

Matthew 1:2-3a

<https://thebiblesays.com/commentary/matt/matt-1/matthew-12-3a/>

Matthew shares the genealogy of Jesus from Abraham to King David. And then continues through the line of kings with David's son, Solomon.

The parallel account of this genealogical record is found in Luke 3:34-35.

Matthew begins Jesus' *genealogy* with *Abraham*, the man to whom God repeatedly promised to make a great nation from and to bless all peoples on earth through his offspring (Genesis 12:3, 18:18, 22:18, 26:4, 28:14). From *Abraham* Matthew continues through the other patriarchs: *Isaac*, son of *Abraham* and son of the promise; *Jacob* the second-born of *Isaac* who wrestled with God and was renamed "Israel;" and *Judah* one of Israel's twelve sons.

Matthew then mentions by name the first of five remarkable women in Jesus's lineage, *Tamar*. Her story is told in Genesis 38. *Tamar* was a Canaanite and Judah's daughter-in-law. After Judah's oldest son was killed for being evil in the sight of the LORD, *Tamar* was given to be the wife of Judah's second son Onan, according to Jewish custom.

After God took Onan's life for his selfish wickedness against *Tamar*, *Judah* refused to give her to his third son, as was required by custom, and sent her to live and die as an unwanted widow in her father's house. After waiting years to be given a husband, *Tamar* posed as a harlot, and *Judah* saw her on the side of the road and slept with her. She became pregnant with twins by him, and when *Judah* discovered that he was the father, he declared "She is more righteous than I, in as much as I did not give her to my son, Shelah." (Genesis 38:29)

The first born of *Tamar*'s twin boys was *Perez*.

Biblical Text

² **Abraham was the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers.** ³ **Judah was the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar,**