

genealogy of jesus

"The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham." Matthew 1:1



women in the genealogy

Traditionally, Jewish people traced their heritage through the male line. In a surprising move, Matthew includes not one, but four women in his genealogy! Even more surprising, each of these women were gentiles, or non-Israelites. Each of them are also tied to scandalous sexual histories. So, why did Matthew include these women? The message is that God's family is open to all, men and women, Israelite and non-Israelite.

jesus is the seventh seven

Matthew intentionally structures his genealogy into three parts:

14 generations from Abraham to David

14 generations from David to the time of the Babylonian captivity

14 generation from Babylon to the time of Jesus.

Seven is a highly symbolic number in the Bible. God rests on the seventh day of Creation and God's people are told to keep the seventh day as a Sabbath, set apart for God. Fourteen can be thought of as a set of two sevens, which means in the Genealogy, there are three sets of two sevens, six in total. This leaves us anticipating a "seventh seven," found in Jesus, the culmination of the genealogy. In this way, Jesus is aligned with God, as the climax of history, suggesting a new creation is about to take place!