

The Light of The World

Shannon Jackson

The Bible is God's glorious story of redemption, the genealogies are the lineage of that redemption.

The first step to grasping the full nature of this redemption story is to understand its origin. The story begins in Genesis 3.

Genesis 3:13-15

13 Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?"

The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

14 So the Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this,

"Cursed are you above all livestock
and all wild animals!

You will crawl on your belly
and you will eat dust
all the days of your life.

15 And I will put enmity
between you and the woman,
and between your offspring^(a) and hers;
he will crush^(b) your head,
and you will strike his heel."

Of all the family trees listed in the Bible, Jesus' is perhaps the most twisted, tangled up mess out there.

Let's look at Matthew 1:

1 This is the list of ancestors of **Yeshua** Christ, descendant of David and Abraham.

2 Abraham was the father of Isaac,
Isaac the father of Jacob,

Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers. There's a scandal for you. A liar and a thief, who tricked his father and stole his brother's birthright.

³ **Judah** and **Tamar** were the father and mother of **Perez** and **Zerah**. Poor Tamar, her first husband and then his brother were both evil in God's sight, so he put them to death, leaving her childless. She was so desperate for a child that she tricks her father-in-law by pretending to be a harlot.

Perez was the father of **Hezron**,

Hezron the father of **Ram**,

⁴ **Ram** the father of **Amminadab**,

Amminadab the father of **Nahshon**,

Nahshon the father of **Salmon**.

⁵ **Salmon** and **Rahab** were the father and mother of **Boaz**. Here we go again, another prostitute, another scandalous story.

Boaz and **Ruth** were the father and mother of **Obed**. Perhaps Boaz had a soft spot for scandalous women because of his mother's story?

Obed was the father of **Jesse**,

⁶ **Jesse** the father of King **David**.

David and **Uriah's wife** Bathsheba were the father and mother of **Solomon**. The ultimate scandal, murder, adultery, lies.

⁷ **Solomon** was the father of **Rehoboam**,

Rehoboam the father of **Abijah**,

Abijah the father of **Asa**,

⁸ **Asa** the father of **Jehoshaphat**,

Jehoshaphat the father of **Joram**,

Joram the father of **Uzziah**,

⁹ **Uzziah** the father of **Jotham**,

Jotham the father of **Ahaz**,

Ahaz the father of **Hezekiah**,

¹⁰ **Hezekiah** the father of **Manasseh**, Perhaps the godliest King to rule Israel

Manasseh the father of **Amon**, The most evil king, completely reversed everything his father did to reform Israel.

Amon the father of **Josiah**.

¹¹ **Josiah** was the father of **Jechoniah** and his brothers.

They lived at the time when the people were exiled to Babylon.

¹² After the exile to Babylon,

Jechoniah became the father of Shealtiel.

Shealtiel was the father of Zerubbabel,

¹³ **Zerubbabel** the father of Abiud,

Abiud the father of Eliakim,

Eliakim the father of Azor,

¹⁴ **Azor** the father of Zadok,

Zadok the father of Achim,

Achim the father of Eliud,

¹⁵ **Eliud** the father of Eleazar,

Eleazar the father of Matthan,

Matthan the father of Jacob.

¹⁶ **Jacob** was the father of **Joseph**, who was the husband of Mary.

Mary was the mother of **Yeshua**, who is called Christ.

And that is our introduction to the New Testament!

So, what can we learn from this scandalous family tree of Christ?

1. **Jesus comes for sinners and from sinners.**

a. God saves those with a past.

b. No matter what our past whispers to us, no matter what our past holds, our past is the reason Jesus was born.

2. **God uses those with a past.**

- a. Maybe you can nod and amen that God can save anyone with a past but here's where you get stuck: *believing that God can use anyone with a past as well.*

 - b. Jesus took on the shame of his family tree. He is the only one in his lineage he never brought shame, but instead he bore the weight of the shame of those who came before him.
- 3. God redefines those with a past.**
- a. There is a long history of changing people's names in family of Christ.
 - i. Abram, from exalted father to father of a multitude
 - ii. Sarai, means princely, changed to mother of princes
 - iii. Jacob, from deceiver to Israel, God's people

 - b. When scripture mentions Rahab, she's almost always called Rahab the harlot except in Matthew's genealogy. Matthew calls her Rahab, mother of Boaz.

