

**Jesus'
Grandmothers
2026**

The four women mentioned in Christ's genealogy in Matthew were each responsible for saving the line of Judah – the southern kingdom. It was the God-ordained line of kings, through Solomon's son. Since the Babylonians took the southern kingdom of Judah into captivity, there have been no reigning kings in Israel. The Jews have been under the control of other nations. The next reigning king will be the Lord Jesus Christ. The genealogy shows His right to be the King of Israel through the line of King David.

Tamar

The first woman listed is Thamar (Tamar.) She was married to the firstborn son of Judah, Er. Remember, the kings of Israel (after Saul) all came from the tribe of Judah and Er, being firstborn, would have been in the line of kings.

1 Chronicles 5:2

For Judah prevailed above his brethren, and of him came the chief ruler; but the birthright was Joseph's:

Er was wicked and God killed him.

Genesis 38:6-7

And Judah took a wife for Er his firstborn, whose name was Tamar. And **Er, Judah's firstborn, was wicked in the sight of the LORD; and the LORD slew him.**

The Law said that if a man died childless, his brother would take his widow and their firstborn would be the heir for his dead brother's name.

Deuteronomy 25:5-6

If brethren dwell together, and one of them die, and have no child, **the wife of the dead shall not marry without unto a stranger: her husband's brother shall go in unto her, and take her to him to wife, and perform the duty of an husband's brother unto her. And it shall be, that the firstborn which she beareth shall succeed in the name of his brother which is dead, that his name be not put out of Israel.**

Judah told his second son Onan to take on this responsibility for his brother Er.

Genesis 38:8-10

And Judah said unto Onan, **Go in unto thy brother's wife, and marry her, and raise up seed to thy brother.** And Onan knew that the seed should not be his; and it came to pass, when he went in unto his brother's wife, that he spilled it on the ground, lest that he should give seed to his brother. And the thing which he did displeased the LORD: wherefore he slew him also.

Onan did not follow God's Law or his father's direction. God killed him as he did his brother Er. Judah was down to one son, and Shelah was a young boy. When you read the following verse, you can see that Judah was also worried that Shelah would suffer the same fate as his brothers.

Genesis 38:11

Then said Judah to Tamar his daughter in law, Remain a widow at thy father's house, till Shelah my son be grown: for he said, **Lest peradventure he die also, as his brethren did.** And Tamar went and dwelt in her father's house.

Judah did not give Tamar to Shelah after he was grown, so Tamar decided to take matters into her own hands. She disguised herself as a harlot and ended up pregnant by her father-in-law, Judah. (The entire story is in Genesis 38.) When Judah discovered Tamar was pregnant by him, he acknowledged that he had given her cause to deceive him. He had not done what was right by her.

Genesis 38:26-27

And **Judah acknowledged them, and said, She hath been more righteous than I; because that I gave her not to Shelah my son.** And he knew her again no more. And it came to pass in the time of her travail, that, behold, twins were in her womb.

The twins were named Pharez and Zarah. Pharez was born first and appears in the genealogy of Jesus.

Tamar's actions allowed Judah to raise up an heir to his firstborn, Er. Her deception caused Judah to unknowingly perform the act of the kinsman redeemer that Onan was supposed to do. Because of Tamar, the bloodline of the kings of

Israel would go through Pharez, a Jew, the firstborn of Tamar and Judah, and not through the son of a Canaanite woman (Judah's wife.)

Noah had cursed Canaan because he was the product of incest between Noah's wife and Noah's son Ham.

Rahab

The next woman to appear in the genealogy of Jesus is Rahab. She was a Canaanite and almost always referred to as Rahab, the harlot! She hid the spies that Joshua sent into Jericho.

Joshua 2:1-3, 6

And Joshua the son of Nun sent out of Shittim two men to spy secretly, saying, Go view the land, even Jericho. And they went, and came into an harlot's house, named Rahab, and lodged there. And it was told the king of Jericho, saying, Behold, there came men in hither to night of the children of Israel to search out the country. **And the king of Jericho sent unto Rahab, saying, Bring forth the men that are come to thee, which are entered into thine house: for they be come to search out all the country.**

⁶But she had brought them up to the roof of the house, and hid them with the stalks of flax, which she had laid in order upon the roof.

Rehab is the first recorded Gentile convert. She had great faith.

Joshua 2:9-11

And she said unto the men, **I know that the LORD hath given you the land**, and that your terror is fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land faint because of you. For **we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red sea for you, when ye came out of Egypt; and what ye did unto the two kings of the Amorites, that were on the other side Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom ye utterly destroyed.** And as soon as we had heard these things, our hearts did melt, neither did there remain any more courage in any man, because of you: **for the LORD your God, he is God in heaven above, and in earth beneath.**

Rahab wanted to help the Israel's spies but she also wanted to make sure she and her family was safe. She had a proposal.

Joshua 2:13

And that **ye will save alive my father, and my mother, and my brethren, and my sisters, and all that they have, and deliver our lives from death.**

The men accepted her proposal.

This was the plan. Rahab would use the same red cord that she used to let them down over the town wall, and put it in her window so she could be identified when the soldiers came to conquer Jericho. She would need to get all of her family into her house and keep them there because they could not be protected if they were in the streets when Joshua and his men came.

Joshua 2:18-19

Behold, when we come into the land, **thou shalt bind this line of scarlet thread in the window which thou didst let us down by: and thou shalt bring thy father, and thy mother, and thy brethren, and all thy father's household, home unto thee.** And it shall be, that whosoever shall go out of the doors of thy house into the street, his blood shall be upon his head, and we will be

guiltless: and **whosoever shall be with thee in the house, his blood shall be on our head, if any hand be upon him.**

Rahab's faith and her brave actions helped Israel conquer Jericho, and Israel saved her family.

Joshua 6:21-25

And **they utterly destroyed all that was in the city**, both man and woman, young and old, and ox, and sheep, and ass, with the edge of the sword. **But Joshua had said unto the two men that had spied out the country, Go into the harlot's house, and bring out thence the woman, and all that she hath, as ye sware unto her.** And the young men that were spies went in, and brought out Rahab, and her father, and her mother, and her brethren, and all that she had; and they brought out all her kindred, and left them without the camp of Israel. And they burnt the city with fire, and all that was therein: only the silver, and the gold, and the vessels of brass and of iron, they put into the treasury of the house of the LORD. **And Joshua saved Rahab the harlot alive, and her father's household, and all that she had;** and she dwelleth in Israel even

unto this day; because she hid the messengers, which Joshua sent to spy out Jericho.

Rahab's story is a lot like Noah's. As Noah and his family were protected in the arc during the flood, Rehab and her family were protected in her house during the battle. The Canaanites lived under God's curse (page 64.) God would have destroyed all of them to give the land to Israel. Because of Rahab's faith, only Rahab and her family (who were all Canaanites) were saved from the destruction in the city of Jericho. God rewarded Rehab by putting her in the lineage of the Redeemer, the Lord Jesus Christ. Her son, Boaz, was the great-grandfather of King David.

Ruth

Ruth was married to a Jewish man named Mahlon after his parents, Elimelech and Naomi, (during a famine in Israel,) took him and his brother Chilion into the land of Moab to find a better life.

Ruth 1:3-5

And Elimelech Naomi's husband died; and she was left, and her two sons. And they took them wives of the women of Moab; the name of the one was Orpah, and the name of the other Ruth: and they dwelled there about ten years. And Mahlon and Chilion died also both of them; and the woman was left of her two sons and her husband.

Naomi had lost her husband and her two sons in Moab and decided to go back to her people in Israel. Ruth, her daughter-in-law, in a well-known statement of faith, told Naomi she would go with her.

Ruth 1:16-17

And Ruth said, Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God: Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: the LORD do so to me, and more also, if ought but death part thee and me.

Ruth's Jewish mother-in-law, Naomi (through her husband Elimelech) had a relative of great wealth. This man, Boaz, was the son of the woman we have just studied, Rahab!

Ruth 2:1

And Naomi had a kinsman of her husband's, a mighty man of wealth, of the family of Elimelech; and his name was Boaz.

The Law required that people harvesting their fields leave some grain for the poor to come and pick up. When they got back to Israel, Ruth went out to the fields, along with the rest of the poor, to collect grain for Naomi and her to eat. God directed her to the fields of Boaz who showed her great favor.

Ruth 2:19

And her mother in law said unto her, Where hast thou gleaned to day? and where wroughtest thou? **blessed be he that did take knowledge of thee. And she shewed her mother in law with whom she had wrought, and said, The man's name with whom I wrought to day is Boaz.**

Naomi knew right away that God was responsible for this fantastic turn of events!

Ruth 2:20

And Naomi said unto her daughter in law, **Blessed be he of the LORD, who hath not left off his kindness to the living and to the dead.** And Naomi said unto her, The man is near of kin unto us, one of our next kinsmen.

So Boaz married Ruth and had a son to carry on Mahlon's name. Because Boaz was in the line of David (Boaz's mother was Rahab) Ruth's and his son was also in the line of David. As you see in the following passage, Boaz's and Ruth's son was Obed, whose son was Jesse, whose son was King David, whose son (many generations down the line,) the Lord Jesus Christ will sit on the throne of Israel in an everlasting Kingdom.

Ruth 4:13, 17

So Boaz took Ruth, and she was his wife: and when he went in unto her, the LORD gave her conception, and she bare a son.

¹⁷And the women her neighbours gave it a name, saying, **There is a son born to Naomi; and they**

called his name Obed: he is the father of Jesse, the father of David.

Bathsheba

The last woman mentioned in the genealogy of Jesus is Bathsheba. She was first the wife of Uriah the Hittite, and then of King David. She is not mentioned in the genealogy by name but by her first husband's name.

Matthew 1:6

And Jesse begat David the king; and David the king begat Solomon **of her that had been the wife of Urias;**

You know the story. King David had an affair with Bathsheba when her husband, Uriah, was away at war.

2 Samuel 11:3-4

And David sent and enquired after the woman. And one said, Is not this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite? **And David sent messengers, and took her; and she came in unto him, and he lay with her; for she was**

purified from her uncleanness: and she returned unto her house.

When Bathsheba told David she was pregnant, David brought Uriah home on leave so that everyone would think that the baby was Uriah's. Uriah came home but did not go to his house.

2 Samuel 11:9-10

But Uriah slept at the door of the king's house with all the servants of his lord, and went not down to his house. And when they had told David, saying, Uriah went not down unto his house, David said unto Uriah, Camest thou not from thy journey? why then didst thou not go down unto thine house?

David REALLY wanted Uriah to go home to Bathsheba so that everyone would think the baby was his!

2 Samuel 11:12-13

And David said to Uriah, Tarry here to day also, and to morrow I will let thee depart. So Uriah abode in Jerusalem that day, and the morrow. **And when David had called him, he did eat and**

drink before him; and he made him drunk: and at even he went out to lie on his bed with the servants of his lord, but went not down to his house.

But Uriah would not go to Bathsheba, so the King gave orders to have him killed at the front. Uriah actually carried the orders with him when he went back to his commander Joab!

2 Samuel 11:14-15

And it came to pass in the morning, that David wrote a letter to Joab, and sent it by the hand of Uriah. And he wrote in the letter, saying, Set ye Uriah in the forefront of the hottest battle, and retire ye from him, that he may be smitten, and die.

Uriah's death was just the beginning of David's and Bathsheba's trouble. God was displeased. The baby lived only 7 days.

2 Samuel 12:18

And it came to pass on the seventh day, that the child died. And the servants of David feared to tell him that the child was dead: for they said,

Behold, while the child was yet alive, we spake unto him, and he would not hearken unto our voice: how will he then vex himself, if we tell him that the child is dead?

While they were grieving, David and Bathsheba conceived again. This baby would be one of the best known kings in history, Solomon.

2 Samuel 12:24

And **David comforted Bathsheba his wife, and went in unto her, and lay with her: and she bare a son, and he called his name Solomon:** and the LORD loved him.

Solomon was made king after David died. But Solomon is not in the direct lineage of the Lord Jesus Christ. His heart was not perfect with the Lord his God. His father David had warned him.

1 Kings 2:1-4

Now the days of David drew nigh that he should die; and he charged Solomon his son, saying, I go the way of all the earth: be thou strong therefore, and shew thyself a man; **And keep the charge of the LORD thy God, to walk in his ways,**

to keep his statutes, and his commandments, and his judgments, and his testimonies, as it is written in the law of Moses, that thou mayest prosper in all that thou doest, and whithersoever thou turnest thyself: That the LORD may continue his word which he spake concerning me, saying, If thy children take heed to their way, to walk before me in truth with all their heart and with all their soul, there shall not fail thee (said he) a man on the throne of Israel.

Solomon did not heed his father's warning.

1 Kings 11:4, 6, 9-10

For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God, as was the heart of David his father.

⁶And Solomon did evil in the sight of the LORD, and went not fully after the LORD, as did David his father.

⁹And **the LORD was angry with Solomon, because his heart was turned from the LORD God of Israel, which had appeared unto him twice, And had commanded him concerning this**

thing, that he should not go after other gods: but he kept not that which the LORD commanded.

So God took the kingdom of Israel from Solomon by taking it from Solomon's son, Rehoboam. God gave 10 of the 12 tribes to Jeroboam, Solomon's servant.

Solomon's disobedience meant that the Redeemer would still come from David's, but not through Solomon, line. God had promised David a son to sit on his throne forever, and David had 4 sons with Bathsheba.

1 Chronicles 3:5

And these were born unto him in Jerusalem; **Shimea, and Shobab, and Nathan, and Solomon, four, of Bathshua** the daughter of Ammiel:

It was David's son, Nathan, who was the ancestor of Mary, the mother of the Lord Jesus Christ, the future King of Israel.

Luke's genealogy for Jesus Christ starts with Jesus Christ and goes backward. You can see that Nathan was the son of David. There is no

mention of Nathan's mother Bathsheba, like in Matthew, but he is the son of David.

Luke 3:23, 31-32

And **Jesus himself began to be about thirty years of age, being (as was supposed) the son of Joseph**, which was the son of Heli,

³¹Which was the son of Melea, which was the son of Menan, which was the son of Mattatha, **which was the son of Nathan, which was the son of David**, Which was the son of Jesse, which was the son of Obed, which was the son of Booz, which was the son of Salmon, which was the son of Naasson,