

# Matthew 1:5a

<https://thebiblesays.com/commentary/matt/matt-1/matthew-15a/>

*Matthew continues the genealogy of Jesus and includes another Gentile woman.*

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

*Rahab* is the second woman included by Matthew. Her story is told in Joshua 2 and 6:22-25. *Rahab* was a Canaanite prostitute in the city of Jericho when God led Joshua and the Israelites into the Promised Land. All of Jericho trembled behind their high walls after the Israelites crossed the Jordan River into Canaan.

*Rahab* showed tremendous faith and courage when she hid the Israelite spies. While her entire city prepared for war against Israel in fearful defiance of the true God, *Rahab* remarkably chose to trust in His power and goodness. For her faith, God not only spared her and her family, but also included this Canaanite in the ancestry of the Messiah. *Rahab* is also commended for her faith in Hebrews 11. The inclusion of *Tamar* and *Rahab* might be Matthew's way of demonstrating that not only is *Jesus* the Messiah of Israel, but for all peoples (Genesis 12:3). *Jesus*' death and resurrection covers the sins of all peoples (John 3:16). Matthew's *genealogy* includes pagan Canaanites, which might foreshadow that His death and resurrection is to save and bless all nations.

Matthew skips *Salmon's* son, Bethlehem, (1 Chronicles 2:51 and 2:54) and likely others as well. *Salmon* and *Rahab* lived during the time of the Conquest, as told in the book of Joshua. *Boaz* lived in the era when Israel was ruled by Judges, as described in the book of Ruth. *Boaz* is the great grandfather of King David, and he was two generations prior to Saul's reign as Israel's first king. Acts 13:20 tells us the period of the judges was 450 years. During this period, Matthew lists only four generations (*Salmon*, *Boaz*, *Obed*, and *Jesse*). We know Matthew skipped *Salmon's* son, Bethlehem, bringing the total number generations from *Salmon* to *Jesse* to five. Given the time period there were likely other generations unmentioned as well.

## Biblical Text

<sup>5</sup> **Salmon was the father of Boaz by Rahab,**