

# Lineage of Christ

## Introduction

*Why is the lineage of Jesus important?*

There are many prophecies that someone claiming to be the Christ must fulfill. Being from the line of David is just one of those prophecies. But it is also one of the most relevant as this would be the first argument looked at for anyone touting themselves as the Messiah. It is no accident that two of the gospels record the genealogy of Jesus.

## Discussion

*Read Isaiah 11:1-5*

Jesse, the father of King David, is prophesied by Isaiah, one of the most revered and prolific prophets, to produce the coming Messiah.

*Read 2 Samuel 7:8-17*

Here, Nathan the prophet is told by God to pass on this message to David. David wants to build a temple for God and the response is that there is an even greater purpose that the line of David will fulfill.

*What does it mean in verse 14 about this future offspring committing iniquity?*

This prophecy is an indirect confirmation of Jesus coming from the line of David. This prophecy is about the Christians that will come about through their belief in Jesus, the offspring of David. As Christians, we will be accepted and corrected by God, not rejected because of our sin.

*Why are there two different lineages recorded in the gospels?*

Although this is not without dispute, it is generally accepted that the two lineages record one for Mary and one for Joseph. Luke records the line of Jesus through the mother, Mary. This would be unheard of as lineage is usually only measured against the male side of the family. But since God the Father is 'the father' there would be no lineage to record on this side. The gospel of Matthew records the lineage of Jesus through the line of Joseph. Even though technically Joseph wasn't the real father, the legal dispute of this claim would come through this line. The lineage of both Joseph and Mary had to fulfill the prophecies.

## Lineage

### Joseph

*Read Matthew 1:1-17*

Matthew opens his gospel with the proclamation that Jesus is the Messiah. He then provides the legal lineage for those that would seek to discredit this claim. He goes as far back as Abraham which is more than enough proof of lineage.

*What names stick out to you?*

Matthew doesn't offer a complete lineage here, but he hits the highlights as well as some controversies. Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Judah would be significant to establish true Jewish roots as genealogy was an important factor in the Jewish culture.

Ruth is mentioned in the line leading up to David, one of four women who are mentioned in this lineage. Tamar, Rahab and Bathsheba are the other three. It is unusual to mention women in a genealogy, especially one such as Tamar or Rahab who were prostitutes, but Matthew highlights the good and the bad in order to show God's grace and to remind the Jews who are looking with a critical eye that their own lineage would likely reveal these same undesirable truths.

Zerubbabel is listed in verses 12 and 13. He is the same Zerubbabel who began the rebuilding of Jerusalem under Cyrus the Great after the fall of Babylon.

In verse 17, Matthew states that this lineage contains 14 generations each between Abraham, Babylon and the birth of Jesus. This is not a mistake. This is simply Matthew condensing the lineage for reference. One example would be in verse 8 where Matthew states that Joram begot Uzziah. There were actually three kings between Joram and Uzziah. This was a common Jewish practice to shorten genealogies for the sake of length and memorization and would have been accepted in any Jewish court. Matthew ensures that this is understood by stating the 14 generations between events knowing that any good Jew would know that there were more generations than that between these historical markers.

There is another name that Matthew skipped in his lineage. In verse 11, it says that Josiah became the father of Jechoniah. Jehoakim is the son of Josiah and the father Jechoniah.

*Read 2 Chronicles 36:5-8 and Jeremiah 36:30-31*

The descendant of this line has been cursed and cannot be the Messiah! This is also why Matthew makes it very clear in verse 16 that Joseph is the husband of Mary, but not the father of Jesus.

## **Mary**

*Read Luke 3:23-28*

In Matthew, the genealogy begins with Abraham and works forward. Luke begins with Jesus himself and works backwards. Note that Luke does not specify that this is the lineage of Mary. He simply eludes that Joseph was the supposed father. This has been a source for much debate, but it is believed that since this was a virgin birth that the lineage would follow the maternal side.

*What names stick out in this lineage? What differences did you notice? What similarities?*

There are several points to note that stand apart from the Matthew lineage. First, the Matthew account lists Solomon, the son of David. In Luke's account, it is Nathan that is listed as the son of David (verse 31). This is where the lineage differentiates from David and avoids the curse of Jehoakim.

Second, there is a Zerubbabel listed in this lineage, but it is not the same Zerubbabel in the lineage of Matthew. It is interesting to note that both have a father with the same name, but that is where the similarities end. There is little dispute on this subject which lends credibility to this observation.

Lastly, Luke finds it imperative to go back further than Abraham through Noah and even Adam. God is the final name listed in the account of Luke.

## References

<https://www.allaboutjesuschrist.org/lineage-of-jesus-faq.htm>

[https://www.blueletterbible.org/Comm/guzik\\_david/StudyGuide2017-2Sa/2Sa-7.cfm](https://www.blueletterbible.org/Comm/guzik_david/StudyGuide2017-2Sa/2Sa-7.cfm)

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