

# Bible Study 2022-2023

## Class #4

10/4/22

# Matthew 1

- Matthew 1:1 *“The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham”*
  - Father asked: “When you hear the name ‘Jesus,’ what do you think of ?”
  - What you should think of is *“Joshua”*
  - *Jesus* and *Joshua* are the same name in Greek, and their use is based on the whims of the translator

# Matthew 1 (Cont)

- We could go back into the Old Testament and translate “*Joshua*, son of Nun,” as “*Jesus*, son of Nun!”
- But, that would confuse and frustrate many people
- In Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek the name *Joshua* and *Jesus* are the same name
- Only in English do we have this distinction
- Why is this important?

# Matthew 1 (Cont)

- What do we think of when we hear *Joshua*?
- He was the successor to *Moses*, who took over when Moses died, and led the people of Israel across the Jordan River into the salvation of the Promised Land
- How many of us hear this same message when we hear about *Jesus* at the Jordan River at the beginning of His public ministry?

# Matthew 1 (Cont)

- Matthew begins his gospel by telling us the genealogy of a guy named *Jesus (Joshua)* who is the Christ, the anointed King of Israel
- When we hear the word “Christ,” we should think of the King in the Old Testament
- The word “Christ” (*christos* in Greek) is a transliteration of the Greek *Christos* which is a translation of the Hebrew *Mashiach* – Messiah, the anointed one, which is a technical term for the King of Israel

# Matthew 1 (Cont)

- From the Old Testament, we should recall that *Israel* only had a divine king (God, the Father) until they asked for a human king (**1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 8**) who was named *Saul* (**1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 10**)
- He was soon followed by a king of God's own heart named "*David*"
- Both were anointed with the oil of the Holy Spirit
- Thus, "Christ" is the title for the king to be known as "Son of David"

# Matthew 1 (Cont)

- Father pointed out that there were many kings in the Old Testament with the title of “Christ,” some of whom were in the line of *David* and others who were not
- *Saul* (**1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 12**) was the first anointed king, and *Cyrus* (**Isaiah 45:1**) was anointed, but neither were in the line of *David*
- Matthew is telling us about an anointed king who fulfilled the promise in **2nd Samuel 7**, who was the long-awaited (over 500 years) king of the dynasty of *David*
- Further, Matthew announced that he is also the son of *Abraham*!

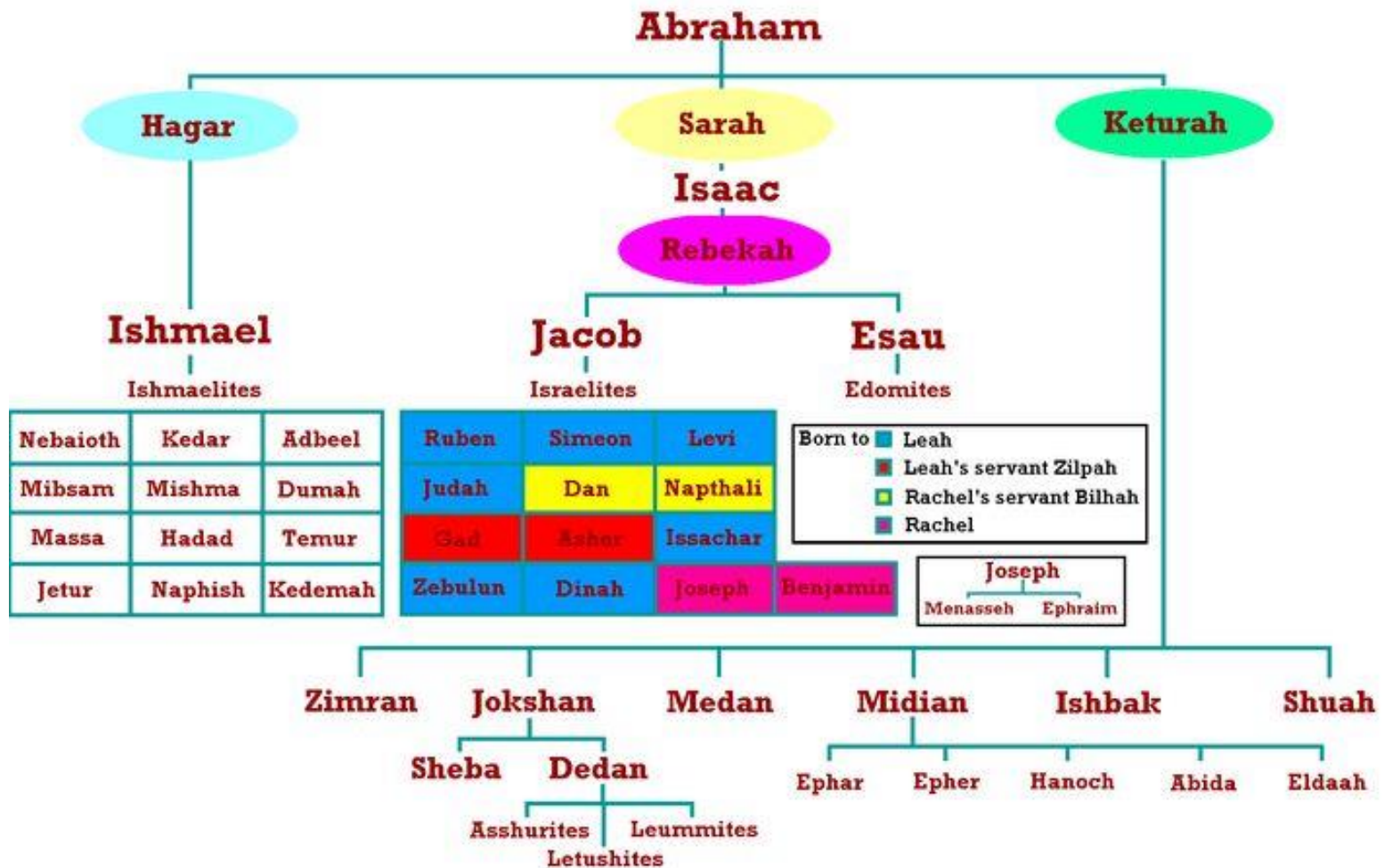
# The Sons of Jacob

Gn 29:31-30:24

<b>Leah</b>	<b><i>Zilpah</i></b>	<b><i>Bilhah</i></b>	<b>Rachel</b>
1 Reuben	7 Gad	5 Dan	11 Joseph
2 Simeon	8 Asher	6 Naphtali	12 Benjamin
3 Levi			
4 Judah*			
9 Issachar			
10 Zebulun			



# The Genealogy of Abraham



# The Twelve Sons of Jacob

## Gn 35:23-26

- The 12 sons of Jacob (Israel)

Leah

Reuben – slept with his father’s concubine

Simeon – murderer of sister’s rapist

Levi – murderer of sister’s rapists

**Judah – will become the royal line**

Issachar

Zebulun

# Matthew 1 (Cont)

- On the surface, this would have made more sense if he said Son of Abraham, Son of David
- But, Matthew flips this in order to demonstrate that *Jesus* will not simply be the king of Jerusalem, but also the king of the world as His kingdom will spread to the gentiles (Son of Abraham who fulfilled the third promise)
- Looking back to **Genesis 12:3**, we see the third promise of God to *Abraham* was that through one of his descendants, “all the nations will be blessed”
- This is why *Matthew* will end his gospel with Jesus telling the Apostles to go out and baptize all nations (**Matthew 28:19**)

# Matthew 1 (Cont)

- By looking at Matthew's first verse, we can see the entire structure of the gospel laid out for us
- Upon completion of the infancy narrative, Matthew will present *Jesus* at the Jordan River just like *Joshua*, who started his mission by leading the people across the Jordan
- The Spirit of God will descend upon *Jesus* (making him the *Christ*) as he was being baptized by John the Baptist
- Then, Matthew will demonstrate how *Jesus* is the Son of *David*, which will be revealed in the first half the gospel

# Matthew 1 (Cont)

- This will come to a climax at *Caesarea Philippi*, where He will ask the Apostles who people say that he is
- *Peter* will respond: “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God” (**Matthew 16:16**)
- In the second half of his gospel, Matthew will reveal how *Jesus* is (not only) the long-awaited human king, but the divine king of all of the nations

# Matthew 1 (Cont)

- **Matthew 1:2-16** *“Abraham was the father of Isaac,...and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ”*
  - Father called us to highlight the title **David the king (Matthew 1:6)**
  - Tragically, most of these names do not mean anything to the average Christian
  - On the other hand, *Matthew* had them memorized and believed that his audience knew them as well

# Matthew 1 (Cont)

- Father asked if we knew of any *Jacob* who had a son named *Joseph* in the Old Testament?
- Do we remember the guy who had dreams that ultimately saved Israel by going to *Egypt*?
- The pattern of this genealogy is very clear in the Greek where it lists: father of so-and-so all the way to *Joseph* where *Matthew* states that he was the husband of Mary of whom was born *Jesus* who is called the Christ
- We can see right away that Christ is the title for the King of Israel

# Matthew 1 (Cont)

- **Matthew 1:17** *“So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations”*
  - Next, Matthew is going to tell us why he gave us this genealogy
  - Then, he will explain what he means by the funny ending which changes from the “father and son of” pattern
  - *Matthew* wants to point out something that he sees as very important



# Matthew 1 (Cont)

- Almost everyone knew that there were 14 generations from *Abraham to David*
- Most understood that there were also 14 generations from David to the deportation to Babylon, but few were aware of the 14 generations from Babylon to Jesus
- The importance of 14 comes from the numbering system in use at that time
  - The Jews only had one alphabet and used it for writing and counting by applying numeric values to each letter
  - In English, we use an alphabet from the Phoenicians for writing, and an Arabic based alphabet for numbers

# Matthew 1 (Cont)

- David in *Hebrew* is *Dāwîd*
- Every *Hebrew* letter has a numeric value
- The letter *dalet* is **4** and the letter *vav* is **6**
  - $4 + 6 + 4 = 14$  (D + V + D = 14)

# Matthew 1 (Cont)

- *Mathew* is saying to his audience that Jesus was from the line of *David, David, David* (three is the number for completion, perfection)
- But, there “appears” to be a problem with the second part of Matthew’s genealogy, for there were more than 14 kings from *David* to the Babylonian captivity
- However, every good Jew of that day knew that the genealogy of the kings of Judah contained three generations who were from the evil line of *Jezebel* and were therefore cursed (discussed in detail in the Old Testament course)

# Matthew 1 (Cont)

- Thus, *Jesus* is of the unique generation that fulfills the promise of **2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel 7**
- This is why *Matthew* ends with, “Joseph was the husband of Mary of whom was born Jesus called the Christ”