

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO GENEALOGY

INTRODUCTION

- A. When you are first introduced to our sister Lola, she will tell you her given name is Dolores, but she prefers to go by “Lola” because “Dolores” means “sorrow” or “pain”. It is good to be aware of the meaning of one’s name.
- B. Rachel and I chose our children’s names carefully, considering the meaning of each name, as well as its euphony – that is how it sounds, plus whether the initials would spell something unpleasant – even after the girls get married.
 - 1. Katrina Rachelle is our pure lamb.
 - 2. Hunter Riley is our hunter who is valiant.
 - 3. Orion Michael, Hunter’s twin, is named first for the constellation depicting a hunter and he is named second for the archangel. His first name is a symbol of power in one heaven and his middle name is a powerful figure in the higher heaven.
 - 4. Debra Eden Reneé received her first name from her biological parents, a name which means “bee”. Upon her adoption at age 10, we changed the rest of her names. Eden, as in the garden God planted, means “delight”. Reneé directly translates from French as “rebirth”, which seemed fitting for adoption.
 - 5. Serena Rose is our calm flower.
 - 6. Cainan Archer Emmett gets his first name from Adam’s great-grandson, a name which means “Possessor”. An archer is a bowman, one who shoots arrows; although depictions of Orion vary, we prefer the version in which he is shown holding up his bow, and from that we named Orion’s younger brother. Emmett is the fifth of his name in our family, going back 5 generations; it means “universal”.
- C. Many characters in the Bible were explicitly given their names because of what those names mean.

1. **Genesis 3:20** *"Adam called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living."*
2. **Genesis 4:1** *"Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, and said, 'I have acquired a man from Jehovah.'"*
3. **Exodus 2:10** *"The child grew, and she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. So she called his name Moses, saying, 'Because I drew him out of the water.'"*
4. **Exodus 2:22** *"Moses was content to live with the man, and he gave Zipporah his daughter to Moses. And she bore him a son. He called his name Gershom, for he said, 'I have been a stranger in a foreign land.'"*
5. **1st Samuel 4:21** *"She named the child Ichabod, saying, 'The glory has departed from Israel!' because the ark of God had been captured and because of her father-in-law and her husband."*

D. Many others were **renamed** for their meanings.

1. **Genesis 32:28** *"He said, 'Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed.'"*
2. **John 1:42** *"He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, 'We have found the Messiah' (which is translated, the Christ). And he brought him to Jesus. Now when Jesus looked at him, He said, 'You are Simon the son of Jonah. You shall be called Cephas' (which is translated, A Stone)."*
3. **Acts 4:36** *"Joses... was also named Barnabas by the apostles (which is translated Son of Encouragement)."*

E. Matthew 1:1-17

It should come as no surprise whatsoever that each name in the genealogy of Jesus Christ bears a specific meaning.

I. ADAM: Man (Genesis 5:1-5; 1st Chronicles 1:1; Luke 3:38; 1st Timothy 2:13)

Genesis 2:7 *“God formed **man** of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.”*

Adam literally means “ruddy” or “red”, the color of the soil or dust from which man was created, thus implying “man”. Throughout the Old Testament, the Hebrew word translated as “man” is no different than the name of the first human being.

II. SETH: Appointed (Genesis 4:25-26; 5:3-8; 1st Chronicles 1:1; Luke 3:38)

Genesis 4:25 *“Adam knew his wife again, and she bore a son and named him Seth, ‘For God has **appointed** another seed for me instead of Abel, whom Cain killed.’”*

The meaning of Seth’s name is specified in the record in that he was appointed the replacement of Abel after Cain slew him.

III. ENOSH: Mortality (Genesis 4:26; 5:6-11; 1st Chronicles 1:1; Luke 3:38)

IV. CAINAN: Possessor/Possession (Genesis 5:9-14; 1st Chronicles 1:2; Luke 3:36-37)

V. MAHALEL: Praise of God (Genesis 5:12-17; 1st Chronicles 1:2; Luke 3:37)

VI. JARED: Descending (Genesis 5:15-20; 1st Chronicles 1:2; Luke 3:37)

VII. ENOCH: Dedicated (Genesis 5:18-24; 1st Chronicles 1:3; Luke 3:37; Jude 14)

VIII. METHUSELAH: He Dies and it is Sent (Genesis 5:21-22, 25-27; 1st Chronicles 1:3; Luke 3:37)

This meaning is disputed by the majority who say the meaning is “Man of the Javelin”, but there is a school of thought that demonstrates the Hebrew could be

rendered as “He Dies and it is Sent”. This interpretation would coincide with two very important facts relative to Methuselah:

- 1) His father Enoch, who was likely involved in naming him, was a prophet who foretold of God’s judgment (**Jude 14-15**).
- 2) Methuselah died the year the flood destroyed the earth.

IX. LAMECH: Made Low (**Genesis 5:25-31; 1st Chronicles 1:3; Luke 3:36**)

X. NOAH: Rest (**Genesis 5:29-32; 10:1, 32; 1st Chronicles 1:4; Luke 3:36**)

Genesis 5:29 *“And he called his name Noah, saying, ‘This one will **comfort** us concerning our work and the toil of our hands, because of the ground which Jehovah has cursed.’”*

Noah was prophetically named in that he was expected to bring comfort.

XI. SHEM: Renown (**Genesis 5:32; 6:10; 10:1, 21-22, 31; 11:10-11; 1st Chronicles 1:4, 17, 24; Luke 3:36**)

XII. ARPHAXAD: Chaldea’s Stronghold (**Genesis 10:22-24; 11:10-13; 1st Chronicles 1:17, 24; Luke 3:36**)

XIII. SALAH/SHELAH: To Break (**Genesis 10:24; 11:12-15; 1st Chronicles 1:18, 24; Luke 3:35**)

XIV. EBER: Beyond (**Genesis 10:21, 24-25; 11:14-17; 1st Chronicles 1:18-19, 25; Luke 3:35**)

XV. PELEG: Division (**Genesis 10:25; 11:16-19; 1st Chronicles 1:19, 25; Luke 3:35**)

Genesis 10:25 *“To Eber were born two sons: the name of one was Peleg, for in his days the earth was **divided**; and his brother's name was Joktan.”*

This man received his name because he lived during the division of the human population which transpired from the incident at Babel.

XVI. REU: Friend (Genesis 11:18-21; 1st Chronicles 1:25; Luke 3:35)

XVII. SERUG: Branch (Genesis 11:20-23; 1st Chronicles 1:26; Luke 3:35)

XVIII. NAHOR: Breathing Hard (Genesis 11:22-29; 22:20-23; 1st Chronicles 1:26; Luke 3:34)

XIX. TERAH: Wanderer (Genesis 11:24-32; 1st Chronicles 1:26; Luke 3:34)

XX. ABRAM/ABRAHAM: Father of a Multitude (Genesis 11:26-31; 25:19; 1st Chronicles 1:27; Matthew 1:2)

Genesis 17:5 *"No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you a **father of many nations**."*

Abram was renamed Abraham by God. He was already called "Exalted Father", but gained a greater name, signifying that many nations would proceed from his body.

XXI. ISAAC: Laughing (Genesis 25:19; 1st Chronicles 1:34; Matthew 1:2; Luke 3:34)

Genesis 21:5-6 *"Abraham was one hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. And Sarah said, 'God has made me **laugh**, and all who hear will laugh with me.'"*

Isaac received his name because he was born to a woman well past the age of childbearing, so his arrival brought laughter.

XXII. JACOB: Supplanter (Genesis 25:26; 1st Chronicles 1:34; Matthew 1:2; Luke 3:34)

Genesis 25:26 *“Afterward his brother came out, and **his hand took hold of Esau’s heel**; so his name was called Jacob.”*

Since Jacob was born grasping the heel of his twin, whom he would later deprive of his birthright, he was rightly named a supplanter.

XXIII. JUDAH: Praise (1st Chronicles 2:1; Matthew 1:2; Luke 3:33)

Genesis 29:35 *“She conceived again and bore a son, and said, ‘Now I will **praise Jehovah**.’ Therefore she called his name Judah.”*

Judah was given a name meaning “praise” because his mother was in competition with her sister for the affection of their shared husband, and childbirth brought the attention she craved. Thus, she praised God.

XXIV. PEREZ: Breach (Genesis 38:27-30; Numbers 26:20; 1st Chronicles 2:4; 4:1; Matthew 1:3; Luke 3:33)

Genesis 38:27-30 *“Now it came to pass, at the time for giving birth, that behold, twins were in her womb. And so it was, when she was giving birth, that the one put out his hand; and the midwife took a scarlet thread and bound it on his hand, saying, ‘This one came out first.’ Then it happened, as he drew back his hand, that his brother came out unexpectedly; and she said, ‘How did you break through? This **breach** be upon you!’ Therefore his name was called Perez. Afterward his brother came out who had the scarlet thread on his hand. And his name was called Zerah.”*

Like his grandfather Jacob, Perez received his name as a circumstance of his birth relative to his twin.

XXV. HEZRON: Enclosure (Genesis 38:27-30; Numbers 26:20-21; Ruth 4:18-19; 1st Chronicles 2:5; 4:1; Matthew 1:3; Luke 3:33)

XXVI. RAM: High (Ruth 4:19; 1st Chronicles 2:9; Matthew 1:3; Luke 3:33)

- XXVII. AMMINADAB: Family of the Prince** (Ruth 4:19-20; 1st Chronicles 2:10; Matthew 1:4; Luke 3:33)
- XXVIII. NAHSHON: Serpent** (Ruth 4:20; 1st Chronicles 2:10-11; Matthew 1:4; Luke 3:32)
- XXIX. SALMON/SALMA: Garment** (Ruth 4:20-21; 1st Chronicles 2:11; Matthew 1:4-5; Luke 3:32)
- XXX. BOAZ: Eager** (Ruth 4:21; 1st Chronicles 2:11-12; Matthew 1:5; Luke 3:32)
- XXXI. OBED: Servant** (Ruth 4:17-22; 1st Chronicles 2:12; Matthew 1:5; Luke 3:32)
- XXXII. JESSE: Gift** (Ruth 4:22; 1st Chronicles 2:12; Matthew 1:5-6; Luke 3:32)
- XXXIII. DAVID: Beloved** (Ruth 4:17-22; 1st Chronicles 29:26; Matthew 1:6; Acts 13:22)
- XXXIV. SOLOMON: Peaceful** (2nd Samuel 12:24; Proverbs 1:1; Matthew 1:6
1st Chronicles 22:7-9 *“Behold, a son shall be born to you, who shall be a man of rest; and I will give him rest from all his enemies all around. His name shall be Solomon, for I will give peace and quietness to Israel in his days.”*
Solomon received a name meaning “peaceful” specifically because his father had been a man of bloodshed, thus disqualifying him from building the temple.
David’s son was promised to be the temple builder, so he had to personify peace.
- XXXV. REHOBOAM: Who Enlarges the People** (1st Kings 11:43; Matthew 1:7)
- XXXVI. ABIJAH: My Father is Jehovah** (1st Chronicles 3:10; Matthew 1:7)

- XXXVII. **ASA: Healer** (1st Chronicles 3:10; Matthew 1:7)
- XXXVIII. **JEHOSHAPHAT: Jehovah has Judged** (1st Chronicles 3:10; Matthew 1:8)
- XXXIX. **JORAM/JEHORAM: Jehovah has exalted** (1st Kings 22:50; 2nd Kings 8:16; 1st Chronicles 3:11; 2nd Chronicles 21:1; Matthew 1:8)
- XL. **UZZIAH/AZARIAH: Jehovah is my Strength** (Matthew 1:8)
- XLI. **JOTHAM: Jehovah is Perfect** (1st Chronicles 3:12; Matthew 1:9)
- XLII. **AHAZ: He holds** (2nd Kings 15:38; 1st Chronicles 3:12-13; Matthew 1:9)
- XLIII. **HEZEKIAH: Whom Jehovah has Strengthened** (2nd Kings 16:20; 1st Chronicles 3:13; Matthew 1:9-10)
- XLIV. **MANASSEH: Causing to Forget** (2nd Kings 20:20-21; 1st Chronicles 3:13; Matthew 1:10)
- Genesis 41:51** *“Joseph called the name of the firstborn Manasseh: ‘For God has made me forget all my toil and all my father's house.’”*
- The first time this name was given to a different person, its meaning was plainly stated.
- XLV. **AMON: Builder** (2nd Kings 21:18; 1st Chronicles 3:14; Matthew 1:10)
- XLVI. **JOSIAH: Jehovah Supports** (2nd Kings 21:18; 1st Chronicles 3:14; Jeremiah 1:2; Zephaniah 1:1; Matthew 1:10)
- XLVII. **JECONIAH: Jehovah Established** (Matthew 1:11)

XLVIII. SHEALTIEL: I have Asked God (1st Chronicles 3:17; Matthew 1:12)

XLIX. ZERUBBABEL: Children in Babylon (Ezra 3:2; Nehemiah 12:1; Haggai 1:1
Matthew 1:12)

L. ABIUD: Father of Praise (Matthew 1:12)

LI. ELIAKIM: God Raises (2nd Kings 23:34; Jeremiah 1:3; Matthew 1:13)

LII. AZOR: Helper (Matthew 1:13)

LIII. ZADOK: Righteous (Matthew 1:14)

LIV. ACHIM: Establishing (Matthew 1:14)

LV. ELIUD: God is my Praise (Matthew 1:15)

LVI. ELEAZAR: God is Helper (Matthew 1:15)

LVII. MATTHAN: Gift (Matthew 1:15)

LVIII. JACOB (Matthew 1:15)

The original Jacob was renamed “*Israel*” by God, and both his names came to represent the nation he fathered (Genesis 32:28; Deuteronomy 33:10). Since that man already appears in this list, it is reasonable at this repetition to allow the name to represent the people Jacob.

LIX. JOSEPH: Increase (Matthew 1:16)

Genesis 30:24 *"So she called his name Joseph, and said, 'Jehovah shall **add** to me another son.'"*

The first time this name was given to a different person, its meaning was plainly stated.

LX. JESUS: Savior (Matthew 1:16; Luke 3:23; John 1:45)

Matthew 1:21 *"She will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will **save** His people from their sins."*

CONCLUSION

A. Putting it all together, we get:

Man is **appointed** to **mortality**, yet he is the **possession** of the **Praise of God**, who **descends** as the **Dedicated One**. **He dies and it is sent** to those **made low: rest**.

With **renown**, the **stronghold of the Chaldeans** is **broken**. **Beyond** lies **division**, but the **Friend** offers a **Branch**.

Breathing hard, a **wanderer** becomes the **Father of a Multitude**. **Laughing**, a **Supplanter** gives **praise**. By a **breach** in the **enclosure**, others are **exalted** into the **family of the Prince**. He defeats the **serpent** and wears the **garment**, the **eager Servant**. His **gift** is **beloved** and **peaceful**. **He enlarges the people**.

"**My Father is Jehovah**," says the **Healer**. **Jehovah has judged; Jehovah is exalted; Jehovah is my strength; Jehovah is perfect**. **He holds** the one whom **Jehovah has strengthened** and **made to forget**. The **Builder Jehovah** supports, and **Jehovah establishes Him**.

I have asked God concerning the **children in Babylon**. The **Father of Praise**, **God** raises the **Helper—righteous** and **establishing**. **God is my praise; God is Helper**. His **Gift** to **Jacob** is **increase**. **Jehovah will save!**

- B.** Although this may sound slightly halting or awkward, it is fairly consistent with songs that appear in Scripture (**Exodus 15:1-18**; **Deuteronomy 31:30-32:43**; **Judges 5:1-31**; **2nd Samuel 1:17-27**; **22:1-51**; **Luke 1:46-55**).
- C.** What appears in the song formed by the meanings of names in Jesus' family tree fit the Lord's character and purpose perfectly.
1. **Hebrews 9:27** *"It is **appointed** to **men** to **die** once."*
Adam, Seth, and Enosh combine to tell us this fact.
 2. **Ephesians 1:13-14** *"You were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased **possession**, to the praise of His glory."*
That we are God's possession is inferred from the name Cainan.
 3. **Ephesians 4:9-10** *"(Now this, 'He ascended' — what does it mean but that He also first **descended** into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.)"*
As Jared's name meant "descending", so Christ is the one who descended.
 4. **John 17:3** *"This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent."*
As the meaning of Methuselah's name conveys being sent, so Christ was sent by God.
 5. **Matthew 11:28** *"Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you **rest**."*
Lamech and Noah inform us the lowly get rest.
 6. **Ephesians 2:14** *"He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has **broken down** the middle wall of separation."*
As Perez was a "breach", so Christ broke down the middle wall of separation.

7. **Hebrews 8:12** *"I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds **I will remember no more.**"*

As Manasseh's name means "Causing to forget", so the salvation afforded in Christ for sinful man allows man's sins to no longer be remembered by God.

8. **1st Corinthians 3:11-13** *"No other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone **builds** on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is."*

As Amon and Jeconiah mean "builder" and "Jehovah established", so in Christ's church, Christians must build upon our Lord the foundation, knowing what we build will be tested by fire.

9. **Revelation 17:5-6** *"On her forehead a name was written: MYSTERY, **BABYLON** THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. And when I saw her, I marveled with great amazement."*

New Testament references to Babylon use the long-gone empire, which had captured the Jews, as an analogy for a place that had become evil and would itself be overthrown – namely, Jerusalem.

10. **Acts 5:31-32** *"The God of our fathers raised up Jesus whom you murdered by hanging on a tree. Him God has exalted to His right hand to be **Prince and Savior**, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins."*

Christ is the Savior!

- D. The prophetic message concerning the Savior took sixty generations to unfold, but perfectly characterizes Christ and His gospel!