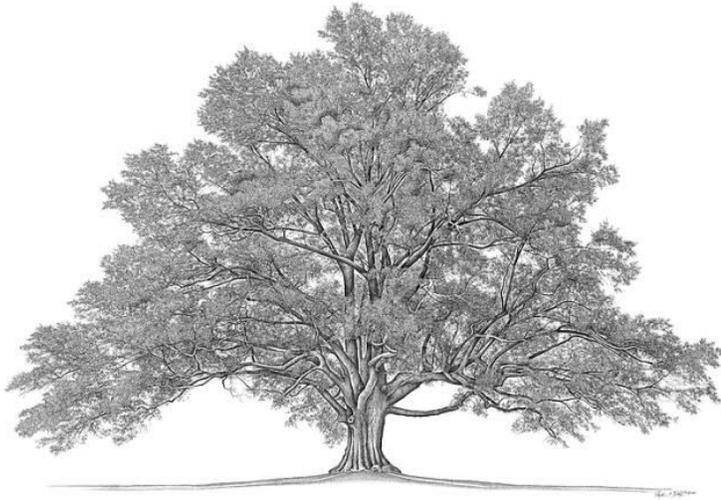


THE FAMILY TREE

A Closer Look at the Ancestors of Jesus

A Study at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran, Knoxville, Tennessee, 2010 A.D



Every family has a skeleton or two in its closet. When you dig back into the dust of time you can often find hints of the secrets and scandals buried there.

Jesus' family tree had more than its fair share of skeletons, but one thing is different. They aren't hidden. They are right out in the open for the world to see.

Why? Because God wants us to see ourselves, our families and our lives in this family tree. He wants us to learn and grow. He wants us to see that all people can find peace in his family.

BIBLICAL GENEALOGY

THE "BORING" PARTS.

If this is your first time in "The Family Tree" Bible Class, open up a Bible to Matthew Chapter 1 (page 1496 in the black Bibles). Read verses 1 through 16.

So, did you read it, or did you just skim it? If you skimmed it, you're not alone. The repetitive structure, the names we don't recognize and can't even pronounce—that doesn't sound like a page-turner!

But there is more here than just a boring name list. In Genesis 12:3 the LORD said to Abraham: "...all peoples on earth will be blessed through you." In 2 Samuel 7:16 the LORD promised King David: "Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever." In Matthew 1:1-16 we see that these promises were kept. God kept his promises by sending "Jesus, who is called Christ."

And the names are more than just names. They are people, with stories, struggles, sins and triumphs. People from whom we can learn.

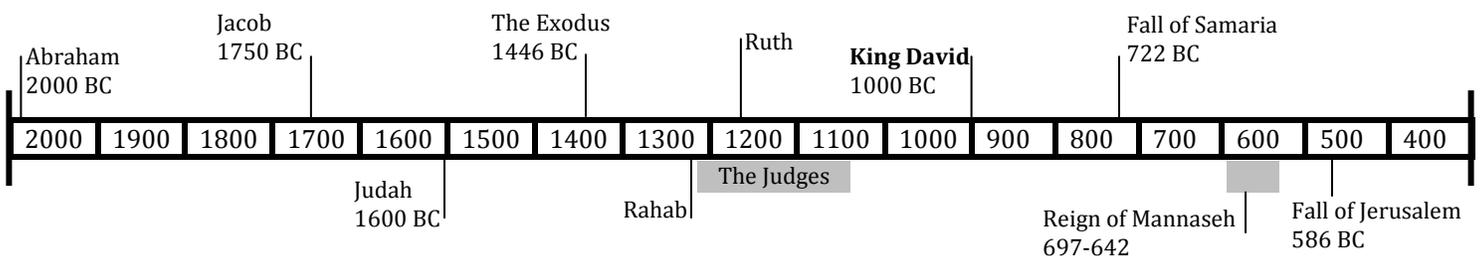
DAVID

CAST OF CHARACTERS POWERPOINT

- David
- Uriah the Hittite
- Bathsheba, daughter of Eliam

IF ONLY I HADN'T...

Every honest person has regrets. We are sinful people who have moments of weakness and make mistakes, and that leads to regrets. Some of those regrets pass quickly—they are "small" things. But then there are the others; the regrets that weigh on our souls and lives; the ones that make us cry out, "If only I hadn't!" These are regrets that come from life changing sins. How do we deal with them? How do we avoid them?



2 SAMUEL 11:1-27

1. What does verse 1 reveal about King David's spiritual life at this time?
2. Look at verse 3. Why does the messenger respond with a question?
3. Why the parenthetical phrase in verse 4?
4. Why is a gift sent after Uriah in verse 8?
5. List at least three ironies in verse 11.
6. Read verses 14 and 15. What did David know about Uriah?
7. Review verses 18-21. The army had to do something stupid to get Uriah killed. How does that make you feel?
8. A literal translation of verse 26: "And the woman of Uriah heard that Uriah her man was dead and she mourned over her husband." What does this verse emphasize?
9. The word "brought" in verse 27 has the idea of "gather under the care of". How did David spin this action? What was God's reaction?

2 SAMUEL 12:1-14

10. How did the rich man get more sheep and cattle? How did the poor man get his one little ewe-lamb?
11. How does the prophet Nathan deal with life changing sin?
12. List three possible rationalizations that Nathan could have made.
13. Look again at verse 13. What is the proper response to confession?
14. What are the consequences of David's sin? Notice their position relative to verse 13. What insight does this give you?
15. Josie's teenage son has committed a life-changing kind of sin, and she knows it. She confides this in you and says, "I just don't know what to do! I'm so afraid for him!"
16. Agree or Disagree: One day David's life was great, the next day it was a mess.

17. Jocelyn says, "I wish I hadn't done that. I'll never be the same! I'll never be as good as I used to be!" How would you comfort her?

NOTES:

CONCLUSION:

This story is a real life example of the truth of 1 Timothy 1:15-16

"Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe on him and receive eternal life."

No matter what the sin, our God forgives us because of Jesus Christ. No matter what the sin, our God can use us for his kingdom. No matter what the consequences of our sins may be, our God uses them to our good and his glory. This is our comfort in life-changing sin: we have a life-changing Savior.

And yet, there is also a warning for us: guard against life-changing sin! Guard against it with the weapons God provides in his word! Stop sinning before it is too late! Turn away from sin, because we have a just God and a loving God!