

Why study the lineage of Jesus Christ?

The scriptures has several lists of genealogies. These are passages of scriptures that people often desire to gloss over or completely ignore. We need to understand that these genealogies have a purpose.

1. What is the importance of tracing Jesus' descendants back to David?
Matthew **1:1, 6, 11, 16-18** Luke **3:23, 31-32**
Jeremiah **33:17** Jeremiah **22:24-30**

In both lineages of Jesus (Matthew & Luke), David, the king of Israel is present. The prophet Jeremiah noted that a son of David would forever sit upon the throne of Israel. In order for Jesus to be a rightful king of Israel and a rightful heir of the throne of David, Jesus must be a physical descendant of David. One thing to note that in Joseph's lineage, Jesus is a descendant of Jeconiah who was cursed and it was noted that his son would not sit on the throne. Since this is through Joseph, Jesus' legal father, Jesus could inherit the kingship legally. Since Jesus' mother is also a descendant of David, Jesus could inherit the kingship through inheritance as well. This lineage demonstrates the legitimacy of Jesus as King of the Jews.

2. What is the importance of tracing Jesus' descendants back to Abraham?
Matthew 1:1-2, 16-17 Luke **3:23, 34**
Genesis **22:18**; 26:4-5 Romans **4:13-16**; 9:7-8
Galatians 3:16-18

By tracing the lineage of Jesus back to Abraham, it can be demonstrated that Jesus properly satisfies the conditions of being the blessing to all the world that God promised to Abraham. This enables those who are not physically descended from Abraham to be able to identify themselves as being a recipient of this promised blessing from God to Abraham by faith. We are not considered to be of the seed of Abraham, not by descent but by faith.

3. What is the importance of tracing Jesus' descendants back to Adam?
Luke 3:23, **38** Romans **5:12-15**; 8:1-4
Hebrews **2:14-18**

By tracing the lineage of Jesus back to Adam, the fullness of Jesus' humanity can be demonstrated. It is because Jesus is fully human that He was able to be the acceptable atoning sacrifice for sin. If He were not a descendant of Adam, then Jesus could not properly satisfy the requirements under God's law to pay the penalty for our sins.

4. What is the importance of Jesus' descendants being from Judah and not from Levi?
Genesis **49:10-12** Psalm 60:7 cmp Isaiah 33:22
Hebrews **7:1-3, 11-14**

The fact the Jesus is a descendant of the tribe of Judah provides Him with the fulfillment of scripture that identify the lawgiver as coming from the tribe of Judah. The fact that Jesus is NOT a descendant of Levi demonstrates that His priestly office is of a completely different sort than the one that came through Levi. The Levitical priesthood was a temporary priesthood while Jesus' priesthood is a permanent priesthood.

5. What do we need to be careful of with respect to studying the genealogies?

1 Timothy **1:3-4**

Titus **3:7-9**

While the genealogy of Jesus is important it is far more important for us to proclaim the person and work of Jesus Christ than it is to dwell on his genealogy. His genealogy is as God said it is and nothing more and nothing less.