

Matthew 1:3b-4

<https://thebiblesays.com/commentary/matt/matt-1/matthew-13b-4/>

Matthew cites the generations between Perez, who lived in Canaan prior to moving to Egypt, and Nahshon who was numbered in those coming out of Egypt, naming some but omitting most.

The parallel account of this genealogical record is found in Luke 3:32-33.

Perez was the son of *Judah*, grandson of *Jacob*, who was renamed Israel. *Perez* was born of *Judah* and *Tamar*. *Perez*'s son, *Hezron*, was the tribal ancestor of the Hezronites. (See Numbers 26:21 and 1 Chronicles 2:18-24.) The Hezronites were a Hebrew clan from the tribes of Judah and Reuben.

Occasionally in his genealogy, Matthew skips one or more generations. Such is the case between the generations of *Perez* and *Salmon*. All of the generations between *Perez* and *Amminadab*, *Salmon*'s grandfather, would likely have lived in Egypt while the children of Israel greatly multiplied in number. The story of the birth of *Perez* by *Judah* and *Tamar* appears just after the narrative where Joseph was sold into slavery by his brothers. *Perez*'s birth took place while *Judah*'s family still lived in Canaan, prior to moving to Egypt with his family to escape the famine (Genesis 38, 46).

Nahshan the son of *Amminadab* is numbered in the census taken of Israel when they came out of Egypt (Numbers 1:7; 2:3). Thus there is roughly a four-hundred year gap between *Perez* and *Nahshon* (Exodus 12:40). Within this time period Matthew only names *Perez*, *Hezron*, *Ram*, *Amminadab*, and *Nahshon*. 1 Chronicles 2:9,25-27 names two additional generations: *Jerahmeel*, who was *Ram*'s father; and then *Ram*'s three sons. This brings the total generations from *Perez*, who moved to Egypt, to *Nahshon*, who left Egypt, to no fewer than seven. The family remained in Egypt for 430 years (Exodus 12:40).

If there were seven generations from *Perez* to *Nahshan*, and assuming forty years for each generation, this would account for 280 of the 430 years time frame that the Israelites remained in Egypt. So either additional generations are omitted, or each generation spanned roughly sixty one years, or some combination, in order to cover the entire 430 year period.

Matthew appears to mostly follow the summarized genealogy from 1 Chronicles 2:9-12.

“Now the sons of *Hezron*, who were born to him were *Jerahmeel*, *Ram* and *Chelubai*. *Ram* became the father of *Amminadab*, and *Amminadab* became the father of *Nahshon*, leader of the sons of *Judah*; *Nahshon* became the father of *Salma*, *Salma* became the father of *Boaz*, *Boaz* became the father of *Obed*, and *Obed* became the father of *Jesse*.”

Ram was *Hezron*'s grandson. According to 1 Chronicles 2:25, *Ram* was the firstborn son of *Hezron*'s firstborn son, *Jerahmeel* (whom Matthew does not list.) 1 Chronicles 2:27 tells us that the sons of *Ram* were *Maaz*, *Jamin*, and *Eker*. Matthew does not mention these sons in his

Genealogy of *Jesus*. Neither Matthew, Chronicles, nor anywhere else in the Bible tells us about the generations between *Ram* and his descendant, *Amminidab*. *The son of Amminidab is Nahshon*, who is named in the census in Numbers 1:7.

The Bible does not tell us who *Amminidab*'s direct father was, but *Amminidab* lived during the time of Pharaoh's cruelty and enslavement of Israel. He witnessed God's wonders and participated in Israel's Exodus from Egypt. *Amminidab* was the father-in-law of Aaron, the High Priest. (Exodus 6:23) *Amminidab*'s son, *Nahshon*, (Aaron's brother-in-law) was listed as Judah's tribal leader in Numbers 1:7.

The Old Testament gives two different spellings of Nahshon's son: *Salmon* or "Salma." *Salmon* lived during the period of Israel's Conquest of the Promised Land.

Indeed, the very next verse says that *Salmon* begot *Boaz by Rahab*, who lived in Jericho when Israel first moved into Canaan. Additionally, 1 Chronicles 2:51 and 2:54 says that *Salma* was the father of his son *Bethlehem*. The Judean town, Bethlehem, is named after *Salma*'s son. This town is the birthplace of *Salma*'s descendants; *Boaz*, *King David*, and *Jesus the Messiah* all hail from this town.

Biblical Text

³ **Perez was the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram. ⁴ Ram was the father of Amminadab, Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon.**