

A "PUREBRED" GENEALOGY

Matthew 1

I. THE GENEALOGY OF JESUS IS A ROYAL GENEALOGY

A. Abraham (vv.1-2; Genesis 17:6; [Sarah Genesis 17:16])

B. Jacob (v.2; Gen.35:11)

C. Judah (v.3; Gen.49:8-11; Hebrews 7:14; Revelation 5:5,11-14)

D. David (vv.1,6,17,20; 21:49; 22:41-46; 2 Sam.2:5; 7; Acts 13:22-23; 2 Tim.2:8; Rev.5:5)

E. In Matthew 1:7-11 there is a listing of 14 kings Jesus was related to from Solomon to Jeconiah.

F. "Messiah" (vv.1,16,17,18; Psalm 2)

1. God's anointed, the Christ/Messiah, is opposed by kings and rulers (Psalm 2:1-3; Luke 23:12; Acts 4:25-28). Herod, Pontius Pilate, High Priest, etc.
2. God's Messiah is installed and made King (Psalm 2:6; 2 Sam.7:8-17; 1 Chron.17:13; 22:10; 28:6; Psalm 45:6; 72; 89; Isa.9:6; Mt.28:18-20; Acts 2:33; Heb.1:3). Verse 6 is God's speaking to the nations.
3. The Son is exalted: raised and ascended (Psalm 2:7; 2 Samuel 7:12b; Acts 13:32-33; cf. Dan.7:13-14). Verses 7-9 are God speaking to His Son.
4. The nations are given as Christ's possession (vv.8-9; **Matthew 28:18**). Christ is now putting all His enemies under His feet (1 Cor.15).

G. The bloodline of Jesus was essential for His qualification as Messiah. In order for Jesus to be Savior He had to belong to the family tree of King David (cf. Rom.1:3; Rev.22:16).

II. THE GENEALOGY OF JESUS DOES NOT SIMPLY EMPHASIZE THAT JESUS WAS BORN KING, BUT THAT GOD THE SON TOOK UPON HIMSELF HUMAN FLESH "TO SAVE HIS PEOPLE FROM THEIR SINS." THE PEDIGREE OF JESUS, ACCORDING TO ARISTOCRATIC STANDARDS WAS UNADULTERATED, BUT THE PEDIGREE OF JESUS, IN THE SIGHT OF GOD, WAS FULL OF ADULTERERS AND PEOPLE WHO HAD BEEN POLLUTED BY SIN.

A. Abraham (v.2; Genesis 12:10-20; 20:1-18 with Gen.9:22-23)

B. Judah and Tamar (v.3)

1. Judah sold his brother into slavery (37:26-27) – a capital crime (Ex.21:16; Deut.24:6-7).

"Scandal is really nothing more than the revelation of the [fallen] humanity of our heroes."
Garrison Keillor

Deuteronomy 24:7

If a man is caught kidnapping any of his countrymen of the sons of Israel, and he deals with him violently or sells him, then that thief shall die; so you shall purge the evil from among you.

2. Judah married a Canaanite (38:2; cf. Deut.7:1-4).
3. Judah went to a temple prostitute – another capital crime! (38:15,21-22; Exodus 20:3; 34:12-16; Deuteronomy 13:5; 2 Kings 10:25-28)
4. Judah was a man of double standards (38:24).

C. Rahab/prostitute and a Canaanite (v.5). The Canaanites were cursed by Noah (Gen.9:22-27)!

D. David and Bathsheba/adultery (v.6; Deuteronomy 22:22)

- ✓ Uriah was a Hittite, meaning he was a descendant of Canaan.
- ✓ Canaan was cursed because his father, Ham, had not covered Noah's nakedness.
- ✓ The Canaanites were so sexually depraved that their sins are listed at length in Leviticus 18,20 where God commands Israel not to commit the same abominations.
- ✓ Abraham and Isaac thought couldn't trust the kings of cursed Canaan. But David, the seed of blessed Shem and Abraham, took Uriah's wife, and had Uriah killed.

E. Solomon/700 wives, idolater (v.7; 1 Kings 11)

F. Uzziah (v.9) – tenth king of Judah (struck with leprosy & banned from the temple [2 Ch. 26:16–21])

G. Ahaz (v.9; 2 Kings 16:3-4; **Isaiah 7**) – Ahaz: made his sons pass through the fire. He was an idolater and made molten images for the Baals (2 Kings 16:3).

H. Manasseh (v.10; 2 Kings 16:3; 21:6, cf. 2 Chron 33:6-13) – seduced Israel to do more evil than the nations whom Israel drove out of the promised land!

I. Jeconiah (vv.11-12; 2 Chron.36:8-9; Jer.22:24-30; cf. Esther 2:5-6)

1. Jeconiah was the last Israelite king to have *inherited* the Davidic throne. His uncle, Zedekiah, reigned after him, but was placed on the throne by Nebuchadnezzar (2 Chron.36:10).
2. It was Jeconiah and especially his father's rebellion that were the final stages of the fall of the Davidic dynasty (Jer.36:30-31).
 - a. The people of Jeremiah's day did not believe that Babylon would prevail (Jeremiah 7).
 - b. Even after Jeconiah was taken into captivity, false prophets were saying he would return within two years (Jer.28:2-4,10-17; cf. Jer.27:9,14,16).
 - c. It was in this context that Jeremiah said neither Jeconiah nor his seed would ever return (Jer.22:22-30; cf. Jer.22:1-5).
3. The Old Covenant form of the Davidic dynasty after the Babylonian deportation never revived.

Are you related to any of the people in Jesus' genealogy? (Matthew 11:28)

One of the axioms of Christianity is: "Grace never destroys nature." Deeper than Marx's claim that workers "have nothing to lose but their chains" is the Christian promise that we have "nothing to lose but our sin." Nothing that is truly human is lost in redemption. Death in baptism is *to* self, not *of* self. He came that we "may have life, and have it more abundantly" (*John 10:10*) and that your "joy may be full" (*John 16:24*)" (Allison, *The Cruelty of Heresy* 112).

QUESTIONS FOR SABBATH DISCUSSION & MEDITATION:

Take what you have learned this morning and make it into a prayer for yourself. Have you trusted in Jesus to save you from your sins? Has Jesus delivered you from a sinful lifestyle? Are you living the life of a disciple by following Jesus? Commit yourself in prayer to all of these things.

How is the genealogy of Jesus "royal?"

What does "Messiah" mean?

In what way was the pedigree of Jesus not "pure?"

*Are there some people Jesus did **not** come to save?*

Explain the meaning of Ulrich Zwingli's statement that if one understood the genealogy of Jesus, they would understand the essential theology of the Reformation.

The Swiss reformer Ulrich Zwingli (1484-1531) claimed that if one understood the genealogy of Jesus, they would understand the essential theology of the Reformation.