

Episode #648 Matthew 1 Part 2-The Missing Names

I. The purpose of the gospel of Matthew is to present Jesus as the Christ, the King of Israel. It is another grand treatise like John to prove to Israel Who Jesus really is. It is the book of being “in Israel,” in contrast to believers today who are “in Christ.”

II. The Lineage of Christ in Matthew – really His pedigree as the King of Israel.

- A. Verse 8. Three names are left out between Joram and Uzziah: Ahaziah, Joash, and Amaziah. Why these three? Not because of wickedness, for Joram was probably worse, and Manasseh certainly was. Why then? Because they are mixed with Ahab’s cursed bloodline, II Kings 9:7-9. By God’s grace Joash did not die so David’s line was spared, II Kings 11:2. But these kings are cut out of Christ’s lineage by Deuteronomy 29:20.
- B. Verse 9. Ahaz is an example of a very wicked king, Hezekiah of a very good one.
- C. Verse 10. Manasseh and Ammon are very wicked kings still listed in the pedigree.
- D. Verse 11. Jeconiah and his brothers = there was much confusion with the throne at this time, and several of his brothers took the throne as well.
- E. Verse 12. Zerubbabel is the last famous ancestor in Christ’s lineage, from the books of I Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Haggai, and Zechariah.
- F. Verse 13. These are obscure to us, during the intertestamental period, and we know nothing about them save what we read here.
- G. Verse 14. We recognize famous names from the past like Zadok, but these are no more significant than that my own name is one of a famous Israelite.
- H. Verse 15. Joseph’s father was named Jacob. Some of these fathers found it interesting to name their children after children of their famous ancestor namesakes.
- I. Verse 16. Joseph is presented as the husband or “man” of Mary, Greek *Mariam*, Hebrew *Miryam* or Miriam. The name “Mary” comes to us through the Vulgate, but Miriam was her real name. There are “Maria”s in the New Testament, but she was not one of them. “Called” = the One we are speaking of as Christ = Hebrew *Mashiyach* or Messiah.
- J. Verse 17. This sounds neat and tidy, but Abraham to David = 14, Solomon to Jeconiah = 14, Salathiel to Jesus = ...13! What is wrong here?
 1. Since Matthew has left names out it makes no sense that he could not have made it three 14s if he wanted to.
 2. Actually says from David to the carrying away into Babylon. This was a complicated time. Jehoahaz was the first king, then his brother Jehoiakim, then Jehoiakim’s son Jehoiachin, then Jehoahaz’s brother Zedekiah. This mess was due to the wickedness of Josiah’s children.
 3. A clue in verse 11: Jeconiah and his brothers. Then in verse 12: Jeconiah begot Shealtiel in captivity.
 4. The solution: both Jehoiakim and Jehoiachin would convert to “Jeconiah” in Greek. The first Jeconiah in verse 11 is Jehoiakim, who had brothers who also took the throne, but who gave birth to his heir Jehoiachin in Judah before going into captivity. The second Jeconiah was Jehoiachin, who had no royal brothers and who gave birth to Shealtiel in captivity.
 5. Thus Solomon to Jehoiakim = 14 and Jehoiachin to Jesus = 14.

III. The Birth of Christ.

- A. Verse 18. The generation (not birth) was as follows...

1. Betrothed = per the Jewish custom. A betrothal was equal to a marriage ceremony and required a divorce to break. They would live apart for a time while they prepared themselves for married life. Then the wedding would be celebrated wherein the man would accompany the woman in procession to his home. Mary and Joseph were a true husband and wife, not “engaged.”
2. Of the Holy Spirit = our faith hangs on this.

IV. Conclusion: The Lord’s lineage in Matthew is a pedigree connecting Him to Israel throughout its history, both the good and the bad. The Lord leaves out the names from when the line of David mixed with the cursed line of Ahab. The three times fourteen generations are accurate when we realize there were two “Jeconiah”s in the record. This lineage of our Lord reveals the truth: He was indeed the Perfect and Representative Israelite, the Heir to David’s throne and the One Who could be the prophesied Messiah.