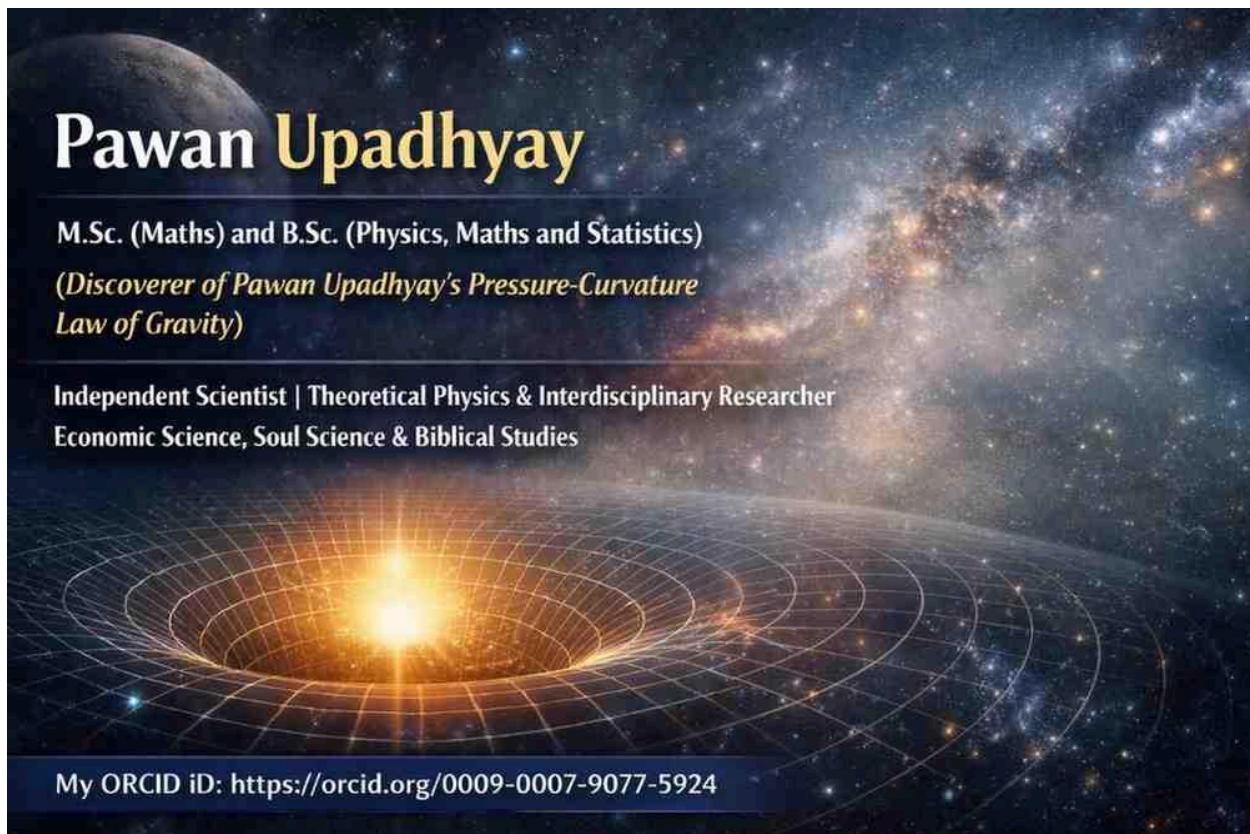


The Genealogy of Jesus Christ: Biblical and Theological Study

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Abstract

The genealogy of Jesus Christ occupies a vital place in the New Testament, grounding His incarnation in real human history while affirming His messianic identity. The Gospels of Matthew and Luke present two genealogical records that, while different in structure and emphasis, together testify to Jesus Christ as the promised Messiah, Son of David, Son of Abraham, and Son of God. This research paper examines the biblical genealogies of Jesus Christ, their theological purposes, their differences and harmonization, and their significance for Christology and salvation history.

1. Introduction

Genealogies in the Bible are not mere lists of names; they are theological statements. In the case of Jesus Christ, genealogy establishes His rightful place in Israel's history, His fulfillment of Old Testament promises, and His true humanity. By tracing Jesus' lineage, the New Testament affirms that the eternal Son of God truly entered human history while remaining divine.

2. Importance of Genealogy in Jewish Tradition

In ancient Israel, genealogy determined:

- Tribal identity
- Inheritance rights
- Royal legitimacy
- Priestly qualification

The Messiah was expected to come from the **house of David** and the **line of Abraham**. Any messianic claim without proper genealogy would be invalid according to Jewish law and expectation.

3. Genealogy of Jesus Christ in the Gospel of Matthew

The Gospel of Matthew opens with the genealogy of Jesus Christ, emphasizing His royal and messianic identity.

- “*The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.*”
(Matthew 1:1)

3.1 Structure and Purpose

Matthew traces Jesus' lineage:

- From **Abraham to David**
- From **David to the Babylonian Exile**
- From **the Exile to Jesus Christ**

This structure highlights Jesus as:

- Fulfillment of the **Abrahamic promise**
- Heir to the **Davidic throne**

3.2 Legal Line through Joseph

Matthew presents the **legal genealogy** through Joseph, the husband of Mary.

- “*Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ.*” (Matthew 1:16)

Although Joseph was not the biological father of Jesus, his legal fatherhood establishes Jesus’ lawful claim to David’s royal lineage.

4. Genealogy of Jesus Christ in the Gospel of Luke

Luke presents a different genealogy with a broader theological scope.

- “*Jesus, when he began his ministry, was about thirty years of age, being the son (as was supposed) of Joseph.*” (Luke 3:23)

4.1 Structure and Purpose

Luke traces the genealogy:

- Backward from **Jesus to Adam**
- Ending with “**Adam, the son of God**”

This universal scope presents Jesus as:

- Savior of **all humanity**, not only Israel
- True Son of God entering the human family

4.2 Biological Line through Mary

Many scholars understand Luke’s genealogy as reflecting **Mary’s lineage**, with Joseph named according to legal custom. This explains differences in names between Matthew and Luke while preserving Davidic descent.

5. Differences Between Matthew and Luke: Explanation

The differences between the two genealogies are intentional and theological, not contradictory.

Matthew

Luke

Begins with Abraham	Begins with Adam
Moves forward	Moves backward
Emphasizes kingship	Emphasizes universal salvation
Legal lineage through Joseph	Biological lineage through Mary

Together, they provide a complete picture of Jesus Christ's identity.

6. Women in the Genealogy of Jesus Christ

Matthew uniquely includes women in Jesus' genealogy:

- Tamar
- Rahab
- Ruth
- Bathsheba (wife of Uriah)
- Mary

Their inclusion highlights:

- God's grace working through human imperfection
 - The breaking of social and ethnic boundaries
 - Preparation for the Virgin Birth of Mary
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7. Full Biblical Genealogies of Jesus Christ

The New Testament preserves two complete genealogical records of Jesus Christ. These genealogies are not redundant but complementary, each serving a distinct theological purpose.

7.1 Full Genealogy According to Matthew (Matthew 1:1–17)

(*Royal and Legal Line through Joseph*)

Abraham → Isaac → Jacob → Judah → Perez → Hezron → Ram → Amminadab → Nahshon → Salmon → Boaz (by Rahab) → Obed (by Ruth) → Jesse → **King David** → Solomon (by the wife of Uriah) → Rehoboam → Abijah → Asa → Jehoshaphat → Joram → Uzziah → Jotham → Ahaz → Hezekiah → Manasseh → Amon → Josiah → Jeconiah (at the time of the exile to

Babylon) → Shealtiel → Zerubbabel → Abiud → Eliakim → Azor → Zadok → Achim → Eliud → Eleazar → Matthan → Jacob → **Joseph**, the husband of Mary → **Jesus Christ**, who is called the Messiah.

Matthew structures this genealogy into **three sets of fourteen generations**, emphasizing divine order and messianic fulfillment.

7.2 Full Genealogy According to Luke (Luke 3:23–38)

(*Human and Universal Line, commonly associated with Mary's lineage*)

Jesus Christ → (as was supposed) Joseph → Heli → Mattath → Levi → Melchi → Jannai → Joseph → Mattathias → Amos → Nahum → Esli → Naggai → Maath → Mattathias → Semein → Josech → Joda → Joanan → Rhesa → Zerubbabel → Shealtiel → Neri → Melchi → Addi → Cosam → Elmadam → Er → Joshua → Eliezer → Joram → Mattath → Levi → Simeon → Judah → Joseph → Jonam → Eliakim → Melea → Menna → Mattatha → Nathan → **David** → Jesse → Obed → Boaz → Salmon → Nahshon → Amminadab → Admin → Arni → Hezron → Perez → Judah → Jacob → Isaac → Abraham → Terah → Nahor → Serug → Reu → Peleg → Eber → Shelah → Cainan → Arphaxad → Shem → Noah → Lamech → Methuselah → Enoch → Jared → Mahalalel → Cainan → Enosh → Seth → **Adam** → **God**.

Luke's genealogy intentionally culminates in **God**, affirming Jesus Christ as the Son of God and Savior of all humanity.

8. Old Testament Promises and Their Fulfillment in Jesus Christ

The genealogies intentionally demonstrate that Jesus fulfills key Old Testament messianic promises.

8.1 Promise to Abraham

- “*In you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.*” (Genesis 12:3)

Fulfillment:

- Jesus Christ, descendant of Abraham, brings salvation to all nations (Matthew 1:1; Galatians 3:16).

8.2 Promise to Judah

- “*The scepter shall not depart from Judah.*” (Genesis 49:10)

Fulfillment:

- Jesus descends from the tribe of Judah and reigns as eternal king (Hebrews 7:14; Revelation 5:5).

8.3 Promise to David

- “*I will raise up your offspring after you... and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.*” (2 Samuel 7:12–13)

Fulfillment:

- Jesus Christ is proclaimed Son of David whose kingdom has no end (Luke 1:32–33).

8.4 Promise of a Virgin Birth

- “*Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son.*” (Isaiah 7:14)

Fulfillment:

- Fulfilled in the birth of Jesus Christ through the Virgin Mary (Matthew 1:22–23).

8.5 Promise of Universal Salvation

- “*All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord.*” (Psalm 22:27)

Fulfillment:

- Luke’s genealogy reaching Adam confirms Christ as Savior of all humanity.
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7. Genealogy and the Virgin Birth

The genealogies affirm Jesus’ true humanity while remaining consistent with the Virgin Birth.

- “*Born of woman, born under the law.*” (Galatians 4:4)

Joseph’s legal fatherhood and Mary’s biological descent together establish Jesus as fully human and fully messianic without denying divine conception.

9. Theological Significance of the Genealogy of Jesus Christ

The genealogy of Jesus Christ reveals:

- God's faithfulness across generations
 - Fulfillment of covenant promises
 - The union of divine purpose and human history
 - Jesus as the climax of salvation history
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9. Christological Implications

Genealogy confirms that:

- Jesus is the **Son of David** (King)
- Jesus is the **Son of Abraham** (Promise)
- Jesus is the **Son of Adam** (Humanity)
- Jesus is the **Son of God** (Divinity)

Thus, the genealogy supports the doctrine of the Incarnation.

10. Conclusion

The genealogies of Jesus Christ are not contradictions but complementary theological testimonies. Matthew establishes Jesus' royal and messianic legitimacy, while Luke emphasizes His universal mission and true humanity. Together, they affirm that the eternal Son of God entered human history in fulfillment of divine promise, becoming the Savior of the world.

Keywords

Genealogy of Jesus Christ, Matthew 1, Luke 3, Son of David, Son of Abraham, Virgin Birth, Christology, Incarnation

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