

Global Life Campaign

GLC Series A: True Story #13: Jesus' Genealogy

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The Barren, Imperfect & Multi-Ethnic People in the Genealogy of the Perfect Savior Jesus Christ

The GLC Series *True Story* this month is about the barren, imperfect and multi-ethnic genealogy of the perfect Son of God and Son of Man, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. All of the names in bold are in the genealogy of Jesus (Matthew 1:1-16).

Abraham and Sarah: When Abram was 75 and had no children because his wife "Sarai was barren," God called him to leave his country, relatives, and father's house to another land, and promised to give him a son, an heir, from his "own body." They waited 10 years, and Sarai was still barren, so she gave him her maid Hagar to "obtain children through her," and she bore Ishmael to Abram when he was 86. But this was not God's plan, and He did not speak to Abram for 13 years, until he was age 99. Then "the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, 'I am God Almighty; walk before Me, and be blameless.'" In other words, you made a mistake; don't make it again. And then God graciously established His covenant with Abraham, changing his and Sarah's names, promising He would make him "the father of a multitude of nations" through a son He would give to him through Sarah, his wife. That year, Sarah conceived her first child, and the next year, at age 90, bore to Abraham the promised son, **Isaac**, when Abraham was 100 years old (Genesis 11:29-30; 12:1-4; 15:1-6; 16:1-4, 11, 16; 17:1-7, 15-16, 21; 18:9-14; 21:1-7).

Judah, a Canaanite woman, and **Tamar:** Judah was the fourth son of Jacob and his wife Leah. Judah took a Canaanite woman who was not his wife and began having sexual relations with her, and she bore three sons to him: Er, Onan, and Shelah. Then "Judah took a wife for Er . . . and her name was **Tamar**. But Er . . . was evil . . . so the LORD took his life." Then Judah told Onan, "Go in to your brother's wife, and perform your duty as a brother-in-law to her, and raise up offspring for your brother." But Onan "wasted his seed on the ground," and "what he did was displeasing in the sight of the LORD; so He took his life also." Then Judah decided not to give his third son to Tamar, so she disguised herself as a prostitute, and Judah went into her and she conceived and bore twin sons, **Perez** and Zerah (Genesis 29:35; 38:1-30).

Salmon and Rahab: Salmon married Rahab after the Israelites destroyed Jericho. Rahab had been a prostitute in Jericho, but protected two Israelite spys, expressing faith and trust in the LORD, which resulted in her and her family being saved from destruction. They had a son named **Boaz** (Joshua 2:1-24; 6:22-25).

Boaz and Ruth: Boaz was a wealthy man living in Bethlehem. The Moabites had been enemies of Israel for generations. But the family of Elimelech and Naomi (related to Boaz) from Bethlehem had gone to Moab during years of famine, and their two sons married Moabite women, Orpah and Ruth. But the father and both sons died in Moab. So Naomi left to return to Bethlehem, but Ruth refused to leave her, saying, "Do not urge me to leave you or turn back from following you; for where you go, I will go, and where you lodge, I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God, my God. Where

you die, I will die, and there I will be buried.” Ruth, a woman of faith in the Living God and noble character, went with Naomi to Bethlehem, and later married Boaz; they had a son named “**Obed**. He is the father of **Jesse**, the father of **David**” (Ruth 1 – 4).

David and Bathsheba: David was one of the most righteous men in history, King of Israel, and had multiple wives. But he saw and lusted after another man’s wife, Bathsheba, and took her and committed adultery with her, and then arranged the death of her husband, Uriah. Bathsheba became pregnant, and after her husband died, “David . . . brought her to his house and she became his wife. But the thing that David had done was evil in the sight of the LORD.” So the LORD sent Nathan the prophet to speak to David to tell a story that the Holy Spirit used to expose David’s sin, and when “David’s anger burned greatly” in judgment against the man in the story, Nathan said, “You are the man!” David was deeply convicted of his sin, humbled himself and repented. God forgave him and through Nathan pronounced judgment against his household because David had “given occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme,” and the LORD took their first child. However, the next child Bathsheba bore to David was **Solomon**, and “the LORD loved him” (2 Samuel 11:1-27; 2:1-25).

Manasseh: The righteous King **Hezekiah** had a son named **Manasseh**, “who became king in his place” after he died. But King Manasseh was perhaps the most evil king of Judah, an idol worshipper who sacrificed his own son and “shed very much innocent blood [child sacrifice] until he had filled Jerusalem from one end to the other; besides his sin with which he made Judah sin, in doing evil in the sight of the LORD.” Therefore, “the LORD sent” enemies. “Surely at the command of the LORD it came upon Judah, to remove them from His sight because of the sins of Manasseh, according to all that he had done, and also for the innocent blood which he shed, for he filled Jerusalem with innocent blood; and the LORD would not forgive” (2 Kings 20:21; 21:1-16; 24:1-4).

“It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all” (1 Timothy 1:15).

“For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. . . . God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him” (Romans 5:6, 8-9).

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“For as through the one man’s disobedience the many [all of us] were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One [Jesus Christ] the many will be made righteous” (Romans 5:19).