



## Daily Devotionals

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### MATTHEW 1:1-17 WHO IS JESUS?

<sup>1</sup> A record of the genealogy of Jesus Christ the son of David, the son of Abraham:

<sup>2</sup> Abraham was the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, <sup>3</sup> Judah the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar, Perez the father of Hezron, Hezron the father of Ram, <sup>4</sup> Ram the father of Amminadab, Amminadab the father of Nahshon, Nahshon the father of Salmon, <sup>5</sup> Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab, Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth, Obed the father of Jesse, <sup>6</sup> and Jesse the father of King David.

David was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been Uriah's wife, <sup>7</sup> Solomon the father of Rehoboam, Rehoboam the father of Abijah, Abijah the father of Asa, <sup>8</sup> Asa the father of Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat the father of Jehoram, Jehoram the father of Uzziah, <sup>9</sup> Uzziah the father of Jotham, Jotham the father of Ahaz, Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, <sup>10</sup> Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, Manasseh the father of Amon, Amon the father of Josiah, <sup>11</sup> and Josiah the father of Jeconiah and his brothers at the time of the exile to Babylon.

<sup>12</sup> After the exile to Babylon: Jeconiah was the father of Shealtiel, Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, <sup>13</sup> Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, Abiud the father of Eliakim, Eliakim the father of Azor, <sup>14</sup> Azor the father of Zadok, Zadok the father of Akim, Akim the father of Eliud, <sup>15</sup> Eliud the father of Eleazar, Eleazar the father of Matthan, Matthan the father of Jacob, <sup>16</sup> and Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ.

<sup>17</sup> Thus there were fourteen generations in all from Abraham to David, fourteen from David to the exile to Babylon, and fourteen from the exile to the Christ.

What is in a genealogy? For the ancient Jews the answer would be the very identity of the one whose lineage is being traced. As an example, a man's qualification for the priesthood was predicated on his being descendant from Levi. In St. Matthew's genealogy, Jesus is established as the climax of God's redemptive work in the world. As the descendent of Abraham, who was the Father of Faith, Jesus is the promised seed through whom God would establish his covenant with his people. As a descendent of David, the King of the united Israel, Jesus is the promised eternal King who will reign over God's people forever. As the son of Mary, whose husband was Joseph, Jesus was legally a Jew, but the Son of God. Using the symbolic genealogy containing 14 generations between Abraham and David and 14 generations between David and Jesus, St. Matthew points his readers to the reality of theological perfection in the birth of Jesus.

The genealogy also points to the comprehensive nature of Jesus' identity. It includes both men and women in contrast to the usual genealogies of the time that only mentioned male ancestors. In this way St. Matthew was communicating that the traditional barriers between men and women were broken down by Jesus Christ. The character of these women, as well as some of the men points to the ministry of Jesus being to both saints and sinners. Tamar and Bathsheba committed adultery, and Rahab was a prostitute. In addition, Jesus came to redeem both Jews and Gentiles since his direct lineage included Ruth, who was a Moabitess, a member of a people formally excluded from the Temple. Finally, the inclusion of Mary demonstrates that human nature came through her but that his father was not Joseph but God. The bottom line is that Jesus is the Savior of the

world, because there is no difference among human beings when it comes to sin. We have all sinned and can only be justified through Jesus Christ (Romans 3:22-24).

Jesus is the answer to the world's problem of sin. He is the seed and blessing of Abraham through whom the entire world will be blessed (Genesis 12:3). He is the shoot of Jesse through whom the world will be delivered through his victory over sin, death and the devil. He is the son of David who will establish and fulfill God's reign over all the nations.

**You, Lord Jesus, are the answer to my every need. Clear the misconceptions of my mind and fill my heart with love for you so that I might live as your redeemed child and a witness to the truth of who you are. Amen.**

*Chuck+*