The Genealogy of Jesus

1. The genealogy of Jesus is listed in Matthew 1:1-17 and Luke 3:23-38. Who are the authors? What do you know about them? Where can you get trusted information?

2. Here is Matthew's account of the genealogy of Jesus. Matthew 1:17 explains the organization of his account and a table has been made to ease the tracking of all the names. List all of your observations of the account – what do you learn?

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham:

Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob, and Jacob begot Judah and his brothers. Judah begot Perez and Zerah by Tamar, Perez begot Hezron, and Hezron begot Ram. Ram begot Amminadab, Amminadab begot Nahshon, and Nahshon begot Salmon. Salmon begot Boaz by Rahab, Boaz begot Obed by Ruth, Obed begot Jesse, and Jesse begot David the king.

David the king begot Solomon by her who had been the wife of Uriah. Solomon begot Rehoboam, Rehoboam begot Abijah, and Abijah begot Asa. Asa begot Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat begot Joram, and Joram begot Uzziah. Uzziah begot Jotham, Jotham begot Ahaz, and Ahaz begot Hezekiah. Hezekiah begot Manasseh, Manasseh begot Amon, and Amon begot Josiah. Josiah begot Jeconiah and his brothers about the time they were carried away to Babylon.

And after they were brought to Babylon, Jeconiah begot Shealtiel, and Shealtiel begot Zerubbabel. Zerubbabel begot Abiud, Abiud begot Eliakim, and Eliakim begot Azor. Azor begot Zadok, Zadok begot Achim, and Achim begot Eliud. Eliud begot Eleazar, Eleazar begot Matthan, and Matthan begot Jacob. And Jacob begot Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus who is called Christ.

So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations, from David until the captivity in Babylon are fourteen generations, and from the captivity in Babylon until the Christ are fourteen generations. (Matt 1:1-17, NKJV)

Abraham to David		David to Babylonian Captivity		Captivity to Jesus Christ	
1. Abraham	8. Amminadab	1. David (Bathsheba)	8. Uzziah	1. Jeconiah	8. Achim
2. Isaac	9. Nahshon	2. Solomon	9. Jotham	2. Shealtiel	9. Eliud
3. Jacob	10. Salmon (Rahab)	3. Rehoboam	10. Ahaz	3. Zerubbabel	10. Eleazar
4. Judah (Tamar)	11. Boaz (Ruth)	4. Abijah	11. Hezekiah	4. Abihud	11. Matthan
5. Perez	12. Obed	5. Asa	12. Manasseh	5. Eliakim	12. Jacob
6. Hezron	13. Jesse	6. Jehoshaphat	13. Amon	6. Azor	13. Joseph (Mary)
7. Ram	14. David the king	7. Joram	14. Josiah	7. Zadok	14. Jesus Christ

3. Just as for Matthew's account, Luke's account can be seen with a table to make observations of the text easier. What do you see and learn?

Now Jesus Himself began His ministry at about thirty years of age, being (as was supposed) the son of Joseph, the son of Heli, the son of Matthat, the son of Levi, the son of Melchi, the son of Janna, the son of Joseph, the son of Mattathiah, the son of Amos, the son of Nahum, the son of Esli, the son of Naggai, the son of Maath, the son of Mattathiah, the son of Semei, the son of Joseph, the son of Judah, the son of Joannas, the son of Rhesa, the son of Zerubbabel, the son of Shealtiel, the son of Neri, the son of Melchi, the son of Addi, the son of Cosam, the son of Elmodam, the son of Er, the son of Jose, the son of Eliezer, the son of Jorim, the son of Matthat, the son of Levi, the son of Simeon, the son of Judah, the son of Joseph, the son of Jonan, the son of Eliakim, the son of Melea, the son of Menan, the son of Mattathah, the son of Nathan, the son of David, the son of Jesse, the son of Obed, the son of Boaz, the son of Salmon, the son of Nahshon, the son of Amminadab, the son of Ram, the son of Hezron, the son of Perez, the son of Judah, the son of Jacob, the son of Isaac, the son of Abraham, the son of Terah, the son of Nahor, the son of Serug, the son of Reu, the son of Peleg, the son of Eber, the son of Shelah, the son of Cainan, the son of Arphaxad, the son of Shem, the son of Noah, the son of Lamech, the son of Methuselah, the son of Enoch, the son of Jared, the son of Mahalalel, the son of Cainan, the son of Enosh, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God. (Luke 3:23-38, NKJV)

1. Jesus	14. Maath	27. Elmodam	40. Menan	53. Judah	66. Shem
2. Joseph	15. Mattathiah	28. Er	41. Mattathah	54. Jacob	67. Noah
3. Heli	16. Semei	29. Jose	42. Nathan	55. Isaac	68. Lamech
4. Matthat	17. Joseph	30. Eliezer	43. David	56. Abraham	69. Methuselah
5. Levi	18. Judah	31. Jorim	44. Jesse	57. Terah	70. Enoch
6. Melchi	19. Joannas	32. Matthat	45. Obed	58. Nahor	71. Jared
7. Janna	20. Rhesa	33. Levi	46. Boaz	59. Serug	72. Mahalalel
8. Joseph	21. Zerubbabel	34. Simeon	47. Salmon	60. Reu	73. Cainan
9. Mattathiah	22. Shealtiel	35. Judah	48. Nahshon	61. Peleg	74. Enosh
10. Amos	23. Neri	36. Joseph	49. Amminadab	62. Eber	75. Seth
11. Nahum	24. Melchi	37. Jonan	50. Ram	63. Shelah	76. Adam
12. Esli	25. Addi	38. Eliakim	51. Hezron	64. Cainan	77. God
13. Naggai	26. Cosam	39. Melea	52. Perez	65. Arphaxad	

4. How do the accounts of Matthew and Luke contrast and differ?

The Genealogy of Jesus
Teacher Notes

1. The genealogy of Jesus is listed in Matthew 1:1-17 and Luke 3:23-38. Who are the authors? What do you know about them? Where can you get trusted information?

There are many trustworthy sources for this information: Bible commentaries, Bible dictionaries, and study Bibles.

Matthew was financially well off and had his own house. He was educated and knew how to read and write. As a Jewish publican, a tax collector, fellow Jews despised him.

Luke was a physician and companion of Paul. As a Gentile, he recorded as a historian and did careful research.

2. Here is Matthew's account of the genealogy of Jesus. Matthew 1:17 explains the organization of his account and a table has been made to ease the tracking of all the names. List all of your observations of the account – what do you learn?

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham:
   Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob, and Jacob begot Judah and his brothers. Judah begot Perez and Zerah by Tamar, Perez begot Hezron, and Hezron begot Ram. Ram begot Amminadab, Amminadab begot Nahshon, and Nahshon begot Salmon. Salmon begot Boaz by Rahab, Boaz begot Obed by Ruth, Obed begot Jesse, and Jesse begot David the king.
   David the king begot Solomon by her who had been the wife of Uriah. Solomon begot Rehoboam, Rehoboam begot Abijah, and Abijah begot Asa. Asa begot Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat begot Joram, and Joram begot Uzziah. Uzziah begot Jotham, Jotham begot Ahaz, and Ahaz begot Hezekiah. Hezekiah begot Manasseh, Manasseh begot Amon, and Amon begot Josiah. Josiah begot Jeconiah and his brothers about the time they were carried away to Babylon.
   And **after they were brought to Babylon**, Jeconiah begot Shealtiel, and Shealtiel begot Zerubbabel. Zerubbabel begot Abiud, Abiud begot Eliakim, and Eliakim begot Azor. Azor begot Zadok, Zadok begot Achim, and Achim begot Eliud. Eliud begot Eleazar, Eleazar begot Matthan, and Matthan begot Jacob. And Jacob begot Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus who is called Christ.
   So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations, from David until the captivity in Babylon are fourteen generations, and from the captivity in Babylon until the Christ are fourteen generations. (Matt 1:1-17, NKJV)

Abraham to David		David to Babylonian Captivity		Captivity to Jesus Christ	
1. Abraham	8. Amminadab	1. David (Bathsheba)	8. Uzziah	1. Jeconiah	8. Achim
2. Isaac	9. Nahshon	2. Solomon	9. Jotham	2. Shealtiel	9. Eliud
3. Jacob	10. Salmon (Rahab)	3. Rehoboam	10. Ahaz	3. Zerubbabel	10. Eleazar
4. Judah (Tamar)	11. Boaz (Ruth)	4. Abijah	11. Hezekiah	4. Abihud	11. Matthan
5. Perez	12. Obed	5. Asa	12. Manasseh	5. Eliakim	12. Jacob
6. Hezron	13. Jesse	6. Jehoshaphat	13. Amon	6. Azor	13. Joseph (Mary)
7. Ram	14. David the king	7. Joram	14. Josiah	7. Zadok	14. Jesus Christ

Observations of Matthew: Matthew's accounting of Israel's kings was for the Jewish audience and emphasized Jesus' royal-legal lineage from David and makes the connection to the Davidic covenant (2 Sam 7:8-13). To stress Jesus' Jewish ancestry, Matthew lists in a descending order: "father begot..." with the genealogy tracing only from Abraham.

The genealogical list is short, because Matthew skips a number of generations. While a son is implied by the phrasing of the genealogy, Matthews is using the concept of "son" broadly in which the implied "son" can be understood as a descendant whether as a grandson or a son of a distant generation.

In counting David twice (Matt 1:17), Matthew reveals a pattern in his list. The list is broken down into 3 time periods: a) Abraham and David, b) David and the Exile, and c) the Exile and Jesus. During each period, Matthew lists only 14 generations.

Ask the student: consider highlighting the names of the women mentioned on the list and look into their background.

Five women are mentioned in the genealogy: Tamar (Gen 38:6-29) and Rahab (Josh 2:1-21; 6:17-25) were prostitutes, Ruth (Ruth 1:4-16;4:10-22) was a Moabitess, and Bathsheba (2 Sam 11:3-5, 14-24; 12:24) was an adulteress.

Ask the student: did you notice the pattern break in the phrasing of Jesus' part of the genealogy? Jesus was not recorded as, "Joseph begot Jesus who is called Christ."

"And Jacob begot Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus who is called Christ." The Greek term "by whom" here is a feminine relative pronoun which indicates that Jesus was the physical child of Mary and not of Joseph.

3. Just as for Matthew's account, Luke's account can be seen with a table to make observations of the text easier. What do you see and learn?

Now Jesus Himself began His ministry at about thirty years of age, being (as was supposed) the son of Joseph, the son of Heli, the son of Matthat, the son of Levi, the son of Melchi, the son of Janna, the son of Joseph, the son of Mattathiah, the son of Amos, the son of Nahum, the son of Esli, the son of Naggai, the son of Maath, the son of Mattathiah, the son of Semei, the son of Joseph, the son of Judah, the son of Joannas, the son of Rhesa, the son of Zerubbabel, the son of Shealtiel, the son of Neri, the son of Melchi, the son of Addi, the son of Cosam, the son of Elmodam, the son of Er, the son of Jose, the son of Eliezer, the son of Jorim, the son of Matthat, the son of Levi, the son of Simeon, the son of Judah, the son of Joseph, the son of Jonan, the son of Eliakim, the son of Melea, the son of Menan, the son of Mattathah, the son of Nathan, the son of David, the son of Jesse, the son of Obed, the son of Boaz, the son of Salmon, the son of Nahshon, the son of Amminadab, the son of Ram, the son of Hezron, the son of Perez, the son of Judah, the son of Jacob, the son of Isaac, the son of Abraham, the son of Terah, the son of Nahor, the son of Serug, the son of Reu, the son of Peleg, the son of Eber, the son of Shelah, the son of Cainan, the son of Arphaxad, the son of Shem, the son of Noah, the son of Lamech, the son of Methuselah, the son of Enoch, the son of Jared, the son of Mahalalel, the son of Cainan, the son of Enosh, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God. (Luke 3:23-38, NKJV)

1. Jesus	2. Joseph	3. Heli	4. Matthat	5. Levi	6. Melchi
7. Janna	8. Joseph	9. Mattathiah	10. Amos	11. Nahum	12. Esli
13. Naggai	14. Maath	15. Mattathiah	16. Semei	17. Joseph	18. Judah
19. Joannas	20. Rhesa	21. Zerubbabel	22. Shealtiel	23. Neri	24. Melch
25. Addi	26. Cosam	27. Elmodam	28. Er	29. Jose	30. Eliezer
31. Jorim	32. Matthat	33. Levi	34. Simeon	35. Judah	36. Joseph
37. Jonan	38. Eliakim	39. Melea	40. Menan	41. Mattathah	42. Nathan

43. David	44. Jesse	45. Obed	46. Boaz	47. Salmon	48. Nahshon
49. Amminadab	50. Ram	51. Hezron	52. Perez	53. Judah	54. Jacob
55. Isaac	56. Abraham	57. Terah	58. Nahor	59. Serug	60. Reu
61. Peleg	62. Eber	63. Shelah	64. Cainan	65. Arphaxad	66. Shem
67. Noah	68. Lamech	69. Methuselah	70. Enoch	71. Jared	72. Mahalalel
73. Cainan	74. Enosh	75. Seth	76. Adam	77. God	

Observations of Luke: Luke lists Jesus' genealogy in ascending order: "...son of …"

There is a pattern break with Joseph in the beginning of the list, "Now Jesus Himself began His ministry at about thirty years of age, being (as was supposed) the son of Joseph,…"

The range of genealogy: Jesus-God.

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4. How do the accounts of Matthew and Luke contrast and differ?

The accounts differ in the range of genealogy:
    Matthew's range is from Abraham to Jesus.
    Luke's range is from Jesus to God.

The accounts differ in the range of genealogy:
    Matthew's range is from Abraham to Jesus.
    Luke's range is from Jesus to God.

The accounts differ in how the genealogy is listed:
    Matthew lists in **descending** order using the phrase: "X begot…"
    Luke lists in **ascending** order using the phrase: "son of X"

The accounts differ in the pattern break of the phrasing of Jesus' naming in the genealogy:
    Matthew records: "And Jacob begot Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus who is called Christ."
    Luke records: "Now Jesus Himself began His ministry at about thirty years of age, being (as was supposed) the son of Joseph,…"

The accounts differ in the tracing of two different family genealogies, which is seen in the difference in names between the two genealogies.
    Matthew recorded the ancestors of Joseph, the legal father of Jesus, in accordance to Jewish tradition.

The accounts differ in the tracing of two different family genealogies, which is seen in the difference in names between the two genealogies.
    Matthew recorded the ancestors of Joseph, the legal father of Jesus, in accordance to Jewish tradition.
    Luke recorded the ancestors of Mary, the biological mother of Jesus.
        Listed in Matthew's genealogy is the last Jewish king Jeconiah. Jeconiah was an evil king who led the divided monarchy Israel to disobey God. In pronouncing judgment of his sins, Jeremiah prophesized, "record this man as if childless" (Jer 22:30). God's judgment ends the royal line of Jewish kingship at Jeconiah (whom Jeremiah calls Coniah) and denies the occupation of the throne by any descendant and thus deny future blessings (2 Chron 36:9-10 Jehoaichin is equivalent to Jechoniah).

If Jesus was a physical descendant of Jeconiah, God's curse on Jeconiah would have prevented Him from sitting on David's throne.