

## The Lineage of David

### **God's Word:**

*Ruth 4:13-17*  
*Matthew 1:1-6*

### **Key Verse:**

*"The neighbor women gave him a name, saying, 'A son has been born to Naomi!' So they named him Obed. He is the father of Jesse, the father of David."*

*-Ruth 4:17*



### **Breaking It Down:**

The book of Ruth takes place about 1100 B.C. and is set in the time of the judges of Israel. The book tells of an Israelite man named Elimelech who moved his family to the neighboring land of Moab because of famine. His family consisted of his wife, Naomi, and two sons. Over a period of a decade, they apparently made a permanent home in Moab. The two sons even married Moabite women.



Tragically, Elimelech and the sons died. This left Naomi without a husband or sons to support her. She also had two widowed daughters-in-law. On hearing of the availability of food in Israel, Naomi decides to return to Jerusalem. She had been gone for a decade and didn't know how she would be received. One daughter-in-law, Ruth, went with her.

Naomi knew the male-dominated nature of their culture would present a challenge. She understood that in order to ensure survival, they needed to be connected with one of the men. The likely candidate was Boaz, a wealthy farmer

and relative of Naomi's husband. Eventually, Ruth and Boaz married. God blessed their marriage and gave them a son named Obed.

The book of Ruth ends with a genealogy stretching from Perez to David (that includes Ruth and Obed). Who could have imagined that God would bring together a loyal young Moabite woman and a faithful older Israelite man to become ancestors of the great King David – and of the greater King Jesus? Israel had its conflicts with Moab at various times. But if God can do that, He can also bring about resolutions to our difficult problems and add new blessings to our lives.



### **Living It:**



Have you done any investigating into your genealogy? Interest in discovering facts about one's family background seems to be rising steadily. In doing such research, you might even discover you are descended from royalty. Some may be interested because of medical reasons. Genealogical research could help us understand certain genetic conditions we inherited.

Interest is also greater nowadays because of the enormous number of genealogical resources that are increasingly accessible. Some Internet sites allow such research for a fee. Our denominational historian, Nicholas Kersten, works at The Seventh Day Baptist Center in Janesville and can also help in that research. It can be fascinating work. We might even discover a

branch of our family that we didn't know about.

Some genealogical inquiries are worthless, even counterproductive (see 1 Timothy 1:4; Titus 3:9). But Christ's genealogy is critical to establishing His identity. In recording the life of Jesus, the four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) record many fulfillments of prophecy regarding the promised Messiah. One specific fulfillment is in His human genealogy, which is traced from Abraham and through the line of David.

In today's passage in Matthew, we are given three keys to understanding the genealogy of Jesus. First, Jesus is *Christ*. That means He is the promised

*anointed one* of the Jewish nation. Second, He is the “son of David.” David was the king to whom God repeatedly promised his throne would be eternal (Psalm 89:3, 4). Third, Jesus is the “son of Abraham.” He fulfills the promise that Abraham’s descendant would be a blessing to all the families of the earth (Genesis 12:3).



### **Questions**

1. Why was the birth of Ruth’s son, Obed, historically significant to God’s people?
2. Why did Matthew present the birth record of Jesus?
3. Do you believe that God provides for His people today like He did for Ruth? If so, in what way?
4. In what ways has He provided for you?



### **Do It!**

Best-selling author Rick Bragg came from a poor family. He wrote about the Christmas gift he received every year – boxes of underwear. That was it. The perfect gift for him was to be at home with his mother, brothers and sisters, aunts and uncles, and cousins. That was enough to make Rick happy.

We don’t need a lot of stuff to make this upcoming holiday season a perfect one. Even the so-called perfect gifts wear out, break, turn to rust, get lost, or are stolen. There is only one perfect gift – the gift of eternal life the Father gives us in the birth of His Son, Jesus Christ.

The holiday season gives us an opportunity to identify what’s really important and valuable to us. This week, spend time identifying the people that are valuable to you. Thank God for them, then call them, send them a card, or stop by to visit them.