

Just a few thoughts on the subject of today's class. What is the significance of Jesús's genealogy? A look at the two main references Matt 1 and Luke 3 would be helpful. Matt 1 outlines Joseph's lineage. Luke 3 provides Mary's (Miriam's lineage). Hence we are given a twofold account, a double record, and are reminded that in the mouth of two or three witnesses a matter is established.

Key points: Luke 3 takes the line back to 'was the son of God'. Tracing the list of names all the way back to Adam then links to God as Creator. Matt 3 mentions key people in Jesus's ancestors - Abraham, David and Noah being examples. Matt 1 also splits its list into sets of 14 generations. In both records key historical events are also given.

Who is named in the lists? This is asked as mentioned earlier the phrase 'as was the son of' is employed and the name of the male parent is often given. However it could also have the name of the Mother. Mary / Miriam is the obvious example but others are also found. Tamar or Tamar, who bore twins to Judah, is such. She is recorded as her actions established the direct link to Christ Jesus via Zarah her other child. Pharez was eclipsed at birth showing that the elder shall serve the younger paralleled by Adam being transcended by Jesus. The lists are a chain link of people going back in history and establishes pedigree. This practice is done by many cultures (however the accuracy of the record is not always kept).

Genealogy reveals which family group individuals belong to. They establish links so inheritance can be determined. In this way entitlement is indicated and often is the verification of legal rights. However Jesus's lineage has a distinct difference. Abraham's children are determined primarily by faith not just bloodline. Gal 3 Similarly we as gentiles can be linked to Jesus by faith and baptism. Romans 11.

David is described as being a man who possessed a heart like his God. Again another foreshadowing of traits which are pleasing unto God. Noah was pronounced as such in Gen 6. Christ shall sit upon the throne of his father David and rule the nations with righteousness.

Faith then is a quality found in these lists of people. However all of them have sinned and are therefore flawed but were part of God's plan manifesting the person of his only begotten son Jesus Christ. Our hope of salvation.