

# Bite Size Bible Study

## Jesus' Genealogy pt 1 #82

By Pastor Lee

I would guess that you have rarely if ever read Matthew 1:1-17; the Genealogy of Jesus, from Matthew's perspective. Genealogies are mind numbing and generally do not convey much information to us. However Matthew has "hidden" in plain sight some interesting and pertinent facts.

In the O.T. there were two main requirements for kingship. One was applicable to the Southern Kingdom of Judah with its capital in Jerusalem. This requirement for kingship is that the individual had to be of Davidic descent. No one that was not of Davidic descent could sit upon the throne in Israel. The second requirement was applicable to the Northern Kingdom of Israel, and that was the Divine appointment or prophetic sanction. These two requirements together would insure that only one individual would sit upon the throne and rule the nation of Israel.

Matthew introduces his account with these words: *"A record of the genealogy of Yeshua the Messiah, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham."* This is a verification of Yeshua's lineage.

To a Jewish person in the time of Yeshua, reading the Holy Scriptures was like reading a family album. This is one of the reasons why the destruction of the Temple in 70 A.D. was so traumatic. All of the genealogy records were stored there and were burnt up in that fire, losing all of that precious information forever.

But Matthew breaks Jewish custom and adds the names of women, this was forbidden by Jewish custom for genealogies. In verse 3, he mentions Tamar, in verse 5 Rahab, in verse 6 Ruth, and also in verse 6, not by name, but the pronoun "her" refers to Bathshevah. All four women have one thing in common: they were Gentiles. Matthew is bringing out by this that although Yeshua's primary mission is to the Jews, Gentiles will also benefit from His coming. A second reason for mentioning these names in violation of Jewish custom, is that Yeshua came to save sinners. Three of these four women were guilty of sexual sins. One was a prostitute, one was guilty of incest and one was guilty of adultery.

One of the two main purposes of Matthew's genealogy is to show how that if Joseph was Yeshua's biological father, then Yeshua could not be the King of Israel. As Matthew traces Yeshua's genealogy beginning with Abraham, then to David, and then on to David's son Solomon; he then continues to a man named Jechoniah, which is very significant.

*"As I live," says the Lord, "though Coniah (Jechonia) the son of Jehoiakim, king of Judah, were the signet on My right hand, yet I would pluck you off; and I will give you into the hand of those who seek your life and into the hand of those who face you fear - the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon and the hand of the Chaldeans. So I will cast you out, and your mother who bore you, into another country where you were not born; and there you shall die. But to the land to which they desire to return, there they shall not return. Is this man Coniah (Jechoniah) a despised broken idol? Is he a vessel in which there is no pleasure? Why are they cast out, he and his descendants, and cast into a land they do not know? O earth. O earth, hear the word of the Lord! " Thus says the Lord, "Write this man down as childless, a man who shall not prosper in his days; for none of his descendants shall prosper, sitting on the throne of David, and ruling anymore in Judah.*

Jeremiah 22:24-30

Because of the kind of man that Jeconiah was, Jeremiah pronounced a curse upon him; that no descendants of Jeconiah will ever have the right to sit upon the throne of Israel. Matthew tells us that Joseph was a direct descendant of Jeconiah. If Joseph was really Yeshua's father, Yeshua could not be King. But Joseph was not Yeshua's father – the Holy Spirit was. This is what Matthew is telling us if we look beyond the obvious.

This is why in the next few verses he recounts the virgin birth. Matthew is telling us that Yeshua was not really born of Joseph, which would disqualify Him to be King, but being born of the Holy Spirit He is King.

By skipping generations (an acceptable form of genealogy) Matthew uses the numerical equivalent of names to identify Yeshua with King David. The numerical value of the name David (DVD) is fourteen. Matthew records in detail that fourteen generations elapsed between Abraham and David, fourteen generations between David and the Babylonian Captivity, and fourteen generations between the Exile and Yeshua. This was a Jewish method of connecting Yeshua with King David, the anointed king who was prototype of the Messiah to come.

Not all theologians accept this, but it is interesting to ponder and does give one a reason to wonder what other "hidden truths" are right in plain sight and we just read over them or skip them as unimportant.

Excerpts from "The Gospels from a Hebrew Perspective" by Bob Doty

**Next we will look for clues in Luke's Genealogy**

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