had faith. Notice Rahab not only had faith but demonstrated in her brave act to protect the spies through a lie of all things.

James 2:18-20

But someone will say, “You have faith, and I have works.” Show me your faith without [a]your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble! But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?

How about you? There are two parts to this test faith and action to prove the faith. Which is hardest for you, and why?

Now, we come to Ruth, and she was lovely. The only issue was the law. You see she was a Moabite and disqualified, but she left her land, family, and all she knew to follow God. That was when she found her kinsman redeemer! Boaz loved her at first sight and restored all that had been lost in life. Jesus offers us the same for us today.

Do you have a relationship with the Redeemer?

Now, we come to the wife of Urias (aka Bathsheba). McGee notes Matthew does not mention her name because it was not her sin. It was on David. He was the one hanging on the roof of palace at the times when Kings go to war.

Whether you are Bathsheba or David in this story, it should give you hope! God does not take away the consequences of your sin in this life, but He forgives, loves, and restores you in spite of your failures.

Mat 1:7-11 And Solomon begat Roboam; and Roboam begat Abia; and Abia begat Asa; And Asa begat Josaphat; and Josaphat begat Joram; and Joram begat Ozias; And Ozias begat Joatham; and Joatham begat Achaz; and Achaz begat Ezekias; And Ezekias begat Manasses; and Manasses begat Amon; and Amon begat Josias; And Josias begat Jechonias and his brethren, about the time they were carried away to Babylon:

Jechonias is in the lineage of Joseph yet, the Lord said no seed of Jechonias would sit on the throne of David (Jer 22:24, 30). Notice: Joseph had the legal title to give to Jesus as Mary’s husband, but also Jesus was not his seed fulfilling both the prophecies. Also, since both Joseph and Mary’s lineage were from the House of David, they were compelled to go to Bethlehem.

Mat 1:12-16 And after they were brought to Babylon, Jechonias begat Salathiel; and Salathiel begat Zorobabel; And Zorobabel begat Abiud; and Abiud begat Eliakim; and Eliakim begat Azor; And Azor begat Sadoc; and Sadoc begat Achim; and Achim begat Eliud; And Eliud begat Eleazar; and Eleazar begat Matthan; and Matthan begat Jacob; And Jacob begat Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ.

Notice the Begats end when we get to Joseph who is simply the husband of Mary. Matthew makes the record clear on the virgin birth.

Mat 1:17-18 So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; and from David until the carrying away into Babylon are fourteen generations; and from the carrying away into Babylon unto Christ are

fourteen generations. Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.

Fourteen is likely a numerology thing since it is twice of seven, but obviously to reach fourteen several names would have to be omitted. This likely an approximation way of speaking given the math does not work. Note: Matthew again explains the virgin birth via the Holy Spirit and the timing to remove any doubt.

Mat 1:19 Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly.

The Mosaic Law was very specific at this point. It said that a woman who was guilty of being unfaithful should be stoned to death—that was the extreme penalty. But this man Joseph was a remarkable man. A hot-headed man would immediately have had her stoned to death or would have made her a public example by exposing her. But Joseph was not that kind of man. He was a gentle person. He was in *love* with her, and he did not want to hurt her in any way, although he felt that she had been unfaithful to him. **What kind of man are you?**

Mat 1:20-21 But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins."

The angel is sent to step in and avoid tragedy and encourage Joseph. Jesus means savior and the angel is literally saving this situation. **Do we stop long enough to seek God's will in our decision? Do you believe angels are sent today to minister, advise, and encourage us?**

Mat 1:22-25 So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: "BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD, AND BEAR A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL," which is translated, "God with us." Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS.

Jesus is the fulfillment of scripture.

Isa 7:14 Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.

Notice: Although the angel came to encourage, Joseph still had to have the fortitude to walk out this calling. Likely, he had others telling him bad advice that did not understand or believe his miraculous story.

Matt 7:13-14 "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

What gate are you choosing to enter through?