



Messenger Project Newsletter

The Messenger

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A NONPROFIT CORPORATION PROMOTING THE BIBLE THROUGH THE ARTS

Messenger Project Members

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Messenger Notes

Raymond Genovese and **Lionel De Leon** completed their final mix for *The Lord is my Shepherd (Psalm 23)*. There are two more songs to finish before our long-awaited sixth CD will be finally completed.

Lionel and **Joie De Leon** composed a song for the Huntington Beach **Community Bible Church** Christmas program on December 18th that will be performed with the worship team and the CBC choir together, titled *Name Him Jesus*.

Lionel De Leon performed *The Rebellion (Hebrews 3:15)* with the worship team during the November 27th offertory at Community Bible Church. His next song, *God My Savior (Habakkuk 3:16)*, will be performed on December 25th.

Genealogy of Jesus

Jews carefully maintained accurate genealogical records up until the destruction of the Temple in 70 A.D., primarily because property rights in Israel were linked to family heritage. Individuals who could not trace their family had no inheritance. Prophecies also contributed to interest in genealogies. God had promised several people that the messiah would be one of their descendants. To prove this descent, it was important to maintain accurate genealogical records.

It wasn't customary for Jews to include women in their genealogical records, but Matthew included five women in his genealogy of Christ. The five women

included are: Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba, and Mary.

Tamar was the daughter-in-law of Judah. She was a childless widow, who disguised herself as a harlot and seduced Judah. Through him, she became the mother of Perez (Judah's son). **Rahab** was a harlot who lived in Jericho. She hid the spies of Joshua. Because of this, the Israelites spared her life when they conquered Jericho. She later became the wife of Salmon, and the mother of Boaz (David's great-grandfather). **Ruth** was a foreigner from the land of Moab. She was the widow of a Jew. Her mother-in-law, Naomi, also lived in Moab. Naomi and Ruth journeyed to Israel after her family died. Ruth married Boaz, one of Naomi's relatives. Ruth later became the mother of Obed (David's grandfather). **Bathsheba** was the adulterous wife of Uriah, a soldier in the army of King David. She and David had an affair, which led to Uriah being slain in battle (at David's request). David took Bathsheba as his wife and she became the mother of Solomon. **Mary** was the mother of Jesus and the wife of Joseph.

Matthew's genealogy emphasized Jesus' claim to the throne of David. Since Luke's readers (Greek Christians) were less concerned about the fulfillment of Jewish prophecy, his genealogy focused on Jesus' descent from God. It placed no emphasis on Jesus being the descendant of King David.

Differences between the genealogies of Matthew and Luke may be attributed to the fact that Matthew traced the ancestry of Joseph, while Luke traced the genealogy of Mary.

Jehoiakim was a king of Israel who angered God by burning a scroll from Jeremiah, the prophet. God cursed Jehoiakim, saying that none of his children would sit on David's

throne. Joseph, the father of Jesus, was one of Jehoiakim's descendants. Joseph's offspring could not claim David's throne because of the curse, but the virgin birth kept the curse and made Jesus a legal descendant of Jehoiakim.

Luke stated that Joseph was the son of Heli, while Matthew stated he was the son of Jacob. The Jerusalem Talmud shows that Joseph was the son-in-law of Heli. Joseph's biological father was Jacob. It was customary to refer to a son-in-law as a son in the first century. Luke's statement was culturally correct.

Many first century Jews were opponents of Christianity and had access to the original genealogical records. Had the genealogies been inaccurate, it would have been easy for a first century Jew to prove that they were, but they did not. Their silence is testimony to the accuracy of the gospel writers.

All genealogy records were burned by the Romans during the destruction of the Temple, so it is impossible to prove lineage to King David anymore. Jesus' lineage to David was provided through both Joseph and Mary, and Jesus was born at a time when Israel's ancestry records were kept. With the destruction of the Temple, God accomplished two things: he put an end to animal sacrifice and the ability to prove ancestry to King David (important messianic prophecies).

Jesus was the promised heir to David's throne, so there is no more need to keep records of King David's lineage. Jesus arrived at the proper time according to God's plan, and the rest is history. Our Savior brought redemption to his people through his death on the cross. "Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King!"