

Matthew 1:1-6 (NIV)

1 A record of the genealogy of Jesus Christ the son of David, the son of Abraham: 2 Abraham was the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, 3 Judah the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was **Tamar**, Perez the father of Hezron, Hezron the father of Ram, 4 Ram the father of Amminadab, Amminadab the father of Nahshon, Nahshon the father of Salmon, 5 Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was **Rahab**, Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was **Ruth**, Obed the father of Jesse, 6 and Jesse the father of King David. David was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been **Uriah's wife**....

40-01-01-The Great-Grandmothers of Jesus
genealogy, incarnation, barriers, women, Advent
Matt.1:1-6

The Messiah's human ancestry reveals the heart of human need.

INTRODUCTION: (Text as the Scripture Reading)

–**Genesis** means *beginnings*; **genealogy** refers to *ancestral beginnings*. Genesis tells the beginnings of the old humanity and the story of lost sonship in the fall of Adam. The NT tells the beginnings of a new humanity and the story of *regained sonship* through Jesus Christ, God's Son, Who by Incarnation became the 2nd Adam.

–Christ's *genealogy* qualifies His Messiahship: He's identified as "son of David" before being called a "son of Abraham," because people were awaiting not just another prophet but a Prophet-King.

–The Incarnation is two-sided: *human* and *divine*– **Rom1:3-4a** (GWT), This Good News is about his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. In his human nature he was a descendant of David. In his spiritual, holy nature he was declared the Son of God.

–Mary, a *human* descendent of David, *rejoiced* to be chosen as mother of the Messiah, but she also humbly confessed her own need of divine salvation– **Luke 1:46-48**, And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed."

–(**HOM.idea**) Matthew's genealogy lists 4 other women in the Davidic line, great-grandmothers of Jesus, whose stories highlight the human problems Christ's 1st Advent would address. *The first one is...*

I. Tamar, the Seductive Schemer– [**Gen 38:6-27** tells the story of Tamar, the wife Judah got for his oldest son Er. When Er died, he had his 2nd son Onan marry her, but when he refused to consummate the marriage, God took his life. Judah feared his youngest son would die, too, if he gave her to him, so he told her, "*Live as a widow in your father's house until my son Shelah grows up.*" But Judah failed to keep his word. Then his own wife died, and when Tamar saw she was being purposefully forgotten, she disguised herself as a harlot beside a road she knew Judah was taking. Thinking she was a prostitute, he said to her, "*Come now, let me sleep with you.*" "*And what will you give me to sleep with you?*" she asked. "*I'll send you a young goat from my flock,*" he said. "*Will you give me something as a pledge until you send it?*" she asked. He said, "*What pledge should I give you?*" "*Your seal and its cord, and the staff in your hand,*" she answered. He gave them and slept with her. But when he sent his payment to get back his pledges, she was gone. Three months later they told Judah, "*Your*

daughter-in-law Tamar is guilty of prostitution, and as a result she is now pregnant." Judah said, "Bring her out and have her burned to death!" But she sent his pledges to him with this message: "I am pregnant by the man who owns these...See if you recognize whose seal and cord and staff these are." When he saw they were his, Judah said, "She is more righteous than I, since I wouldn't give her to my son Shelah." [She gave birth to twin boys, giving Judah two more sons.]

- A. What Tamar did was unlawful. But her *wrong* deed was also a *strong* deed: she was displaying immoral courage.
- B. God, the Ultimate Law-Giver, chose to incorporate Tamar's sin into the ancestry of Him Who would one day bring death to sin— Rom 8:3-4. For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man, in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit.

TRANS: Tamar got her way by *compromise*. Her sin comes to mind when this genealogy is read. God wants sinners to know: **Christ's human ancestry reveals the heart of human need.** *Next, we look at...*

II. Rahab, the Fearful Harlot— [Jos 2:1-21 tells about the prostitute Rahab.

She protected the two spies sent to explore Jericho in exchange for their promise to spare her household when God delivered the city into their hands. She feared for her family, because she had the right kind of fear for the God of Israel.]

- A. Jesus had compassion on prostitutes, women so poor that they sell their bodies as *sex objects* to satisfy male lust. Mentally, it must be a kind of psychological death, a despairing *self-disintegration*.)
- B. But Rahab's godly fear led to her deliverance— Pro 10:27 (ESV), The fear of the LORD adds length to life, but the years of the wicked are cut short.
- C. She was a woman of disrepute, but God included her in salvation history— Heb 11:31. By faith the prostitute Rahab, because she welcomed the spies, was not killed with those who were disobedient.

TRANS: A bold deceiver, a fearful but faith-filled prostitute, both were in our Lord's lineage, because this was the humanity Christ was going to redeem. **His ancestry reveals the depth of human need.** *Next is...*

III. Ruth, the Foreign Widow— [Ruth 1:1-22 tells about the Moabite widow of Naomi's son, who left Moab with her mother-in-law to return to Israel.]

- A. Both these women were *poor widows without income or support.*

- B. But in Israel, Ruth had another kind of impoverishment: she was a *social outcast*, according to OT Law— Deut.23:3. No Ammonite or Moabite or any of his descendants may enter the assembly of the LORD, even down to the tenth generation.
- C. By including a foreigner in the line of Christ, God provided a preview of the all-inclusiveness in the Messiah's coming reign— Gal 3:28-29. There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

TRANS: Jesus had Moabite blood in Him! The angels proclaimed in Luke 2:10b that the "good news of great joy...will be for all the people" no matter what their *race, language, or skin color.* *Finally, there was...*

IV. Bathsheba, the Acquiescing Adulteress [2 Sam 11 tells of David's lustful sin with the wife of Uriah, one of his officers, whom he had killed when she got pregnant. Some blame Bathsheba's outdoor bath, but that was the norm in ancient times. Her real guilt was in complying to a lustful king's seduction. It doesn't say he raped her, so she must have rationalized her submission to him.]

- A. This great-grandmother of Christ fell into sin under the persuasion of an authority figure. *But Who is the real King? To Whom is our primary obedience due? Whose commands trump all others?*
- B. [NY experiment in the 1950s to analyze the incredible compliance of German soldiers in the Holocaust; a man in a lab coat had hires off the street inflict increasing shocks to someone they could hear but not see. Almost all obeyed the authority's directions, even when the voice cried for them to stop.]
- C. Why did God allow this weak-willed, disloyal, rationalizing woman become part of Christ's family line— Isa 53:6. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.... 1 Pe 2:24-25. He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were like sheep going astray, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

CONCLUSION:

—**The Messiah's human ancestry reveals the heart of human need.** One confirmation that His Incarnation would bring hope for all human needs is in how some of those needs are reflected in the these 4 great-grandmothers of His own human heritage. *No human problem is too great for His grace to overcome.*