

Message #2**Matthew 1:1-17**

When Jesus Christ came to this earth, pedigree was a major issue to the Jews. Careful records were kept to determine what family or tribe of Israel one was in. In fact, when Ezra was reorganizing worship for Israel about 400 years before Christ was born, such careful records existed that every name could be located in registration books and if the name couldn't be found, the person was considered unclean (Ezra 2:62). When Josephus, the famed Jewish historian, who lived in the time of Christ, began his history of the Jews, he begins by citing his own pedigree which he says he got from the "public records" (Josephus, p. 1). When the book of Matthew begins, it begins with a pedigree, but not just any pedigree; it is the pedigree of Jesus Christ. Matthew gets right at this point whereas Luke does not bring it up until chapter three.

THE GENEALOGY OF JESUS CHRIST CLEARLY ESTABLISHES THAT JESUS CHRIST IS THE KING OF THE JEWS; HE IS THE FULFILLMENT OF MESSIANIC LINEAGE PROPHECY AND HIS DIVINE PROGRAM USES SINNERS.

Question #1 - Is the person Abrahamic? Abraham is the physical father of the Hebrew race so this question asks can we link the person physically to Abraham.

Question #2 - Is the person Davidic? David is the physical father of the royal line, so this question asks can we link this person physically to David.

Verse 1 is very important for it answers both questions—namely, Jesus is Abrahamic and He is Davidic. It is important to observe which is emphasized first—He is the "son of David." This gives us great insight into the entire book of Matthew—Jesus is the Davidic King. This is what will be stressed throughout the book. Christ came first as royalty for Israel. He offered Himself first to Israel as her Messiah and King, and when He was rejected He offered Himself as Savior of the world. First Jesus came as the Sovereign and then He offered Himself as the Savior.

TIME PERIOD #1 – The genealogy of Jesus Christ from Abraham to David. **1:2-6**

(Observation #1) - The genealogy starts with Abraham, not Adam. **1:2**

Matthew is a Jewish book and the Jews look to Abraham, not Adam. It is particularly important to observe that Judah is stressed because it was promised to Judah that the Messiah would come through his family line (Gen. 49:10). Even though many centuries had passed, God had not forgotten about His promise and the Righteous One did come through Judah's line.

(Observation #2) - The genealogy emphasizes that Jesus came through Perez, not Zerah. **1:3-6**

Perez and Zerah were twin sons of Judah. It was specifically predicted that the Davidic king would come through the line of Perez (Ruth 4:12, 18ff). Again we may notice the precision of detail in which Christ fulfilled OT prophecy.

(Observation #3) - The genealogy emphasizes that David was “the king.” **1:6**

Notice only of David is it stressed that he was the king. Why just him, why not Solomon?

Because the King of the Jews must be in the Davidic line and that is exactly what Matthew is stressing.

TIME PERIOD #2 – The genealogy of Jesus Christ from David to the Babylonian captivity. **1:7-11**

Three important kings are missing from **verse 8**—Ahaziah, Joash and Amaziah, who was the most prominent king. Why are they omitted? Because they were descendants of the wicked daughter of Ahab (Athaliah) who desired to annihilate the kingly seed. The names listed in this section represent the best and the worst of Israel. It was terrible moral decline and apostasy that led to the Babylonian captivity. Some of the names in the lineage list are great names of men who truly did revive Israel spiritually—men like Jehoshaphat, Hezekiah and Josiah. Other are names of royal failures—men like Rehoboam, Ahaz and Manasseh.

TIME PERIOD #3 – The genealogy of Jesus Christ from the Babylonian captivity to Jesus Christ. **1:12-16**

Verse 12 begins with a man in the lineage list whose name is Jeconiah. Jeremiah the prophet predicted that no descendant would be on David’s throne from Jeconiah’s line—Jer. 22:30. How can we explain this? The lineage list being presented in Matthew is Jesus through Joseph. The lineage list presented in Luke is Jesus through Mary. Joseph was only the father of Jesus in an adoptive sense. Both genealogies connect Jesus to David (Luke 3:31), but only in Mary’s line is Jesus literally connected to him.

Verse 16 is important in the way it is worded—the pronoun “whom” is feminine and connects to Mary. Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit, not by Joseph. This verse, plus the inclusion of Jeconiah’s name proves Jesus was virgin born. When the verse says Jesus is “called Christ,” what this means is this is what Jesus was called. This is not a phrase that implies doubt, but to prove what title He was called—He was called Christ, the Messiah (2:23; 4:18; 10:2; 13:55; 26:3, 14, 36; 27:16, 22, 33). **Verse 17** places an emphasis on 14 generations. Although it is not stated specifically why what is known is that in Hebrew the letters of the alphabet have a numerical value. In Hebrew there were no vowels, just consonants. In the name “David,” the D=4, the V=6 and the D=4. Four plus six plus four equals fourteen. More than likely Matthew is again stressing Jesus is the Davidic King even by the numbers. There are five women named in the lineage list:

- 1) Tamar – **1:3** - who disguised herself as a prostitute and committed incest with her father-in-law, Judah (Gen. 38).
- 2) Rahab – **1:5a** - who was a Canaanite prostitute (Josh. 2:1).
- 3) Ruth – **1:5b** - who was a Gentile Moabitess and part of a cursed nation.
- 4) Bathsheba – **1:6** - who acted like a prostitute and had an immoral affair with David and cheated on her husband, Uriah.

5) Mary – **1:16** - a poor Jewish girl who became pregnant before she was married.

This lineage list proves Jesus is the only King of the Jews and the only One who can and will save sinners from their sins.