

The Son of David



Matthew 1:1–17 · This week: Be It unto Me According to Thy Word, Matthew 1; Luke 1

In the manual: **Come, Follow Me lesson 01, “Be It unto Me According to Thy Word,” on Gospel Library**

START

Matthew begins the New Testament with a list of names. It is Jesus’s family tree, from Abraham down to Joseph (Matthew 1:1–16).

READ TOGETHER

Many readers skip long lists of names. For Matthew’s first readers, this list showed that Jesus was the promised heir of King David and of Abraham (Matthew 1:1). Matthew traces the line through Joseph, Mary’s husband (Matthew 1:16).

MATTHEW 1:1

¹The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

MATTHEW 1:5–6

⁵And Salmon begat Booz of Rachab; and Booz begat Obed of Ruth; and Obed begat Jesse; ⁶And Jesse begat David the king; and David the king begat Solomon of her that had been the wife of Urias;

MATTHEW 1:16

¹⁶And Jacob begat Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ.

WHAT IT TEACHES

Matthew lists four women besides Mary. They are Tamar, Rachab, Ruth, and “her that had been the wife of Urias,” who was Bathsheba (Matthew 1:3; 1:5–6). Ruth came from Moab, and Rachab is usually taken to be Rahab of Jericho, who hid Israel’s spies (Ruth 1:4; Joshua 2:1–6).

Some of these women came from outside Israel, and some of their stories are hard ones. Matthew chose to name them. The Savior came through a real family with real troubles, and he came for every family.

The list is arranged in three groups of fourteen generations (Matthew 1:17). The first group ends with King David, the second with the captivity in Babylon from last fall’s reading, and the third with Christ.

Families today gather the names of their ancestors and take them to the temple, as Malachi foresaw (Malachi 4:6). Our own family lines are full of real people too, and the Lord’s sealing power can bind them together.

TALK ABOUT IT

Jesus’s family line includes people with hard stories. What do you know about someone in our own family history, and what would you like to learn?

TAKE TO CHURCH

Matthew opens the New Testament with Jesus’s family tree, hard stories included. The Savior came through a real family, and he can bless every family line, ours too.