

The Hidden Prophecy in the Genealogy of Jesus (Matthew 1)

Introduction

Chuck Missler* famously noted that the names in the genealogy of Noah in Genesis form a prophetic message about the coming of the Messiah. In my research, I found that a similar prophecy can be derived from Jesus' genealogy in Matthew 1, and if we agree with scholars like **Nehemiah Gordon*** that Matthew was originally written in Hebrew rather than Greek, we can compare the meanings of the names list in both languages to reveal interesting hidden prophetic messages.

- **Chuck Missler** — (1934-2018) A former U.S. Naval Academy graduate and aerospace/technology executive turned Bible teacher, founder of Koinonia House. He was widely respected for his in-depth, verse-by-verse teaching and for connecting biblical prophecy with science, history, and current events, often drawing from his technical and intelligence background to illuminate Scripture.
- **Nehemiah Gordon** — (1972-present) A biblical scholar and former Dead Sea Scrolls researcher at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He is known for his work on the Hebrew origins of the New Testament, especially the Hebrew Gospel of Matthew, and for translating and analyzing ancient Hebrew manuscripts to shed light on early Christian and Jewish history.

Genealogy of Jesus: Name Meanings in Hebrew vs. Greek

Name (English)	Hebrew Meaning	Greek Meaning	Discrepancies
Abraham	"Father of a Multitude"	"Father of Many"	None
Isaac	"He Laughs"	"Laughter"	None
Jacob	"Supplanter"	"Heel Grabber"	Minor nuance
Judah	"Praise"	"Praised One"	None
Perez	"Breach / Breakthrough"	"Division"	"Breach" vs. "Division" nuance
Hezron	"Enclosed / Blooming"	"Courtyard"	Hebrew is more symbolic of growth
Ram	"High / Exalted"	"Ram (Animal)"	Greek focuses on literal meaning
Amminadab	"My People are Noble"	"People of Generosity"	Slight variation in emphasis
Nahshon	"Serpent / Diviner"	"Enchanter"	Similar but mystical tone in Greek
Salmon	"Garment / Clothed"	"Peaceful"	Very different meanings
Boaz	"In Strength"	"Swift"	Hebrew focuses on power, Greek on speed
Obed	"Servant / Worshiper"	"Workman"	Hebrew emphasizes devotion
Jesse	"Gift / Yahweh Exists"	"Man of Wealth"	Spiritual vs. material contrast
David	"Beloved"	"Strong / Mighty"	Greek has more of a warrior meaning
Solomon	"Peaceful"	"Shining / Whole"	Hebrew focuses on peace, Greek on radiance
Rehoboam	"The People are Enlarged"	"The People are Broad"	Similar but different nuance
Abijah	"My Father is Yahweh"	"God is my Father"	None
Asa	"Healer"	"Physician"	Similar
Jehoshaphat	"Yahweh has Judged"	"God has Judged"	None
Jehoram	"Yahweh is Exalted"	"Exalted by God"	None
Uzziah	"My Strength is Yahweh"	"Power of God"	Slight variation
Jotham	"Yahweh is Perfect"	"The Lord is Complete"	None
Ahaz	"He has Grasped"	"One Who Holds"	None
Hezekiah	"Yahweh Strengthens"	"God has Strengthened"	None
Manasseh	"Causing to Forget"	"Making Forget"	None

Name (English)	Hebrew Meaning	Greek Meaning	Discrepancies
Amon	"Faithful / Skilled Workman"	"Builder"	Different emphasis
Josiah	"Yahweh Heals / Supports"	"The Lord Gives"	Slight variation
Jeconiah	"Yahweh Establishes"	"The Lord Prepares"	None
Shealtiel	"I Have Asked of God"	"God has Requested"	None
Zerubbabel	"Seed of Babylon"	"Born in Babylon"	None
Abiud	"My Father is Majesty"	"Father of Praise"	Different emphasis
Eliakim	"God Raises Up"	"God Will Establish"	None
Azor	"Helper"	"Strong"	Strength vs. assistance
Zadok	"Righteous"	"Just"	None
Achim	"My Brother Rises"	"My Brother Stands"	None
Eliud	"God is My Praise"	"God is My Glory"	None
Eleazar	"God has Helped"	"God Helps"	None
Matthan	"Gift of Yahweh"	"Gift of God"	None
Jacob	"Supplanter"	"Heel Grabber"	None
Joseph	"Yahweh Adds"	"God Will Increase"	None
Jesus (Yeshua)	"Yahweh Saves"	"Savior / Deliverer"	None

Prophetic Message from the Hebrew Name Meanings

- A **Father of Multitudes** (Abraham) brings forth **Laughter and Joy** (Isaac) as the **Supplanter** (Jacob) **Praises God** (Judah).
- A **Breach** (Perez) occurs, but through **Blooming and Exaltation** (Hezron, Ram), God prepares a **Noble People** (Amminadab).
- Though the **Serpent** (Nahshon) deceives, the **Garment of Strength** (Salmon, Boaz) covers a **Servant Worshiper** (Obed).
- The **Gift of Yahweh** (Jesse) is given to the **Beloved One** (David), who **Brings Peace** (Solomon) and **Enlarges the People** (Rehoboam).
- **My Father is Yahweh** (Abijah) brings **Healing** (Asa), and **Yahweh Judges** (Jehoshaphat) those who are **Exalted** (Jehoram).
- **My Strength is Yahweh** (Uzziah), for **Yahweh is Perfect** (Jotham), even when **He Grasps** (Ahaz) those who need **Strengthening** (Hezekiah).
- But the **People Forget** (Manasseh), and only the **Faithful Workman** (Amon) who **Heals** (Josiah) can restore them.
- **Yahweh Establishes** (Jeconiah) through those **Asked of God** (Shealtiel), and from **Babylon's Seed** (Zerubbabel), **My Father's Majesty** (Abiud) will arise.
- **God Raises Up** (Eliakim) a **Helper** (Azor) who is **Righteous** (Zadok), and **My Brother Rises** (Achim) as **God's Praise** (Eliud).
- **God has Helped** (Eleazar) through the **Gift of Yahweh** (Matthan), and the **Supplanter** (Jacob) brings forth one through whom **Yahweh Adds** (Joseph).
- Through him, **Yahweh Saves** (Jesus).

This can be written more clearly as the following prophetic narrative:

A father of multitudes will arise,
and from him will spring laughter and joy.
The one who supplants will lift his voice in praise,
and from his praise the worship of Yahweh will cover the earth.

There will be a breach – yet the breach will bloom,
and out of desolation will come exaltation.
The Lord will prepare a noble people,
though the serpent will seek to deceive.

The garment of strength will be laid upon the righteous,
and the servant who worships will be covered.
The gift of Yahweh will be given to the beloved one,
and he will bring peace and enlarge the people.

My Father is Yahweh, and He brings healing;
Yahweh judges those who exalt themselves.

My strength is Yahweh, for Yahweh is perfect,
even when He must grasp and strengthen the wayward.

But the people will forget,
and their hearts will grow faint.
Yet the faithful workman will come,
and he will heal what was broken.

Yahweh will establish through those asked of Him,
and from the seed preserved in exile will arise His majesty.
God will raise up a helper who is righteous,
and my brother will rise as God's praise.

God has helped through His gift,
and the supplanter will bring forth the one who adds—
through him Yahweh will save.

[End of name-derived prophecy]

Theological Summary: He will be the fulfillment of the promise, the mender of the breach, and the joy of all nations.

Key Differences Between Hebrew and Greek Prophecy

Theme	Hebrew Prophecy	Greek Prophecy
Focus	Redemption & Breakthrough	Strength & Kingship
Messiah's Role	Suffering Servant, Divine Intervention	Mighty Ruler, Establishing Order
People's Condition	Lost, Forgetful, Needing Salvation	Divided, Needing Strength
Tone	Spiritual Renewal & Hope	Strength & Leadership

Both versions foretell Jesus' coming but emphasize different aspects:

- The Hebrew genealogy highlights Jesus as the suffering servant who restores and saves.
- The Greek genealogy presents Him as a powerful ruler who judges and strengthens.

Conclusion

The genealogy of Jesus in Matthew carries a deep prophetic message, revealing the Messiah's mission to redeem and establish God's kingdom. The careful preservation of these names through Hebrew tradition suggests an intentional divine design that points forward to the ultimate salvation found in Yeshua (Jesus), whose very name means "Yahweh Saves."

References & Resources

- Matthew 1:1-17 (Greek New Testament and Hebrew Gospel studies)
- Genesis genealogical patterns (Chuck Missler's analysis)
- Hebrew Gospel of Matthew manuscripts (Nehemia Gordon's research)
- Ancient Hebrew name etymology and meanings