

INTRODUCTION

A. GENEALOGIES IN THE BIBLE

1. *linear or segmented* (Adam's family, Gen.5 or Table of Nations, Gen.10)
2. *continuum or contrast* (Jacob's, Gen 35; contrast Esau's, Gen.36)
3. *purposeful, interpreted vs. raw data* (see 2Pt.1:20; i.e., inheritance, Ruth 4:5,10; Rom.8:17)

B. THE GENEALOGY IN RUTH (4:17b-22; see Mt.1:5; Lk.3:32)

1. *small parts in a big picture* (Ruth 1:1-4:17 in 4:18-22; see Dan.4:35; Eph.1:11)
2. *significant links* (Ruth 4:21 // Gen.5:22; 7th out of 10)
3. *land and blessing* (Ruth 4:5,10 and 4:12,21; see Gen.12:1-3)
4. *genealogies in Matthew & Luke: different purposes* (Mt.1:1f; Lk.3:23f)

I. MATTHEW'S GENEALOGY

A. PURPOSEFUL SELECTION: ABRAHAM, DAVID, JESUS (1:1 X 17)

B. PURPOSEFUL ARRANGEMENT: ABRAHAM, DAVID, EXILE, JESUS (1:17; 3x(2x7); see 10:26,28,31; 18:21f; see 2Pt.1:20)

C. STRIKING INCLUSIONS: TAMAR, RAHAB, RUTH, BATHSHEBA (1:3-6)

II. LESSONS FOR FAITH

A. THE SON OF ABRAHAM: LAND & SEED & BLESSING (Gen.12:1-3; see Mt.28:18f & Gal.3:1 & Rom.4:13f; Mt.3:9; 8:11; 22:32)

B. THE SON OF DAVID: THE ETERNAL THRONE (2Sam7:12f; Lk.1:32; see Mt.1:1,17; 12:23; 22:42; with 9:27; 15:22; 20:30f; 21:9f)

C. THE SON OF EXILE: THE NEW COVENANT (Mt.1:11,17 / Jer.31:33; 1Cor.11:25; Heb.8:8f / 2Cor.5:17)

D. SUMMARY: THE MESSIAH (Mt.1:1,17; see 16:16; 26:63f)

III. LESSONS FOR LIFE

A. JESUS HAS THE MESSIANIC CREDENTIALS (Mt.1:1-17; see 2Cor.1:20; Jn.20:31; note: genealogical legitimization; see Ezra 2:61f; note Heb.7:14f; Ps.110:4)

B. JESUS IS THE SAVIOR: FROM THE JEWS AND, THEREFORE, FOR THE WORLD (Mt.1:21; 2:1f; Jn.4:22; see Gen.12:1-3; Ps.2:8; 72:8; Is.42:6f; 49:6f; 60:1f; see Mt.1:3-6)

1. *from sinners and for sinners* (Mt.1:1f; see 3,5a,5b,6 and 16,18f)
2. *from man and for man* (Mt.1:3-6; see Gen.1:26; see Acts 8:12; 1Cor.11:17f)

C. BE FAITHFUL IN YOUR SMALL PART (Mt.1:1f; Ruth 4:17f; c.1-4a)

D. AVOID POINTLESS GENEALOGIES (1Tm.1:4; Tt.3:9)

E. GIVE THANKS FOR YOUR MEANINGFUL GENEALOGY (see Gal.3:26; Rom.4:13f; 11:17f; Eph.2:11f)

F. COME AND WORSHIP IMMANUEL, JESUS! (Mt.1:1,17; 18f; 2:1f)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR PRIVATE, FAMILY AND SMALL GROUP FELLOWSHIP

*Suggestions: Don't feel obliged to use every question or every part of every question. Go through and discuss those that are of greatest **interest** to you. Then consider going back and discussing those that may also be **useful**, including those that may have seemed a bit difficult. In all questions, keep the outline before to identify entries relevant to the question and to look up appropriate verses listed.*

1. What most surprised, puzzled or impressed you from this sermon?
2. What was most helpful? Why? How will you apply it in your daily life?
3. What Scripture references were most helpful and why?
4. What are the primary *doctrinal* points of this passage? Do you *believe* these things?
5. What are the primary *practical* points? Do you do *these* things?
6. What are the *different kinds* of genealogies in the Bible?
7. What is the *basic purpose* of a genealogy in the Bible?
8. What *lessons* can be learned from the genealogy in *Ruth*?
9. Which ones of the observations on Matthew's genealogy were most striking to you? Why?
10. What is the significance of the fact that Jesus is a descendant of *Abraham*?
 - a. Of *David*?
 - b. Of the *exile*?
 - c. What is the *meaning* of all this?
11. Why is the *Jewish Messiah* significant for the rest of the *world*?
12. What does Matthew's genealogy say about *sinners*?
13. What does it say about God's concern for men *and* women? How is this evident in the *sacraments* of the New Covenant?
14. How does the inclusion of many insignificant people instruct us?
15. How are genealogies *no longer* important to you as a Christian and even distracting?
16. What genealogy *is* important to you as a Christian?
17. If we rightly understand the significance of the genealogy, what will we *conclude*? (Mt.1:1,17; 21,23,25)
18. What will we *do*? (see Mt.2:1f)