

---

# A SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGICAL THESIS ON YESHUA'S GENEALOGY IN MATTHEW 1:1–17

## THESIS STATEMENT

*Matthew 1:1–17 presents Yeshua (Jesus) as the fulfillment of God's covenantal promises to Abraham and David, demonstrating that the Messiah came through a divinely orchestrated, prophetically anticipated, and theologically purposeful lineage that reveals God's sovereignty, grace, faithfulness, and redemptive intent for Israel and the nations.*

---

## I. INTRODUCTION: THE PURPOSE OF GENEALOGY IN SCRIPTURE

In the ancient Hebrew world, genealogies were not simple family records, they were **theological declarations** of identity, inheritance, legal legitimacy, and divine calling. Matthew, writing to a Jewish audience, intentionally begins the New Testament with a genealogy to answer the most crucial messianic question:

**“Is Yeshua the promised Messiah of Israel?”**

To answer it, Matthew connects Jesus to the **covenants, prophecies, and royal lineage** that authenticate His messianic identity.

**“The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.”**  
**Matthew 1:1 (KJV)**

This opening line is itself a thesis:

- **Son of David** = the *Royal* Messiah
  - **Son of Abraham** = the *Covenant* Messiah
- 

## II. THE STRUCTURE OF MATTHEW'S GENEALOGY: A THEOLOGY OF HISTORY

Matthew presents **three sets of fourteen generations** (Matt. 1:17):

1. **From Abraham to David** (Covenant → Kingdom)
2. **From David to the Exile** (Kingdom → Judgment)
3. **From the Exile to Christ** (Judgment → Restoration)

Each period reflects the movement of God's redemptive plan.

### A. The Number Fourteen: The Davidic Signature

In Hebrew numerology (gematria), the name **David** ( $14 = 4 + 6 + 4 = \text{דוד}$ ). Matthew structures the genealogy to declare:

**“Jesus is the rightful Son of David.”**

---

## III. THE ABRAHAMIC CONNECTION - THE MESSIAH AS THE COVENANT FULFILLMENT

### A. God's Promise to Abraham

**“In thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.”** Genesis 12:3

**“In thy seed shall all nations of the earth be blessed.”** Genesis 22:18

Matthew asserts that Jesus is the **Seed of Abraham**, the one through whom:

- the **promise of land** expands into the Kingdom of God
- the **promise of blessing** expands to all nations
- the **promise of a seed** culminates in Messiah (cf. Gal. 3:16)

## B. Prophetic Alignment

- **Isaac was a miracle child** → Jesus is the ultimate miraculous Son (Isa. 7:14)
- **Abraham offered Isaac** → foreshadows God offering His Son (Gen. 22:8; John 1:29)

### Theological Conclusion:

Jesus is the embodiment of the Abrahamic covenant, bringing salvation to all humanity.

## IV. THE DAVIDIC CONNECTION - THE MESSIAH AS THE RIGHTFUL KING

### A. God's Covenant with David

**"I will set up thy seed after thee... and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever."** 2 Samuel 7:12-16

Matthew links Jesus directly to **David**, establishing:

- **royal legitimacy**
- **prophetic fulfillment**
- **messianic authority**

### B. Prophetic Cross-References

1. **Isaiah 9:6-7**: - A Son born who will sit on David's throne forever
2. **Jeremiah 23:5-6**: - A righteous Branch from David will reign as King
3. **Micah 5:2** - Messiah will be born in Bethlehem, David's city

### Theological Conclusion:

Jesus is the long-awaited Davidic King whose kingdom has no end.

## V. THE WOMEN IN THE GENEALOGY - THE THEOLOGY OF GRACE AND RESTORATION

Matthew uniquely includes **four women**, Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, and Bathsheba ("the wife of Uriah"). These were Gentiles or morally scandalized figures.

### Their Inclusion Teaches:

1. **God works through broken human history**
2. **The Messiah embraces Jew and Gentile**
3. **Grace overcomes human sinfulness**
4. **God's plan cannot be hindered by human failures**

Each woman reflects a theological truth:

Woman	Reference	Theological Theme
Tamar	Gen. 38	Justice through unconventional means

Woman	Reference	Theological Theme
Rahab	Josh. 2	Faith among the Gentiles
Ruth	Ruth 1-4	Redemption and inclusion of nations
Bathsheba 11-12	2 Sam.	Grace after sin and royal restoration

Their presence in Messiah's lineage is a **prophetic foreshadow** of the Gospel's inclusivity.

---

## VI. THE POST-EXILIC GENERATIONS - THE MESSIAH AS THE HOPE OF RESTORATION

After the Babylonian exile, Israel had:

- **no king**
- **no Davidic throne**
- **no national sovereignty**

Yet prophets spoke of a future restoration:

- **Haggai 2:6-9** - The glory of the latter house will be greater
- **Zechariah 3:8; 6:12** - The Branch (Messiah) will build God's true temple
- **Isaiah 40:1-5** - Comfort and redemption for Israel

Matthew traces the line from exile to Christ to declare:

**"The King has returned."**

---

## VII. THE THEOLOGY OF THE VIRGIN BIRTH WITHIN THE GENEALOGY

Matthew carefully separates Joseph's biological line from Jesus' birth:

**"Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus." Matthew 1:16**

In Greek, "of whom" is feminine singular, meaning:

**Jesus was born of Mary alone, not of Joseph.**

This fulfills:

- **Isaiah 7:14** - "A virgin shall conceive..."
- **Genesis 3:15** - The Seed of the Woman would crush the serpent

The genealogy gives Jesus **legal** right to David's throne through Joseph, while the virgin birth gives Him the **divine** right.

---

## VIII. JESUS AS THE CLIMAX OF BIBLICAL HISTORY

Matthew concludes:

**"So all the generations... until Christ." Matthew 1:17**

This means:

1. **History was moving toward Jesus**
2. **Prophecies converge in Him**
3. **God's promises find their fulfillment in Him (2 Cor. 1:20)**
4. **Messiah is the final chapter of the old covenant and the first of the new**

**Jesus is not simply in the genealogy - He is the goal of the genealogy.**

---

## **IX. THEOLOGICAL SUMMARY**

### **1. Jesus is the Covenant Messiah**

Fulfillment of Abrahamic promises (Gen. 12:3; 22:18).

### **2. Jesus is the Royal Messiah**

Heir to David's eternal throne (2 Sam. 7:12-16).

### **3. Jesus is the Prophetic Messiah**

The Seed promised through generations (Isa. 9:6-7; Jer. 23:5-6).

### **4. Jesus is the Universal Messiah**

His lineage includes Jews, Gentiles, kings, sinners, and outcasts.

### **5. Jesus is the Redemptive Messiah**

The genealogy is a tapestry of grace, showing God's ability to redeem any story.

### **6. Jesus is the Restorative Messiah**

After exile and seeming hopelessness, He brings restoration.

### **7. Jesus is the Divine Messiah**

Born of a virgin, fulfilling the protoevangelium (Gen. 3:15).

---

## **FINAL THEOLOGICAL THESIS CONCLUSION**

Matthew's genealogy is a deliberate theological proclamation that Jesus is the **long-expected Messiah**, the **Son of David**, the **Son of Abraham**, and the **Son of God**, who stands as the fulfillment of Israel's story and the hope of all nations.

It reveals God's faithfulness throughout history, His power to redeem brokenness, and His sovereign orchestration of lineage, promises, and prophecy to bring forth the Savior of the world.