



*A record of the genealogy of Jesus Christ the son of David,  
the son of Abraham:*

*2 Abraham was the father of Isaac,*

*Isaac the father of Jacob,*

*Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers,*

*3 Judah the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was  
Tamar,*

*Perez the father of Hezron,*

*Hezron the father of Ram,*

*4 Ram the father of Amminadab,*

*Amminadab the father of Nahshon,*

*Nahshon the father of Salmon,*

*5 Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab,*

*Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth,*

*Obed the father of Jesse,*

*6 and Jesse the father of King David.*

*David was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been Uriah's wife,*

*7 Solomon the father of Rehoboam,*

*Rehoboam the father of Abijah,*

*Abijah the father of Asa,*

*8 Asa the father of Jehoshaphat,*

*Jehoshaphat the father of Jehoram,*

*Jehoram the father of Uzziah,*

*9 Uzziah the father of Jotham,*

*Jotham the father of Ahaz,*

*Ahaz the father of Hezekiah,*

*10 Hezekiah the father of Manasseh,*

*Manasseh the father of Amon,*

*Amon the father of Josiah,*

*11 and Josiah the father of Jeconiah[a] and his brothers at the time of the exile to  
Babylon.*

*12 After the exile to Babylon:*

*Jeconiah was the father of Shealtiel,*

*Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel,*

*13 Zerubbabel the father of Abiud,*

*Abiud the father of Eliakim,*

*Eliakim the father of Azor,*

*14 Azor the father of Zadok,*

*Zadok the father of Akim,*

*Akim the father of Eliud,*



*15 Eliud the father of Eleazar,  
Eleazar the father of Matthan,  
Matthan the father of Jacob,*

*16 and Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ. Matthew 1:1-16*

How many of you read that whole list, word for word? :-) I have skimmed it many times en-route to the “real story”, and was about to do the same thing a few weeks ago but this time it was different. I began by speed-reading but then stopped halfway through the genealogy and stayed there for a while. Maybe its because I've spent the last 6 months studying the Old Testament, but as I read many of the names this time, I remembered a story: Rehoboam splitting the Kingdom (1 Kings 12), Hezekiah standing up to the Assyrians (Isaiah 36-37), Jehoshaphat setting up a legal system of local judges (2 Chronicles 19), Manasseh performing the most vile acts that a king of Judah had yet attempted (2 Kings 21). These people, and their walk with God ARE the real story: The prequel to the New Testament.

All the people on this list up to and including Zerubbabel (the governor of Judah after the Babylonian exile) are the primary characters of the entire Old Testament. The 39 books of the Old Testament describe, refer to, explain, praise, criticize, or prophecy about the actions and attitudes of these specific people. The fate and faith of the Israelites rose and fell depending on their personal relationships with God as they led the nation, and their willingness (or lack of willingness) to walk in obedience to Him.

I've always known that Jesus came from the line of David but as I read though the list again, it hit me in a fresh way that Jesus wasn't connected to any old branch of that tree. He came from the most prominent of prominent branches; the ruling limb of every generation. As Matthew wrote these names down at the start of the gospel, he was reminding the Jews of their entire history, and introducing them to the idea that Jesus is the fulfillment of everything that had come before.

**Question for application:**

Do you honor Jesus as royalty? Connected to the royal line, but far greater than any king, He is the King of Kings.

*I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war. His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. “He will rule them with an iron scepter.” He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written:*

*KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. Revelation 19:11-16*

Over this Christmas Season, consider Who you are following, and the respect and reverence due to Him.

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