



Scripture: Matthew 1:1–17

Hey everyone! I'm so glad you're here today. Before we dive into anything else, let me ask you a quick question: when you're reading your Bible and you hit a long list of names, what do you usually do? Be honest. Do you slow down and carefully pronounce every name? Or do you skip ahead to the "good stuff"?

Most of us probably skim right over genealogies. They feel like the Bible's version of the credits at the end of a movie. Unless there's an end credit scene or funny bloopers reel, we're not hanging around for it. And that's kind of how a lot of us feel about Matthew Chapter 1.

But here's the thing: in the ancient world, genealogies weren't boring. They were powerful. They were like receipts; proof of identity, position, and claim. If you said you owned land, your genealogy proved it. If you said you had the right to be king or priest, your genealogy backed it up. These lists mattered. They told the backstory. They showed where you came from and why your story mattered.

So, when Matthew began his Gospel with a genealogy, he was not trying to bore us. He was actually making a bold claim: Jesus was the Messiah who God promised. His story was rooted in everything God had been doing for centuries.

Here's what I want us to wrestle with today: the names we usually skip over actually tell us something huge about God's faithfulness, Jesus' identity, and even our own story. So instead of skipping this, let's lean in. Let's see why Matthew started here and what it shows us about Jesus.

But first, let's pray and ask God to open our eyes to what He wants to show us in His Word.

[\[Pray here.\]](#)

Alright, go ahead and grab your Bible. Open up to Matthew Chapter 1, starting in verse 1. I'm going to read the whole genealogy—yes, all of it—because God put it here on purpose.

Matthew 1:1–17 (NIV):

This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham:

Abraham was the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, Judah the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar, Perez the father of Hezron, Hezron the father of Ram, Ram the father of Amminadab, Amminadab the father of Nahshon, Nahshon the father of Salmon, Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab, Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth, Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of King David.

David was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been Uriah's wife, Solomon the father of Rehoboam, Rehoboam the father of Abijah, Abijah the father of Asa, Asa the father of Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat the father of Jehoram, Jehoram the father of Uzziah, Uzziah the father of Jotham, Jotham the father of Ahaz, Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, Manasseh the father of Amon, Amon the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jeconiah and his brothers at the time of the exile to Babylon.

After the exile to Babylon: Jeconiah was the father of Shealtiel, Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, Zerubbabel the father of Abihud, Abihud the father of Eliakim, Eliakim the father of Azor, Azor the father of Zadok, Zadok the father of Akim, Akim the father of Elihud, Elihud the father of Eleazar, Eleazar the father of Matthan, Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, and Mary was the mother of Jesus who is called the Messiah.

Thus there were fourteen generations in all from Abraham to David, fourteen from David to the exile to Babylon, and fourteen from the exile to the Messiah.

Okay, let's stop there. Matthew began his Gospel with this big statement: "This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham." Right away, Matthew said two huge things.

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