
What Purpose Does the Genealogy of Jesus Serve?

5 Primary Observations Concerning God & the Earthly Lineage of Jesus

The genealogies of Jesus presented in Matthew and Luke can be seen, not as a list, but as a table of contents to history and the faithfulness and working of God through history.

Matthew 1:1-17 – ¹ The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham: ² Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob, and Jacob begot Judah and his brothers. ³ Judah begot Perez and Zerah by Tamar, Perez begot Hezron, and Hezron begot Ram. ⁴ Ram begot Amminadab, Amminadab begot Nahshon, and Nahshon begot Salmon. ⁵ Salmon begot Boaz by Rahab, Boaz begot Obed by Ruth, Obed begot Jesse, ⁶ and Jesse begot David the king. David the king begot Solomon by her *who had been the wife* of Uriah. ⁷ Solomon begot Rehoboam, Rehoboam begot Abijah, and Abijah begot Asa. ⁸ Asa begot Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat begot Joram, and Joram begot Uzziah. ⁹ Uzziah begot Jotham, Jotham begot Ahaz, and Ahaz begot Hezekiah. ¹⁰ Hezekiah begot Manasseh, Manasseh begot Amon, and Amon begot Josiah. ¹¹ Josiah begot Jeconiah and his brothers about the time they were carried away to Babylon. ¹² And after they were brought to Babylon, Jeconiah begot Shealtiel, and Shealtiel begot Zerubbabel. ¹³ Zerubbabel begot Abiud, Abiud begot Eliakim, and Eliakim begot Azor. ¹⁴ Azor begot Zadok, Zadok begot Achim, and Achim begot Eliud. ¹⁵ Eliud begot Eleazar, Eleazar begot Matthan, and Matthan begot Jacob. ¹⁶ And Jacob begot Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus who is called Christ. ¹⁷ So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations, from David until the captivity in Babylon are fourteen generations, and from the captivity in Babylon until the Christ are fourteen generations.

Luke 3:23-38 – ²³ Now Jesus Himself began *His ministry* at about thirty years of age, being (as was supposed) *the son* of Joseph, *the son* of Heli, ²⁴ *the son* of Matthat, *the son* of Levi, *the son* of Melchi, *the son* of Janna, *the son* of Joseph, ²⁵ *the son* of Mattathiah, *the son* of Amos, *the son* of Nahum, *the son* of Esli, *the son* of Naggai, ²⁶ *the son* of Maath, *the son* of Mattathiah, *the son* of Semei, *the son* of Joseph, *the son* of Judah, ²⁷ *the son* of Joannas, *the son* of Rhesa, *the son* of Zerubbabel, *the son* of Shealtiel, *the son* of Neri, ²⁸ *the son* of Melchi, *the son* of Addi, *the son* of Cosam, *the son* of Elmodam, *the son* of Er, ²⁹ *the son* of Jose, *the son* of Eliezer, *the son* of Jorim, *the son* of Matthat, *the son* of Levi, ³⁰ *the son* of Simeon, *the son* of Judah, *the son* of Joseph, *the son* of Jonan, *the son* of Eliakim, ³¹ *the son* of Melea, *the son* of Menan, *the son* of Mattathah, *the son* of Nathan, *the son* of David, ³² *the son* of Jesse, *the son* of Obed, *the son* of Boaz, *the son* of Salmon, *the son* of Nahshon, ³³ *the son* of Amminadab, *the son* of Ram, *the son* of Hezron, *the son* of Perez, *the son* of Judah, ³⁴ *the son* of Jacob, *the son* of Isaac, *the son* of Abraham, *the son* of Terah, *the son* of Nahor, ³⁵ *the son* of Serug, *the son* of Reu, *the son* of Peleg, *the son* of Eber, *the son* of Shelah, ³⁶ *the son* of Cainan, *the son* of Arphaxad, *the son* of Shem, *the son* of Noah, *the son* of Lamech, ³⁷ *the son* of Methuselah, *the son* of Enoch, *the son* of Jared, *the son* of Mahalalel, *the son* of Cainan, ³⁸ *the son* of Enos, *the son* of Seth, *the son* of Adam, *the son* of God.

1. **To provide a connection Jesus' ancestry**
 - a. Jesus is the human descendant of Adam
 - b. Jesus is the human descendant of Abraham
 - c. Jesus is the human descendant of David

2. **To provide evidence that God's keeps His promises**
 - a. To Adam
 - b. To Noah
 - c. To Abraham
 - d. To David
 - e. As a holy God of retribution
 - f. As a longsuffering God of grace
 - g. As a mercy-giving God
 - h. Jesus is the Messiah, the One prophesied to come

3. **To prove that God's power and plan reigns throughout time**
 - a. God works out His plan as promised
 - b. God works out His plan over long periods of time
 - c. God works out His plan through His power over conception
 - d. God works out His plan through a chosen nation
 - e. God works out His plan using people who are often broken
 - f. God works out His plan in spite of the problems of the people
 - g. God works out His plan with divine precision
 - h. God works out His plan in various places
 - i. God works out His plan to ensure that His promises come to pass
 - j. God works out His plan to preserve the human race
 - k. God works out His plan to preserve the nation of Israel
 - l. God works out His plan to save sinners from their sins

4. **To provide a platform for the teachings of Jesus to follow**
 - a. The salvation required by all mankind because of the sinfulness of all mankind
 - b. The salvation provided by God to all mankind
 - c. The salvation provided by belief, not works

5. **To present evidence that God's salvation is for everyone**
 - a. The Gentiles have been part of God's salvation plan all along (by the only four women listed: 2 Canaanites connected to harlotry, 1 Moabite descended from incest, and 1 Hittite involved in adultery)
 - b. That we, like the rest of the human race, are all sinners
 - c. Salvation from our sins can only come through belief in God's work on our behalf alone