

THE GOSPEL PROJECT – CHRONOLOGICAL

THE RESCUE *begins*

GOD THE SON

From Abraham to Jesus

Today, our chronological study of the Bible turns to the New Testament – 27 books that harmonize in telling the story of Jesus – the long promised Messiah of the Old Testament. The Messiah was prophesied to be the One Anointed by God’s Spirit to deliver His people and establish His kingdom. However, the majority of the Jews interpreted this coming kingdom would be a political one. In the New Testament, it becomes clear that God’s promised Messiah would establish His spiritual kingdom. The Messiah (the Son of God) came to earth on a rescue mission for the purpose of rescuing people from the power of sin and death – a rescue mission that is still ongoing!

Then and now, people question who Jesus is. Matthew records that Jesus Himself questioned His first disciples regarding His identity. **Matthew 16:15-16 (ESV)** ¹⁵ *He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?”* ¹⁶ *Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”* Each individual must answer the same question that Jesus asked: *who do you say that I am?* The Bible reveals God the Son to us in many ways. In Matthew, the first book of the New Testament, the revelation of Jesus as the Promised Messiah begins with His genealogy which connects us back to the Old Testament.

Be aware that there are two genealogies of Jesus in the New Testament. Matthew's genealogy begins with Abraham and moves forward to Jesus, while Luke's genealogy in **Luke 3** begins with Jesus and moves backward to Adam. Matthew’s purpose was to reveal Jesus as the Son of Abraham and the Son of David – chiefly His descending from the royal or kingly line. Luke’s purpose for going all the way back to Adam was to reveal that Jesus was the Son of Man directly descended from Adam. There are differences in the names when you compare the two lists (see chart). Through the centuries the differences in the lists have been used as proof for the inaccuracy of God’s Word. Rest assured, there are no inaccuracies in the Word of God. Each of us descends from four family lines – two from each parent. For me the best answer is that Matthew traced the legal line of Jesus through Joseph his adopted father while Luke traced the biological line of Jesus through Mary his birth mother. Most believe that Luke, a physician, interviewed Mary when he wrote his gospel. There are no mistakes in God’s Book.

Today, some know about their personal family history while others know little or nothing regarding family bloodlines. Whether or not we know our family history, most at times ask the question, ‘Who am I?’ and then struggle to answer that question in many ways. Television ads encourage us to purchase DNA testing to discover the percentages of various nationalities

composing our bloodlines. We can buy into ancestry.com or some other genealogy database to discover the names of our ancestors. Some will encourage you to journey to the ‘land of knowing yourself’ and a host of other unsatisfying ways. I prefer to encourage you to answer the question Jesus asked: *who do you say that I am?* since to know Jesus defines who we are. Then, when you know Jesus and find yourself wondering ‘who am I’ you have the answer: I am God’s child and I belong to the family of God!

On the Internet, a hyperlink, or link is a reference to data that the reader can directly follow by clicking. Sometimes the link may lead you to ‘click’ on a picture. Today, we will ‘click’ on names in the New Testament genealogy of Jesus that link us to Old Testament pictures of the Promised Messiah.

Matthew the tax collector who left everything behind to follow Jesus provides the links we need to see Jesus, the Son of Abraham, who brings blessing to the world. Although some of the names, might be unfamiliar you will recognize more than you think!

Read Matthew 1:1-5 (ESV) ¹ *The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.* ² *Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers,* ³ *and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram,* ⁴ *and Ram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon,* ⁵ *and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse,*

Presenting the genealogy of Jesus to the Jews was the best way that Matthew could begin his book. To the Jew, a person’s family line proved his or her standing as one of God’s ‘chosen people’ – people who were aware of God’s promise to Abraham. We find the promise in **Genesis 12:3 (ESV)** ³ *I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.*” It is clear that God was going to use Abraham to bless all families of the earth. But how? It would not be clear until the arrival of Jesus, a son of Abraham, in the New Testament.

Let’s ‘click’ on the Perez and Zerah link in the genealogy of Jesus. Notice that both Perez and Zerah, the twin-sons of Judah are both named which is unusual since Perez only was Christ’s ancestor. Most likely both are mentioned so we can see the picture that occurred at their birth. Zerah put his hand out first at birth appearing as the first-born, but drew his hand back in allowing Perez, his brother, to claim the birthright. The picture is not clear you say! Look more closely. The Jews, like Zerah, reached first for the birthright, but because of their unbelief withdrew their hand opening the way for the Gentiles, like Perez, who broke forth and gained the birthright.

Next, let's 'click' on the twins' mother's name – Tamar whose story is recorded in **Genesis 38**. Tamar lost two husbands to death. They were both sons of Judah and he feared giving her his third son. She wanted a child so she tricked her father-in-law for the purpose of conceiving a child by him. Tamar is in the genealogy of Jesus despite her shame. **Romans 4:7-8 (ESV)** ⁷ *“Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; ⁸ blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin.”* The Son of God covers our sin!

Next link – Rahab. We know her as being a harlot in Jericho who protected the Israelites and was herself saved from death in the Battle of Jericho. Rahab is found in the genealogy of Jesus because of her faith. **Hebrews 11:31 (ESV)** ³¹ *By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had given a friendly welcome to the spies.* This link reminds us how our faith connects us to the Son of God.

Next link – Ruth. Ruth the Moabitess, a foreigner first brought into the Israelite homeland by her mother-in-law, Naomi, even though there was the Law which shut her out saying that a Moabite or an Ammonite shall not enter into the congregation of the LORD **Deut. 23:3**. Although the Law kept her from entering, there was a man named Boaz who became her kinsman redeemer and brought her into the family picturing how Boaz and Ruth's descendent Jesus would become the Kinsman Redeemer for the world.

Jesus is the Son of David who reigns forever.

Read Matthew 1:6-11 (ESV) ⁶ *and Jesse the father of David the king. And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, ⁷ and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asaph, ⁸ and Asaph the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, ⁹ and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, ¹⁰ and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josiah, ¹¹ and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.*

Not only did God make a promise to Abraham, He made a promise to David as well. **2 Samuel 7:12 (ESV)** ¹² *When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom.* The same as with Abraham, if Jesus were not a son of David, He would not be the fulfillment of God's promise.

The next link literally reads: *David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah.* We know the wife of Uriah was Bathsheba. The mention of the birth of their son who would grow up to be king after David's great sin pictures that even after great sin the LORD brings forgiveness and great blessing to His children.

Just so you know, Matthew pictured three groups of fourteen generations. However, if you compare this genealogy with the one in **1 Chronicles 3** some of the names are spelled differently and some are missing. For example, in **Matthew 1:8**, you will find that names of Ahaziah, Joash, and Amaziah are left out. This shows that the genealogies are quoted to give us a view of a certain line of descendants and that every individual is not necessarily named in every genealogy of the Bible.

Jesus is the Messiah who ends our exile to sin and death.

Read Matthew 1:12-17 (ESV) ¹² *And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel,* ¹³ *and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor,* ¹⁴ *and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud,* ¹⁵ *and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob,* ¹⁶ *and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ.* ¹⁷ *So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations.*

This final grouping of 14 generations does not begin with a person but an event – the Babylonian captivity. In Old Testament times, the signet ring was used to prove authority. The LORD said of Jechoniah aka Coniah in **Jeremiah 22:24 (ESV)** ²⁴ “...Coniah the son of Jehoiakim, king of Judah, were the signet ring on my right hand, yet I would tear you off. This king was useless to the Lord. His authority was removed. The next King of the Jews would be Jesus.

There is a link we notice from our recent study of the rebuilding of the temple after the captivity – Zerubbabel. He would not be a king but a temple builder. Because of God the Son, those who accept Him become temples of the Holy Spirit.

The final link in today’s lesson is *Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ*. Joseph’s role as stepfather in Jesus’ birth links us back to Isaiah’s Old Testament prophecy regarding the promised Messiah. **Isaiah 7:14 (ESV)** 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.* Isaiah in turn links us to **Matthew 1:23 (ESV)** ²³ “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us).

Jesus was born of a virgin – giving Him both humanity and divinity. His genealogy reveals Jesus is as Chris Tomlin sings: the rescue for sinners, the ransom from heaven, Jesus Messiah, Lord of All!

MATTHEW

LUKE

Abraham	Abraham
Isaac	Isaac
Jacob	Jacob
Judah	Judah
Perez	Perez
Hezron	Hezron
Ram	Ram
Amminadab	Amminadab
Nahshon	Nahshon
Salmon	Salmon
Boaz	Boaz
Obed	Obed
Jesse	Jesse
David	David

Paternal Line

Maternal Line

Solomon		Nathan (Solomon's brother)
Rehoboam		
Abijah		Mattathah
Asa		Menan
Jehoshaphat		Melea
Joram		Eliakim
Uzziah		Jonan
Jotham		Joseph
Ahaz		Judah
Hezekiah		Simeon
Manasseh		Levi
Amon		Matthat
Josiah		Jorim
Jeconiah		Eliezer
Shealtiel	} Intermarriage {	Jose
Zerubbabel		Er
		Elmodam
		Cosam
		Addi
		Melchi
		Neri
		Shealtiel
		Zerubbabel

Abiud	←(Zerubbabel's sons)→	Rhesa
Eliakim		Joannas
Azor		Judah
Zadok		Joseph
Achim		Semel
Eliud		Mattathiah
Eleazar		Maath
Matthan		Naggai
Jacob		Esli
Joseph	* Son-in-law to	Nahum
		Amos
		Mattathiah
		Joseph
		Janna
		Melchi
		Levi
		Matthat
		Heli
		Mary