

The Genealogy of Christ

Matthew 1:1-17, Luke 3:23-38

- I. The Importance of Christ's Lineage
 - A. Fulfillment of prophecies that Christ would be a descendant of:
 1. Abraham – Genesis 22:18, cf. Galatians 3:8-9
 2. Jacob – Numbers 24:17
 3. Judah – Genesis 49:10
 4. Jesse – Isaiah 11:1
 5. David – Jeremiah 23:5-6
 - B. Legal right to the Davidic throne
- II. Notes on Matthew's Genealogy – Matthew 1
 - A. Presented as proof of His right to be Messiah and King of the Jews
 - B. I think this is Joseph's genealogy, Christ's legal, patrilineal lineage
 - C. Presented as three sets of 14 generations using 41 names – vs. 17
 1. Abraham to David – 14
 2. David to Captivity (Josias) – 14
 3. Captivity (Jechonias) to Christ – 14
 - D. Includes four women
 1. vs. 3 – Tamar, a Canaanite – Genesis 38
 2. vs. 5 – Rahab, a Canaanite – Joshua 2, 6:22-25
 3. vs. 6 – Ruth, a Moabitess – Book of Ruth
 4. vs. 7 – Bathsheba – II Samuel 11
 - E. Is not exhaustive
 1. Example in vs. 8 – Between Joram (Jehoram) and Ozias (Uzziah or Azariah), there are three kings omitted (Ahaziah, Joash, and Amaziah) and queen Athaliah
 - a. Why? Likely, those names were not on the official register being cursed through association with Athaliah, daughter of Ahab and Jezebel
 2. This likely explains why Luke's list is larger
 3. Note – The Jews used the word "son" (*bar* or *ben*) to describe many relations.
 - a. Smith's Bible Dictionary – "The term 'son' is used in Scripture language to imply almost any kind of descent or succession"
 - F. Follows the Royal Lineage through Solomon – vs. 6-7
 - G. Includes the cursed line of Jeconiah/Jechoniah – vs. 12
 1. In Jeremiah 22:30 God says his descendants will not inherit the Davidic throne
 2. Why is he included in this line?
 - a. The curse applied in his lifetime ("in his days")
 - b. God reversed the family ban with Zerubbabel – cf. use of "signet" in Jeremiah 22:24 and Haggai 2:23
 - c. Christ's claim to Davidic throne could be traced through a different line, as we find in Luke's Genealogy.

- III. Notes on Luke's Genealogy – Luke 3
 - A. Present as proof of the veracity of existence of and claims made by Christ
 - B. I think this is Mary's genealogy, Christ's human lineage
 - 1. It is obvious Luke knew Joseph was not Christ's biological father – Luke 1:34-35, 3:23
 - C. Presented as a line from Creation to Christ
 - 1. There are 77 total names from God to Christ.
 - 2. There are 21 names listed before Abraham
 - 3. There are 41 names between David and Christ
 - a. Goes through David's son Nathan (II Samuel 5:14, etc.)
- IV. Misc. Notes
 - A. The genealogies diverge after David and then reunite with Christ via one possible intersection with Salathiel and Zorobabel – Matthew 1:12 and Luke 3:27
 - 1. These could be different people as each have different fathers for Salathiel.
 - B. Does it matter if these genealogies are different?
 - 1. Not really. They obviously follow two different courses connecting Christ to David.
 - 2. Josh McDowell – “The purpose of the two genealogies is to demonstrate that Jesus was in the complete sense a descendant of David. Through His foster father, Joseph, He inherited—by law—the royal line, albeit a deposed line according to Jeremiah 22:28–30. More importantly through His mother He was a flesh and blood descendant of King David through David's son Nathan. Thus, Jesus had the proper credentials for the throne of David.”