

“ENDLESS GENEALOGIES”

INTRODUCTION

- A. I enjoy looking into my family tree and I have much of it charted on a website.
1. There are 1,043 relatives listed, so far.
 2. Counting from my children, I can reliably trace our ancestry 19 generations to the birth of my great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great-grandfather (16x-great) Robert Taylor in 1480 in Clatterwich, England.
 3. My matrilineal great-great-great-great-great-great-grandfather (6x-great) 2nd Lt. John Jacob Kimberlin, Sr., born 1751 in Virginia, served in the Continental Line under George Rogers Clark during the American Revolution.
 4. My patrilineal great-great-great-great-great-great-grandfather (6x-great) Jordan A. Ashley, Jr., born 1761 in South Carolina, served in the American Revolution under General Francis “Swamp Fox” Marion, the inspiration for Mel Gibson’s character in The Patriot.
 5. I can reliably trace my Native American ancestry to my great-great-great-great-great-grandmother (6x-great) Sarah Sanders, born in 1769, who was half Catawba, a tribe from the Carolinas who were allied with the Americans against the British. That makes me all of $1/_{512}$ American Indian.
 6. We can only trace our surname Dockens a total of 9 generations to the birth of Silas Dockens in Alabama in 1790.
 7. All of this fascinates me because it is my personal link to history. Nevertheless, none of it matters on a spiritual level.
- B. **1st Timothy 1:3-11** *“As I urged you when I went into Macedonia — remain in Ephesus that you may charge some that they teach no other doctrine, nor give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which cause disputes rather than godly*

edification which is in faith. Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from sincere faith, from which some, having strayed, have turned aside to idle talk, desiring to be teachers of the law, understanding neither what they say nor the things which they affirm. But we know that the law is good if one uses it lawfully, knowing this: that the law is not made for a righteous person, but for the lawless and insubordinate, for the ungodly and for sinners, for the unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, for fornicators, for sodomites, for kidnappers, for liars, for perjurers, and if there is any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine, according to the glorious gospel of the blessed God which was committed to my trust.”

Unending genealogical study is in the same category as “other doctrine” (3), right next to “fables” (4). It causes “disputes” contrary to edification (4), and it amounts to “idle talk” (6).

- C. **Titus 3:9-11** *“Avoid foolish disputes, genealogies, contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and useless. Reject a divisive man after the first and second admonition, knowing that such a person is warped and sinning, being self-condemned.”*

Ancestral research is “unprofitable and useless” (9), “divisive” (10), and evidences a “warped” mind (11).

- D. In these passages, Paul was not slamming family tree hobbyists. Rather, he referred to those who found religious necessity in researching ancestry. This might seem strange since genealogy is thoroughly recorded in multiple Scriptures. Let’s examine the benefits of these seemingly dull records and notice their fulfilled purposes.

I. GAUGING EARTH’S AGE

A. **Genesis 5:1-32**

From “the book of the genealogy of Adam” (1), we learn:

130 years from Creation until the birth of Seth (3)

+105 years until the birth of Enosh (6)

+90 years until the birth of Cainan (9)

+70 years until the birth of Mahalalel (12)

+65 years until the birth of Jared (15)

+162 years until the birth of Enoch (18)

+65 years until the birth of Methuselah (21)

+187 years until the birth of Lamech (25)

+182 years until the birth of Noah (28-29)

=1,056 years from Creation to the birth of Noah

- B.** **Genesis 7:6** *"Noah was six hundred years old when the floodwaters were on the earth."*

$$1,056 + 600 = 1,656$$

Thus, the deluge occurred in the year 1656 as reckoned from the Beginning of the world, or Anno Mundi.

- C.** **Genesis 11:10-26**

From *"the genealogy of Shem"* (10), we learn:

+2 years after the flood Arphaxad was born (10)

+35 years until the birth of Salah (12)

+30 years until the birth of Eber (14)

+34 years until the birth of Peleg (16)

+30 years until the birth of Reu (18)

+32 years until the birth of Serug (20)

+30 years until the birth of Nahor (22)

+29 years until the birth of Terah (24)

+205 years until Terah died (32)

=427 years from the Flood until the death of Terah

$$1,656 + 427 = 2,083 \text{ years from Creation until the death of Terah}$$

- D.** **Acts 7:2-4** *"The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he dwelt in Haran, and said to him, 'Get out of your country and from your relatives, and come to a land that I will show you.' Then he came out of the land of the Chaldeans and dwelt in Haran. And from there, when his father was dead, He moved him to this land in which you now dwell."*

Abraham departed Haran for the land of Canaan in the year 2083 anno mundi.

- E.** **Galatians 3:17** *"To Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, 'And to seeds,' as of many, but as of one, 'And to your Seed,' who is Christ. And this I say, that the law, which was four hundred and thirty years later, cannot annul the covenant that was confirmed before by God in Christ, that it should make the promise of no effect."*

God's promises to Abraham were concurrent with Abraham's relocation to Canaan (**Genesis 12:1-4**), which was, as previously established, year 2083.

The Law of Moses was established 430 years after that.

$$2,083 + 430 = 2,513$$

The Law of Moses came into force in the year 2513 anno mundi.

- F.** **1st Kings 6:1** *"It came to pass in the four hundred and eightieth year after the children of Israel had come out of the land of Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon's reign over Israel, in the month of Ziv, which is the second month, that he began to build the house of Jehovah."*

Moses received the Law for Israel just months after the exodus from Egypt (**Exodus 19:1**), which was, as noted above, in the year 2513 as reckoned from Creation. Solomon began construction of the temple in Jerusalem 480 years later.

$$2,513 + 480 = 2,993$$

Construction of the Temple began in the year 2993 anno mundi.

G. 1st Kings 11:42; 14:21; 15:1-2, 9-10; 22:42; 2nd Kings 8:17, 26; 11:3-4; 12:1; 14:2; 15:1-2, 32-33; 16:1-2; 18:1-2; 21:1, 19; 22:1; 23:31, 36; 2nd Chronicles 36:5-8

We already understand Solomon was in his reign's 4th year when he began building the Temple and here we learn his reign lasted 40 years total (11:42).

$$40-4=36$$

+17 years Rehoboam reigned (14:21)

+3 years Abijam reigned (15:1-2)

+41 years Asa reigned (15:9-10)

+25 years Jehoshaphat reigned (22:42)

+8 years Jehoram reigned (2nd Kings 8:17)

+1 year Ahaziah reigned (8:26)

+6 years Athaliah usurped the throne (11:3-4)

+40 years Jehoash (12:1)

+29 years Amaziah reigned (14:2)

+52 years Azariah reigned (15:1-2)

+16 years Jotham reigned (15:32-33)

+16 years Ahaz reigned (16:1-2)

+29 years Hezekiah reigned (18:1-2)

+55 years Manasseh reigned (21:1)

+2 years Amon reigned (21:19)

+31 years Josiah reigned (22:1)

+¼ year, that is 3 months, Jehoahaz reigned (23:31)

+11 years Eliakim, renamed Jehoiakim by Pharaoh, reigned (23:36; 2nd

Chronicles 36:5-8)

=418¼ years from Temple construction until the Captivity began

$$2,993+418\frac{1}{4}=3,411\frac{1}{4}$$

The first deportation of Judah into Babylon commenced in the year 3411 anno mundi.

- H. **Jeremiah 29:10** *"Thus says Jehovah: After seventy years are completed at Babylon, I will visit you and perform My good word toward you, and cause you to return to this place."*

Jeremiah prophesied 70 years of Babylonian captivity.

$$3,411 + 70 = 3,481$$

The Jews' return from exile began in the year 3481 anno mundi.

2nd Chronicles 36:22-23 *"Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of Jehovah by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, Jehovah stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and also put it in writing, saying, Thus says Cyrus king of Persia: All the kingdoms of the earth Jehovah God of heaven has given me. And He has commanded me to build Him a house at Jerusalem which is in Judah. Who is among you of all His people? May Jehovah his God be with him, and let him go up!"*

1. Jeremiah's prophecy of 70 years may have more than one fulfillment:
 - a. Reckoned from the first deportation until the first wave of repatriation.
 - b. Reckoned from the destruction of the first Temple until the dedication of the second Temple.
2. The first return transpired in the first year of the reign of Cyrus.
3. Important history continues in the written Old Testament after this point for well over a century, but historical reference points are pegged to the Kings of Persia whose full reigns are not accounted for in the inspired text, as the Kings of Israel and Judah had been. Therefore, we can stop adding here.
4. Historians, both biblical and secular, universally agree that Cyrus the Great began ruling in 559 BC. Thus, 1 year later would have been 558 BC. $3,481 + 558 = 4,039$

5. If the foregoing is correct and we have accurately accounted for 2,026 years since King Jesus was born, then we can reasonably calculate the age of the earth. $4,039 + 2,026 = 6,065$
- I. From a spiritual perspective, the required information was long ago settled, so that genealogies need not be endless to account for earth's age.

II. RESPECTING ELDERS

- A. **Luke 3:38** *"Enosh, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God."*
- When we trace the genealogy all the way back to the first man, we notice he was the son of God. This is in stark contrast to believers in evolution who see themselves as the descendants of apes and pond scum.
- B. **Leviticus 19:32** *"You shall rise before the gray headed and honor the presence of an old man, and fear your God: I am Jehovah."*
- Because each generation before us is a generation closer to God, we have good reason to respect our elders.
- C. **Proverbs 16:31** *"The silver-haired head is a crown of glory, if it is found in the way of righteousness."*
- Not every older person behaves in a manner worthy of the respect due their age, but, for the most part, age deserves honor.
- D. We know where we came from. No continuing account of ancestry will change the fact that we are the descendants of God. In this respect, genealogy has served its purpose.

III. QUALIFYING FOR PRIESTHOOD

- A. **Exodus 29:9** *"You shall gird them with sashes, Aaron and his sons, and put the hats on them. The priesthood shall be theirs for a perpetual statute. So you shall consecrate Aaron and his sons."*
- Only Aaron and his sons could serve as priests under the Law of Moses.

- B. Ezra 2:62** *"These sought their listing among those who were registered by genealogy, but they were not found; therefore they were excluded from the priesthood as defiled."*

Those who tried to be recognized as priests without documentation to authenticate their claims were denied.

- C. Psalm 110:4** *"Jehovah has sworn and will not relent, 'You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.'"*

God said through David that a new priesthood would arise.

- D. Hebrews 7:1-3** *"This Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him, to whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all, first being translated 'king of righteousness,' and then also king of Salem, meaning 'king of peace,' without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like the Son of God, remains a priest continually."*

It is not that Melchizedek lacked parents or genealogy, only that such details are unmentioned anywhere and were not relevant to his ministry.

- E. Hebrews 7:11-19** *"If perfection were through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need was there that another priest should rise according to the order of Melchizedek, and not be called according to the order of Aaron? For the priesthood being changed, of necessity there is also a change of the law. For He of whom these things are spoken belongs to another tribe, from which no man has officiated at the altar. For it is evident that our Lord arose from Judah, of which tribe Moses spoke nothing concerning priesthood. And it is yet far more evident if, in the likeness of Melchizedek, there arises another priest who has come, not according to the law of a fleshly commandment, but according to the power of an endless life. For He testifies: 'You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek.' For on the one hand there is an annulling of the former commandment because of its weakness and unprofitableness, for the law made*

nothing perfect; on the other hand, there is the bringing in of a better hope, through which we draw near to God."

As a member of the tribe of Judah, Jesus was ineligible for the Levitical/Aaronic priesthood, but with His death at the cross, the Law ended, and now, in heaven, He is a priest from a new order.

- F. Lineage from the sons of Aaron ceased being relevant almost 2,000 years ago when Christ became High Priest forever.

IV. QUALIFYING FOR KINGSHIP

- A. **Genesis 49:10** *"The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh comes; and to Him shall be the obedience of the people."*

When Jacob blessed his sons before dying, he foretold that Judah would be the tribe of kings.

- B. **2nd Samuel 7:16-17** *"Your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever." According to all these words and according to all this vision, so Nathan spoke to David."*

King David of the tribe of Judah received a promise from God that his kingdom would endure forever.

- C. **Matthew 1:6** *"Jesse begot David the king. David the king begot Solomon."*
Matthew 1:17 *"So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations, from David until the captivity in Babylon are fourteen generations, and from the captivity in Babylon until the Christ are fourteen generations."*
Luke 3:31-32 *"Nathan, the son of David, the son of Jesse"*

Both through His matrilineal ancestry and what His neighbors would have presumed was His patrilineage, Jesus was descended from David. His mother Mary was a descendant of David through King Solomon and her husband, Jesus' step-father Joseph was descended from Solomon's brother Nathan.

- D.** **Romans 1:3-4** *“Jesus Christ our Lord... was born of the seed of David according to the flesh, and declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.”*

The fact that Jesus is the rightful heir of the Davidic covenant cannot be denied.

- E.** The primary goal of genealogies in Scripture was to point to Jesus as the fulfillment of promises made about certain people’s descendants. Those promises were fulfilled in Christ.