



**WHAT'S THE BIG
DEAL ABOUT...?**
“Jesus’ Family Tree”
Mathew 1:1-17
December 7, 2014

1. 4 Periods of Jesus’ Family Tree

- A. *1st Period* Abraham – David
- B. *2nd Period* David – the Deportation
- C. *3rd Period* Deportation – Christ’s birth
- D. *4th Period* Christ’s birth – Now

2. 4 Pictures From Jesus’ Family Tree

- A. Tamar *Genesis 38*
- B. Rahab *Joshua 2; 6:22-25*
- C. Ruth *Ruth 4*
- D. Bathsheba *2 Samuel 11; 12:14,24*

3. 5 Principles of Grace from His Family Tree

- A. God Accomplishes His Purposes in Spite of Our Sin
- B. God Allocates His Grace in Proportion to Our Need
- C. God Amplifies His Grace in the Midst of Adversity
- D. God Accepts Us As We Are and Loves Us Enough to Not Leave Us There
- E. God Announces to Mankind: I Desire to Have a Relationship with You as your Savior and Lord!

WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL ABOUT CHRISTMAS?

“What’s the Big Deal About Jesus’ Family Tree”

Matthew 1:1-17

December 7, 2014 AM Worship

Let’s answer the question, although not fully what’s the big deal about Christmas? I mean really we make a big deal about it, what’s so important about it. I would love for us to take a look at a few things and certainly not all but asking this question what’s the big deal. This week what’s the big deal about Jesus’ Family Tree, and next week what’s the big deal about the Virgin birth, and then, what’s the Big deal about His Name - Immanuel – God With Us and finally What’s the Big Deal that is THE King of Kings?

Family Trees: To many this is very important, and its fun and it tells us a lot about a person, where they came from, where they lived, what shaped them and made them who they are today. **ILUS: Google it – ancestry.com, familytreenow.com and many more. ILUS: Fun to go to [Ellis Island](#) and see who came across the Atlantic Ocean** to immigrate here Many and it is increasing all the time, try to go back way back and trace back for generations and see where their roots go back to. Some of us and probably all of us as we look back into our Family Tree we find some people who had a history, who weren’t the greatest of people, perhaps even currently there are those we might be embarrassed by.

To the Jew, family pedigree was critical. Were you a pure Jew? For the priest, incredibly important and in fact when some came back from being deported, that could not find their genealogy, they were not allowed to be a priest any longer. Here Matthew establishes Jesus’ line, proving that He was in the proper line, and also fulfilling prophecy. (Again too remember this is how they were taxed in [Luke 2](#) – going back to where your place of origin – the city of Bethlehem because he was of the lineage of David.

King Herod was so obsessed by it because he was considered a half-blooded Jew because he was half Edomite that he had the official registers destroyed so that no one could prove a purer pedigree than his own.

It was also important because it is how the transfer of property was handled and this was obviously crucial. Paul talks about being descended from the tribe of Benjamin – proving he was as Jewish as he could get.

It is interesting to note that after the temple was destroyed in A.D. 70, no genealogies exist that can trace the ancestry of any Jew no living. For anyone claiming to be from the lineage of David could never prove it – therefore Jesus is the last verifiable clamant to the throne of David and therefore to the Messianic line. Remember back to the **audience** that Matthew writes – Jewish and so this was critically important to them! The Messiah had to be the Son of David as He is often referred to.

Let's take a look at the genealogy or the family tree of Jesus. Now this is exciting stuff isn't it? We loved to read this or in reality skip right over it, yet tucked away here are some magnificent things.

Here Matthew sets out to show us Jesus' lineage through Joseph who was Jesus' "stepfather" not his paternal father. We will talk more about that next week. Luke's genealogy traces Mary's genealogy going all the way back to Adam – the Eli being Jospheh's father-in-law. Both pointing out he was from the line of David.

When you read them both you find seeming discrepancies between the two. 2 lines of thoughts – the first we just mentioned – the 2nd is that Luke has Jesus' actual human ancestry through Joseph while Matthew gives his legal ancestry by which He was the legitimate successor to the throne of David. Both were descendent of David it appears.

The key word we will find through these three points is the word grace. Look for it. You will see it here.

1. 4 Periods of Jesus' Family Tree

We see God's grace displayed throughout these eras or periods of time

TO Note: We see each of these have 14 generations – and we notice too that there are most certainly names left out and this was intentional – it was designed to easily memorize and remember, so they put it the most important ones and leaving out where it wasn't necessary to include someone. This was not at all uncommon in this day.

A. 1st Period Abraham – David “**The patriarchs, and Moses, Joshua, and the Judges. It was a period of wandering, of enslavement in a foreign land, of deliverance, of covenant-making and law giving, and of conquest and victory.**” **McArthur** It was the beginning of the Jewish nation.

B. 2nd Period **David – the Deportation to Babylon** “Time of monarchy when Israel having insisted on having human kings like all the nations around them, discovered those kings more often led them away from God and into trouble than to God and into peace and prosperity. It was a period of time of almost uninterrupted decline, degeneracy, apostasy, and tragedy. There was defeat, conquest, exile, and then the destruction of Jerusalem and its Temple. Only in 4 kings do we see much evidence of godliness, David, Jehoshaphat, Hezekiah, and Josiah.”
McArthur

C. 3rd Period **Deportation – Christ’s birth** “This was a time of captivity, exile, frustration, and the marking of time. Most of the men listed in this part are unknown to us apart from the list. It is often called the Dark Ages of Israel.” McArthur A time of silence from the prophets for some 400 years. Nothing.

D. 4th Period **Christ’s birth – Now** A time not completely listed, but everything thing changed with the birth of Jesus and even its effects last until today. “We see Israel’s rise and fall, stagnate and finally reject and crucify the Messiah that God sent to them. But God in His infinite grace, yet sent His Messiah through them.” McArthur
And who is the family tree now, well we are. We are part of Jesus’ family tree because we bear His name if we are truly His.

2. Four Pictures From Jesus’ Family Tree

Notice 4 things right off the bat about these 4 people

- They are all women, and remember there were no equal rights at all – it was not normal to find women in Jewish pedigrees.
- All 4 were Gentiles and up until the time of Christ they were outsiders. They were not to marry Gentiles, yet we see a picture of God’s grace becoming evident.
- They were all sinners, missed the mark, 2 of the 4 committing adultery, one involved in prostitution and one came from a people who were the offspring of an incestuous relationship. (Lot with his daughters)
Yet here they are in Jesus’ family tree. Let’s take a quick look at them

A. Tamar Found in **Genesis 38**

Her father-in-law was Judah, She was a Canaanite who had lost

her 1st 2 husbands because of God's punishment for their wickedness. She had no children, tricked her father-in-law Judah and had twin sons by him named **Perez** and Zerah.

B. Rahab Found in [Joshua 2:1-21](#), & [6:22-25](#)

Prostitute, running a house of ill repute. A Gentile and living in the land of Jericho, in the path of Israel's conquering of the land, yet she found favor and harbored the 2 spies.

C. Ruth Found in the [Book of Ruth](#)

She was a Gentile her first husband and an Israelite had died. She returned to Israel with her mother-in-law Naomi. This is huge because of [Deuteronomy 23:3](#) "No Ammonite or Moabite...may enter the assembly of the Lord." **Moabite – from Lot's daughters – Israel's enemy!** Yet she was a godly woman, and God in His grace brought her to Boaz, not only a Jew but a part of the royal line, that of David. She became the grandmother of King David. And by the way as a side note – we see Boaz being a picture of Christ – A Redeemer – giving life to that which was hopelessly lost.

D. Bathsheba Found in [II Samuel 11:1-27](#); [12:14,24](#)

We know her story well, her husband gone to battle, King David calls for her, they have an affair, David has her husband killed. David's worst failure. Child from that affair dies, yet their next son was Solomon, the successor to the throne of David

3. Four Principles of Grace from His Family Tree

A. God Accomplishes His Purposes in Spite of Our Sin

Not only these 4 ladies we mentioned but everyone else listed here! Just look at Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob to David and Solomon and more!

B. God Allocates His Grace in Proportion to Our Need

C. God Amplifies His Grace in the Midst of Adversity

D. God Accepts Us As We Are and Loves Us Enough to Not Leave Us There God can and will use all of us

E. God Announces to Mankind: I Desire to Have a Relationship with You as your Savior and Lord!

- I don't have the right background
- You don't know my family history
- You don't know what is in my past, I have messed up way too much
- I am going through huge problems right now, just can't
- I just have too many needs in my life
- Jesus just wouldn't understand where I have come from.

Many of us make lots of excuses as to why God can't use us, or why we can't just let God have control of our life. Well this morning, I believe we have put those to rest. Let's quit making excuses and give in to God's grace. There is enough to cover us all.

Our Response:

✓ Give Your Heart and Life To Christ TODAY!

It's as simple as ABC! **Admit** you are a sinner (You Need God's Grace), **Ask** Him to Forgive All your Sins; **Believe** that Jesus is God's Son; **Confess** Him as Savior and **Commit** your life to Him as Lord for the rest of your life!! **Your next step is Baptism...** Have you made that public and followed through with Baptism? If not, you can do that today as well.

✓ Come Join and Be A Part of the Family of God here @ Petal FBC and helping us to bring the good news of the Gospel to our community & to the ends of the earth!

✓ Be Reminded today that God is never through with us and that His grace can cover all our sins.

✓ Be Encouraged that God's plans will always prevail no matter what we may do or not do, say or not say. It doesn't matter what happens in this world, the Lord is in complete control!

✓ Be Thankful today for that incredible Grace and how He has poured it out in your life and mine!

✓ Be Challenged to share this wonderful news about Jesus' Family Tree – What's the Big Deal? Jesus has "misfits" in His family tree to and God's grace covers it all!