

Jesus: The name above every name and the name for every other name.

### A record of the genealogy of Jesus Christ the son of David, the son of Abraham:

**Abraham was the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, Judah the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar, Perez the father of Hezron, Hezron the father of Ram, Ram the father of Amminadab, Amminadab the father of Nahshon, Nahshon the father of Salmon, Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab, Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth, Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of King David.**

**David was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been Uriah's wife, Solomon the father of Rehoboam, Rehoboam the father of Abijah, Abijah the father of Asa,**

**Asa the father of Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat the father of Jehoram, Jehoram the father of Uzziah, Uzziah the father of Jotham, Jotham the father of Ahaz, Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, Manasseh the father of Amon, Amon the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jeconiah and his brothers at the time of the exile to Babylon.**

**After the exile to Babylon: Jeconiah was the father of Shealtiel, Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, Abiud the father of Eliakim, Eliakim the father of Azor, Azor the father of Zadok, Zadok the father of Akim, Akim the father of Eliud, Eliud the father of Eleazar, Eleazar the father of Matthan, Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ.**

**Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow**

The angel had told Joseph: "You are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

The genealogy we just listened to gives us a chance to think about "his people." What kind of people did Jesus come to save? What kind of people is Jesus willing to have in his family?

### The Famous

As you read or listened to the names, there were probably some that jumped out at you right away. They are the famous ones. There's **Abraham**, that great hero of faith, who was willing to do whatever God told him, whether it was pick up and move or kill his own son. There was **Boaz**, that great man of integrity and good character who lived in a time when there was little integrity or good character to be found. There was **King David**, the great warrior, the man after God's own heart. There is **King Hezekiah** who destroyed the high places where people would worship false gods.

Jesus had some great people in his family. People, great as they were, who kept looking forward to great David's greater Son.

### The Infamous

The next group that might have popped out at you was the infamous ones: the people famous for all the wrong reasons. There's **Judah**, who had his good moments. He was the one who suggested they sell their brother Joseph instead of kill him. I guess you can call that a high point for Judah. However, he's probably better remembered for the time he unknowingly slept with his widowed daughter-in-law Tamar who had dressed like a prostitute and then wanted to have *her* burned to death when it was reported she was pregnant. There's also a long list of bad kings in Jesus' family. Most notable is **Manasseh**, who rebuilt the high places Hezekiah tore down and he sacrificed his own son in a fire to a false god.

Jesus also had some shady characters in his family, but that didn't keep him from coming.

## The Foreigners

If you were one of the early Jewish readers to read this, there are a couple of names that would have stuck out like sore thumbs: the foreigners. First of all, there's **Rahab**. She is listed as the mother of Boaz, but she must have been an ancestral mother. She was the prostitute from the city of Jericho who became a believer. **Ruth** was another foreigner who became a believer. She had married one of Naomi's sons, who died and then later she married Boaz.

Jesus had foreigners in his family tree, showing already back then that he would come not only for the **Jews**, but for all people.

## The Women

A somewhat unusual thing about this genealogy is that it lists some women in it. Sometimes Christianity gets labeled as sexist with its teachings about the roles of men and women. God has his reasons for that teaching, but don't let anyone tell you that it's because God does not care, appreciate or love women. Anyone familiar with the ministry of Jesus would never make such a claim. The fact that five women are mentioned here shows that as well. It's quite a group of women, too, in Jesus' genealogy. We've already mentioned three of them. There was **Tamar**, who acted like a "lady of the night" and **Rahab**, the foreigner, who actually was one. There was humble and hard-working **Ruth**, another foreigner and convert. And she is not mentioned by name, but there's also Solomon's mother, who had been Uriah's wife: **Bathsheba**, the adulteress. And then there is **Mary**. Gentle Mary, meek and mild.

Jesus was willing to call all of them "family."

## The Anonymous

The last group of people we could pick out of this list would be the anonymous ones. The ones that when you heard their names, you asked, "Who?" Apart from the genealogy we know very little about them. There's a **Hezron**, or **Abiud**, or **Eliud**, or **Matthan**.

Jesus has people in his family that are notable for different reasons. He also has a whole handful of people who would go unnoticed, except for the fact that they can say they are in Jesus' family, the only claim that really ever matters.

That's why we have gone through this genealogy. Not just so you can say, "Hey, my family is not so crazy after all." But so that you can see the kind of people that Jesus is willing to have in his family. It doesn't matter if you're a famous king or a foreigner. If you are shamefully infamous or feel anonymous, always standing in the shadows of life. It doesn't matter if you're a man, woman or child. Jesus wants you in his family. That's why he came. That's why he lived and died, so that anybody who believes in Him can call him Brother and can call God their Father. Jesus is more than willing to have you as a brother or sister.

As John wrote in his Gospel account concerning Jesus: **Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.**

Jesus will save his people from their sins. Jesus came for the famous, the infamous, the foreigners, the women, the anonymous...Jesus came for all. No matter what name you have or what category you fall into, Jesus came for you.

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow. Since Jesus came for all, he is the one before whom every knee will bow. Amen.