

Second Sunday in Advent, December 7, 2014 at 8:00 & 10:45

## God With Us

A Chronology of the Four Gospels Regarding Our Savior's Birth!

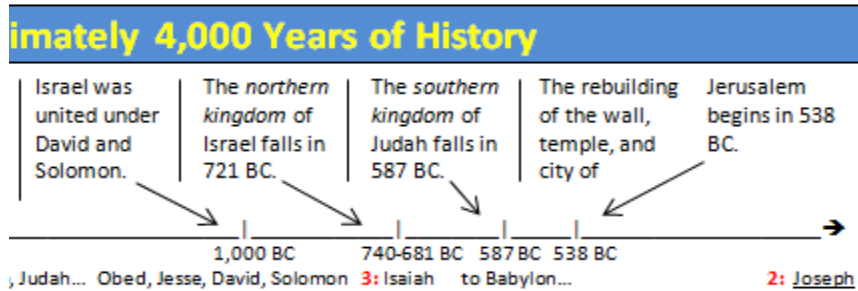
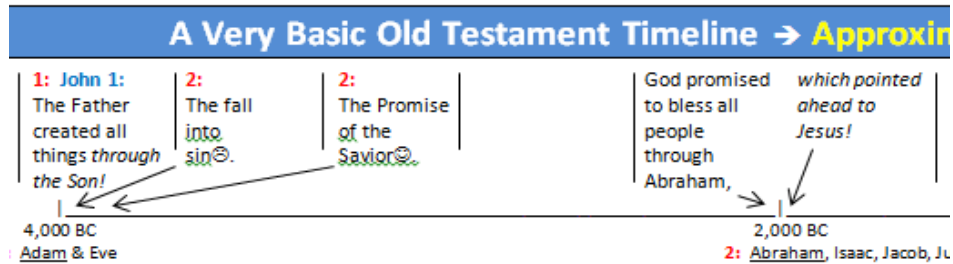
Part 2: Matthew 1:1-17 (NIV)

Connecting the Dots from Abraham to Joseph to Jesus!

Wednesdays in Advent: 11 AM Services, Noon Meals; 6 PM Meals, 7 PM Services



**Introduction:** Dear friends in Christ: Last week we learned that the Son of God was with the Father before creation; also, He is the One through whom God created all things. Today we will make some important connections between → *the first promise to send the Savior* and → *His actual arrival in the Person of Jesus!* In other words, Jesus is *not* some great man that stumbled into the spotlight 2,000 years ago; *instead*, He ♦ is from eternity, ♦ was first promised in Eden, ♦ was promised as a future descendant of Abraham, and ♦ connects all the way through to Jesus! Today we are focusing on the number **2**'s on our "God With Us" timeline:



Think about this order: Creation > the fall into sin > the promise of the Savior; then, in *Genesis 12*, the LORD said to Abram: "...all peoples on earth will be blessed through you." (Gen 12:3 NIV) That promise points to the Savior being a future descendant of Abraham.

So did that happen? As Matthew began his gospel he connected the dots **from Abraham to David to Joseph to Jesus!**

Matthew began with these words: <sup>1</sup> **A record of the genealogy of Jesus Christ the son of David, the son of Abraham:** We normally think one generation at a time, but even we have *actual* and *legal* connections to our earlier ancestors. Let's continue in [Matthew 1:](#)

1. **From Abraham to David:** <sup>2</sup> **Abraham** was the father of **Isaac**, **Isaac** the father of **Jacob**, **Jacob** the father of **Judah** and his brothers, <sup>3</sup> **Judah** the father of **Perez** and **Zerah**, whose mother was **Tamar** [you can read about that huge scandal in *Genesis 38*], **Perez** the father of **Hezron**, **Hezron** the father of **Ram**, <sup>4</sup> **Ram** the father of **Amminadab**, **Amminadab** the father of **Nahshon**, **Nahshon** the father of **Salmon**, <sup>5</sup> **Salmon** the father of **Boaz**, whose mother was **Rahab** [as in *Rahab the prostitute*, who – by God's grace – believed in the God of the Israelites and hid the spies in Jericho (*Joshua 2*)], **Boaz** the father of **Obed**, whose mother was **Ruth** [she was a Moabite, yet – by God's grace – she believed in the God of her mother-in-law Naomi, who was from Bethlehem], **Obed** the father of **Jesse**, <sup>6</sup> and **Jesse** the father of **King David**. // In this section 14 names are underlined – from Abraham to David. That was an era in which the LORD ♦ grew His people into a great nation, ♦ gave them the Promised Land, ♦ saw their faith greatly fluctuate during the time of the judges, and ♦ finally granted their request to be ruled by kings – with David being the greatest **until Jesus!**
2. **From David to the Babylonian Exile:** During this time the nation of Israel moved **from faith, strength, and honor to faithlessness, weakness, and dishonor**. **David was the father of Solomon**, whose mother [Bathsheba] had been **Uriah's wife** [you can read about David's sins in *2 Samuel 11*; he was so blessed and yet he wandered so far from God's ways], <sup>7</sup> **Solomon** the father of **Rehoboam** [whose foolish decision resulted in the divided kingdom (*1 Kings 12*)], **Rehoboam** the father of **Abijah**, **Abijah** the father of **Asa**, <sup>8</sup> **Asa** the father of

Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat the father of Jehoram, Jehoram the father of Uzziah, <sup>9</sup> Uzziah the father of Jotham, Jotham the father of Ahaz, Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, <sup>10</sup> Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, Manasseh the father of Amon, Amon the father of Josiah, <sup>11</sup> and Josiah the father of Jeconiah [a.k.a. Jehoiachin] and his brothers at the time of the exile to Babylon. // In this section 14 names are underlined – from Solomon, the son of David, to the Babylonian exile which began in 587 BC. All those underlined in this section were kings – David and Solomon over a united kingdom, the others over the southern kingdom of Judah. Of course all of those kings were pointing ahead to **Jesus, who is the King of kings!**

3. **From the Babylonian Exile to the Christ:** This section included time in Babylon; then, *with God's blessing and according to God's plan*, some returned to Jerusalem to rebuild ♦the wall, ♦the temple, and ♦the city. God was getting everything in place to fulfill the prophecy that the Christ, *whose origins are from of old*, would be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2). <sup>12</sup> **After the exile to Babylon: Jeconiah was the father of Shealtiel, Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel [who was instrumental in rebuilding the temple], <sup>13</sup> Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, Abiud the father of Eliakim, Eliakim the father of Azor, <sup>14</sup> Azor the father of Zadok, Zadok the father of Akim, Akim the father of Eliud, <sup>15</sup> Eliud the father of Eleazar, Eleazar the father of Matthan, Matthan the father of Jacob, <sup>16</sup> and Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary [the one God the Father chose above every woman to bear His Son], of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ. <sup>17</sup> **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 Christ.** // In part 4 of this series we will consider Luke's genealogy; since it is different, we believe this to be the genealogy of Joseph – the legal father of Jesus. Also, did you note what I read? **NOT** Joseph the father of Jesus, **BUT** “the**

husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus...” Also, in this section only 13 names are underlined – from Shealtiel to Jesus; so where is number 14? Some possibilities:

- Adopt the marginal reading in v. 11**, which is based upon some Greek manuscripts: *Josiah the father of Jehoiakim, Jehoiakim the father of Jehoiachin* (Kretzmann, NT I:3). So Jehoiakim would be number 14 in list 2 and Jehoiachin number 1 in list 3.
- Count **Jeconiah twice** – both in list 2 and list 3; in list 2 as a son and in list 3 as a father, since he was in Babylon before he became a father.<sup>1</sup>
- Count **believers in Jesus** as number 14 – *since they, by grace through faith, are His descendants!*

**Conclusion:** TLSB comment: “In the genealogy of Jesus Christ, Matthew makes no effort to hide sinners and scandals. Instead, he highlights them. Jesus’ ancestors include prostitutes, adulterers, violent men, and other sinners of all descriptions. Though this might surprise us, the truth is that there were no people other than sinners to make up His genealogy. Jesus’ ancestors needed a Savior just as much as we do.” (1578)

**So think about Jesus:** †He existed before creation, †the Father created all things through Him, †His coming was promised right after the fall, and †He was promised to be a future descendant of Abraham. Then, *person-by-person (along with some gaps)*, we see the connections **from Abraham to David to Joseph to Jesus!** Therefore, *let us rejoice in our awesome Savior!*

Please join us this Wednesday as we focus on two prophecies about John the Baptizer, *the one whom God sent to prepare the way for Jesus!* And all God's people said: **Amen!**

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<sup>1</sup> <http://biblehub.com/commentaries/matthew/1-17.htm>; Meyer's NT Commentary.