

Legacy

Opener: What advice would you pass on to those who come after you?

Scripture: “When you die and join your ancestors, I will make one of your sons the next king, and I will set up his kingdom. ¹³ He will build a house for me, and I will let his kingdom rule always. ¹⁴ I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he sins, I will use other people to punish him. They will be my whips. ¹⁵ I took away my love from Saul, whom I removed before you, but I will never stop loving your son. ¹⁶ But your family and your kingdom will continue always before me. Your throne will last forever.” 2 Samuel 7:12-16

This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah 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, ⁷ Solomon the father of Rehoboam, Rehoboam the father of Abijah, Abijah the father of Asa . . . ¹⁷ Thus there were fourteen generations in all from Abraham to David, fourteen from David to the exile to Babylon, and fourteen from the exile to the Messiah ²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³ “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”). Matthew 1:1-7, 17, 23

Discussion Questions

1. As we conclude our study on David let’s consider his legacy. A “legacy” is something that’s passed on and it can take many forms. How would you describe David’s legacy? 2 Samuel 7:12-16
2. Why does Matthew begin his gospel by pointing out that Jesus the Messiah is the son of David and the son of Abraham? Could Jesus have been the Messiah if He hadn’t been descended from David and Abraham? Why or why not? Matthew 1:1-17
3. Tamar (who pretended to be a harlot to seduce Judah), Rahab (a prostitute), Ruth (a Gentile), Bathsheba (an adulteress), along with a wide variety of others are included in this genealogy. What’s most interesting to you about their legacies? Matthew 1:3-6
4. Have you ever researched your family tree? What does knowing your family history tell you about who you are? What did your family pass on to you (genetics, behaviors, culture, etc.)?
5. Who has most influenced your faith? What did they pass on to you?
6. We will all leave a legacy. What are the most important lessons you’ve learned in life? How do personal and professional legacies intersect?
7. How do you want to be remembered? How might the legacy we want to leave be different from the one God intends for us?

Wrap Up: David is the only one identified in Scripture as “a man after God’s own heart.” That’s his greatest legacy, but he was also a poet, musician, courageous warrior, and loyal friend. Of course, he (like us) was anything but perfect. Due to the Bathsheba disaster, consequences kicked in, affecting his family and nation. Nevertheless, God worked through his trusting, humble character which always brought him back to God. He started out as an average shepherd boy. Yet, when he died, he was the greatest king of Israel. All future kings would be judged according to David’s standard and eventually David’s descendants became the parents of Jesus Christ, the Messiah. Now that’s a legacy.