



# Hebrews

## PART 2 – GENEALOGIES

# Objectives

- ▶ Establish the role of genealogies in our contemporary world
- ▶ Establish the role of genealogies in the New Testament world by examining Matthew and Hebrews

# Genealogies: Contemporary Uses

- ▶ Ancestry.com, 23andme, “Finding Your Roots”
- ▶ Genealogies connect us to different people for different reasons
- ▶ Why do we seek these answers? What do we want to do with the information we find?



**pack  
tribe  
crew  
posse  
cult  
gang  
community  
soulcycle**

# Matthew 1:1-17

An account of the genealogy of **Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham**. Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram, and Aram the father of Aminadab, and Aminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of King David.

And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asaph, and Asaph the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Salathiel, and Salathiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, who bore Jesus, who is called the Messiah.

So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; and from David to the deportation to Babylon, fourteen generations; and from the deportation to Babylon to the Messiah fourteen generations.

# Ancestral Claims in Matthew

- ▶ Jesus is the *Messiah*, son of Abraham and son of David
- ▶ Jesus' ancestors include both Jews and Gentiles
- ▶ Women (in spite of how they are characterized) are an important part of salvation history

# More about Genealogies

- ▶ Genealogies are also social constructs
- ▶ They connect the past to the present and the future, providing a sense of continuity.
- ▶ Promoting a genealogy can be a strategy of self-authorization.
- ▶ Create a sense of belonging

# Hebrews and the Making of a People

- ▶ “Long ago God spoke to our ancestors (πατράσιν)” and also to “a Son, whom he appointed heir (κληρονόμον) of all things” (1:1-2). πατήρ, father, is found eight more times in Hebrews (1:5, 3:9, 7:10, 8:9, 11:23, 12:7, 12:9\*2).
- ▶ Melchizedek, king of Salem and priest of the Most High God is described as one without father or mother (Hebrews 7:2).
- ▶ Christ, however, was faithful over God’s house as a son, and we are *his house* if we hold firm the confidence and the pride that belongs to hope” (Hebrews 3:6).
- ▶ “God will put his laws in their minds and write them on their hearts, and I will be their God and they shall be my *people* (Hebrews 8:10).”

# Ancestral Claims: Kinship, Imitation, and Marginality

- ▶ The text of Hebrews depends on the ancestors to understand its current situation.
- ▶ In addition to their divine heritage (they are part of the household (οἶκος) of God) the author also describes the audience as descendants of Abraham
- ▶ The author's use of kinship establishes the authority of Jesus and defines the audience as a people, that is, God's own people



# The Heroes and Heroines of the Faith

- ▶ Hebrews 11
- ▶ “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for the conviction of things not seen. Indeed by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith, we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.”
- ▶ The faithful exhibit two main characteristics, they trust God and they are obedient.
- ▶ The audience and the ancestors are connected by feelings of alienation and their shared identity of being unashamedly God’s people.

# Concluding Observations

- ▶ Genealogies are tools of formation
- ▶ Ways of belonging can both include and exclude.
- ▶ Endurance and faithfulness, then, are part of our inheritance.
- ▶ One of the most important lessons – our very connectedness.



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