

Handout 1: Matthew Lesson 2

Time-line

- 587/6 BC: Last Davidic king taken by the Babylonians into exile
- 587/6 – 164 BC: Judah is ruled in turn by the Babylonians, Persians, and Greeks
- 167 – 164 BC: Revolt of the Maccabees
- 162 – 63 BC period of independence; rule by the Hasmonean priest-kings
(descendants of the Maccabees)
- 63 BC: Roman General Pompey conquers Judah; Romans rename Judah the Roman Province of Judea; Judea is ruled by men chosen by Rome
- 44 BC: Julius Caesar is assassinated; the Senate names a triumvirate of Caesar's g-nephew Octavian, Marc Antony, and Lepidus to govern the Republic
- 47-37 BC: Roman ally Herod is appointed governor of the Galilee
- 37 BC: Roman Senate appoints Herod king of the Jews
- 31 BC: Antony and Cleopatra VII defeated at the Battle of Actium by Octavian
- 27 BC: Octavian is named Caesar Augustus and appointed ruler for life by the Roman Senate. It is the end of the Roman Republic and the beginning of the Roman Empire
- 3/2 BC Jesus is born in Bethlehem+
- 1 BC/1 AD King Herod dies and is succeeded by his son Archelaus*
- 14 AD: Caesar Augustus dies and is succeeded by his step-son and heir Tiberius
- 28 AD John the Baptist and Jesus begin their ministries

+ and *: these dates are based on Luke's testimony that John baptized Jesus in the 15th year of the reign of Roman Emperor Tiberius (as the ancients counted) when Jesus was about 30 years old (Lk 3:1-3, 23).

There are ten "fulfillment" formula statements (ten is the number of divine order) in Matthew's Gospel:

- Jesus childhood: 1:23; 2:15, 17-18, 23
- Galilean ministry: 4:14-16; 8:17; 12:17-21; 13:35
- Jesus' last week in Jerusalem: 21:4-5; 27:9-10

Significant numbers hidden in Matthew's Genealogy

- The Hebrew gematria for David's name is 14 (double spiritual perfection = 7 +7) and his name is 14th in the list.
- The Greek gematria for Jesus' name (the language of the New Testament) is 888. In Scripture, the number 8 symbolizes rebirth, redemption, resurrection and salvation; therefore, 888 is symbolically a trinity of rebirth, redemption, resurrection and salvation.
- Abraham's name is mentioned 7 times the Gospel of Matthew (spiritual perfection) and 3 times in Matthew's generational list of Jesus' ancestors. In Scripture, 3 is the number signifying importance in God's divine plan, fullness and completion; in the New Testament, the number 3 also represents the Triune God.
- David's name begins and ends the genealogy, and his name is mentioned 5 times (1:1, 6 twice, 1:17 twice). In Scripture 5 is the number which signifies grace and power.

Handout 2: Matthew Lesson 2

It is significant that St. Matthew warns his Jewish readers that he has revealed Jesus' genealogy in a pattern format: *The sum of generations is therefore: fourteen from Abraham to David; fourteen from David to the Babylonian deportation; and fourteen from the Babylonian deportation to Christ* (Mt 1:17). He manipulates the list into 3 sets of 14 generations to create 42 names in the list of the descendants from Abraham to David and from David to Jesus to bring attention to the link between the names and the covenant promises made by God to both Abraham and King David.

The list of names in Matthew's genealogy of Jesus of Nazareth (the numbers list generations)

Set #1: 14 generations from Abraham to David

1. Abraham fathered Isaac
2. Isaac fathered Jacob
3. Jacob fathered Judah
4. Judah fathered Perez

additional names = (Perez's brother) Zerub and mother Tamar (woman #1)

5. Perez fathered Hezron
6. Hezron fathered Ram
7. Ram fathered Amminadab
8. Amminadab fathered Nahshon
9. Nahshon fathered Salmon
10. Salmon fathered Boaz

Rahab wife of Salmon and mother of Boaz (woman #2)

11. Boaz fathered Obed

Ruth wife of Boaz and mother of Obed (woman #3)

12. Obed fathered Jesse
13. Jesse fathered

14. King David (the gematria of David is the number 14)

There are 14 generations in Set #1

There are 27 male names (repeats and counting Zerub's name)

There are 3 names of gentile women

Total names: 30 names

Set #2: 14 generations from David to the Babylonian exile

David fathered Solomon (David is counted in Set #1 generations)

Uriah's wife (unnamed Bathsheba, mother of Solomon, is woman #4)

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|--------------------------|----------|---|
| 1. Solomon | fathered | Rehoboam |
| 2. Rehoboam | fathered | Abijah |
| 3. Abijah | fathered | Asa (Asaph) ¹ |
| 4. Asa | fathered | Jehoshaphat |
| 5. Jehoshaphat | fathered | Joram (Jehoram) |
| 6. Joram | fathered | Uzziah ² 3 missing kings between Joram and Uzziah = Ahaziah, Joash, and Amaziah (see 1 Chr 3:11-12; 2 Chr 21-25) |
| 7. Uzziah | fathered | Jotham |
| 8. Jotham | fathered | Ahaz |
| 9. Ahaz | fathered | Hezekiah |
| 10. Hezekiah | fathered | Manasseh |
| 11. Manasseh | fathered | Amon (Amos) ³ |
| 12. Amon | fathered | Josiah |
| 13. Josiah | fathered | missing name: Jehoiakim = son of Josiah (2 Kng 23:36) and father of Jehoiachin (2 Kng 24:6) |
| 14. Jechoniah/Jehoiachin | | grandson of Josiah and son of Jehoiakim; deportation to Babylon (see 2 Kng 23:30b-36; 24:6-17; 2 Chr 36:5-11) |

There are 14 generations in Set #2

There is a total of 29 male names (Uriah's wife, Bathsheba, is unnamed)

Set #3: 14 generations from after the Babylonian exile to the Messiah (notice no **restoration** is mentioned)

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|----------------------|----------------|--|
| 1. Jechoniah | fathered | Shealtiel |
| 2. Shealtiel | fathered | Zerubbabel |
| 3. Zerubbabel | fathered | Abiud |
| 4. Abiud | fathered | Eliakim |
| 5. Eliakim | fathered | Azor |
| 6. Azor | fathered | Zadok |
| 7. Zadok | fathered | Achim |
| 8. Achim | fathered | Eliud |
| 9. Eliud | fathered | Eleazar |
| 10. Eleazar | fathered | Matthan |
| 11. Matthan | fathered | Jacob |
| 12. Jacob | fathered | Joseph |
| 13. Joseph | husband of | Mary (the 5 th woman) mother of |
| 14. Jesus the Christ | (bringing true | restoration to Israel) |

There are 14 generations in the final set

There are 26 male names

There is 1 woman (Mary)

Total of 27 names in Set #3

There is a total of 42 generations in the three Sets

Significance of the number 42: 42 divided by 12, the number of the tribes of Israel, yields $3\frac{1}{2}$. The numbers 42 and $3\frac{1}{2}$ are prophetic numbers in both the book of Daniel chapter 12 and in the book of Revelation (Rev 11:9, 11; 13:5). In Scripture the number 42 appears to symbolize a connection to or a conflict between man and the Spirit of God. The number 42 is the product of 6 times 7. Seven is one of the “perfect” numbers, signifying fullness and perfection, especially spiritual perfection and it is the number of the Holy Spirit (i.e., 7 gifts of the Spirit in Is 11:1-2). However, 6 is the number of man and of man’s opposition to God’s plan for mankind’s salvation (i.e., man is created on the 6th day; Goliath is 6 cubits and a span tall, 666 is the number of the Beast in Rev).

Matthew manipulates the list by counting David only once in Set #1 but Jechoniah twice in Set #3 in order to get 14 generations in the final set. David’s name is the 14th in the first Set and Jesus’ name is the 14th in the final set. If you divide the sets of 14 generations into 7s, Jesus’ name is the 7th 7. There are 27 names total in this final set. Jews would interpret this number as: 2 is the number of division (Jesus came to divide; see Mt 10:34-36), times 10 = divine order, plus 7= spiritual perfection.

The total of all the names listed (with repeats and including the women) is 86. 8 is the number of salvation, 80 the number of salvation times divine order (10), and 6 is the number of man. Is Matthew’s hidden message (that Jews reading his genealogy would recognize) that Jesus is the Messiah, the son of David (represented by the number 14) and the King of Kings who has come as a man to fulfill the covenant promise made to Abraham and David, to bring salvation to Israel and to mankind, but because of man’s opposition to God, He will suffer in order to bring to fruition God’s divine plan for humanity? In truth, only St. Matthew knows.

Endnotes for the genealogy:

1. According to 1 Chr 3:10, Abijah was the father of Asa not the father of Asaph. However, some MSS list Asa, which may be a shortened form of Asaph.
2. Uzziah is Joram’s g-g-grandson
3. Amos is listed as Amon in 1 Chr 3:14.

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