

## The Genealogy of the Messiah

Ruth 4:16-22

Ruth 4:18-22 ends with a genealogy of King David, the most respected king of Israel (1051-1011 BC).

<sup>18</sup> Now these are the generations of Perez: **Perez** fathered Hezron, <sup>19</sup> Hezron fathered Ram, Ram fathered Amminadab, <sup>20</sup> Amminadab fathered Nahshon, Nahshon fathered **Salmon**, <sup>21</sup> Salmon fathered **Boaz**, Boaz fathered **Obed**, <sup>22</sup> Obed fathered Jesse, and he fathered **David**.

This genealogy parallels the genealogy of Jesus in Matthew 1 except Matthew adds **four women**:

<sup>2</sup> Abraham was the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers. <sup>3</sup> Judah was the father of **Perez** and Zerah **by Tamar**, Perez was the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram. <sup>4</sup> Ram was the father of Amminadab, Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of **Salmon**. <sup>5</sup> Salmon was the father of **Boaz by Rahab**, Boaz was the father of **Obed by Ruth**, and Obed the father of Jesse. <sup>6</sup> And Jesse was the father of **David** the king. David was the father of Solomon **by Bathsheba** who had been the wife of Uriah (Matthew 1:1-6).

### I. **Tamar**, the great-grandmother (5x) of Boaz.

Her story is in **Genesis 38**. She is a Canaanite. Er, the son of Judah, married Tamar. Er died due to his wickedness. Onan, Er's brother, took Tamar as his wife, but Onan didn't consummate the marriage. An heir to Er would diminish Onan's inheritance. Onan also died, and Judah told Tamar he'd give her his young son Shelah, but then reneged. Tamar dressed up like a cult prostitute and deceived her father-in-law to lie with her. Tamar bore Judah twins, Perez and Zerah. Perez is in Jesus' genealogy.

### II. **Rahab**, the mother of Boaz.

The Targum ("the ancient Jewish spoken commentary") on Ruth 4:20 states that the Canaanite Rahab became the wife of Salmon of Bethlehem, the son of Nahshon, a famous prince in Judah considered the captain of the tribe (see Num. 1:77:12; and 10:14). Rahab's story is found in **Joshua 2**. She lived as a prostitute in Jericho. Rahab helped the two Hebrew spies sent by Joshua to "spy out the city."

### III. **Ruth**, the wife of Boaz.

We know her story. She is the descendant of Moab. A "foreigner," yet God redeems her by His grace. So far we have two Canaanites and one Moabite, one woman who played the harlot (Tamar), one woman who was a harlot (Rahab), and another woman that others deemed a harlot (Ruth).

### IV. **Bathsheba**, the mistress of King David, Boaz' great-grandson.

She was the wife of David's loyal soldier, Uriah the Hittite. David committed adultery with Bathsheba and plotted to have Uriah killed on the battlefield. In grief, Bathsheba lost the child she carried. David soon married Bathsheba and she bore to King David a son that they named Solomon (II Sam. 11-12).

### Application:

Truth #1 - All our lives and backgrounds are messy, and Norman Rockwell is pure fantasy.

Truth #2 - God's love and redemption are real, and He's interested in people with baggage.

Truth #3 - Any church not loving and accepting those who have failed are failing themselves

Truth #4 - The Messiah breaks through all the mess and turns all things for our good (Micah 2:13).