

## God's Holy line... of desplicables

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### Basics

God specialises in hiding (concealing) things<sup>i</sup>, sometimes this is in plain sight. He will infact often hide things from those who think they are wise and reveal them to those who take his word in faith – like little children<sup>ii</sup>.

Take the example of the family tree of his son - Jesus the saviour of the world, he who knew no sin. How is it that this family line was fully of “terrible” sinners?

It is because God is a God of mercy and doesn't give us what we deserve. <sup>iii</sup> Where we deserve death, he gives life. Where we should be his enemies, he dies for us. Where we should be servants, he calls us friends<sup>iv</sup>.

The family line of Jesus is full of heroes – broken heroes but yet for many of them, God “passed over their sins” and instead declared them “righteous”, “friend”.



### Despicable ancestors.....

This is the genealogy of Jesus as taken from the book of Matthew<sup>v</sup> with supplemental information from the book of Luke<sup>vi</sup> as well as chronicles<sup>vii</sup>.

#### Creation and pre flood

1. Adam [the son of God],
  2. He was the father of Seth,
  3. The father of Enosh,
  4. The father of Cainan,
  5. The father of Mahalel,
  6. The father of Jared,
  7. The father of Enoch,
  8. The father of Methuselah,
  9. The father of Lamech,
- Never died. God took him away. *Gen 5: 24*
- Oldest man.969 years. *Gen 5: 27*
- All humanity killed except righteous Noah, his wife, his 3 sons and their wives. 8 people in total together with 2 pairs of animals [7 in some cases]. *Gen 7: 1-11*

#### Post Flood

10. The father of Noah,
  11. The father of Shem [and his brothers Japheth and Ham],
  12. The father of Arphaxad,
  13. The father of Cainan,
  14. The father of Shelah,
  15. The father of Eber,
  16. The father of Peleg,
  17. The father of Reu,
  18. The father of Serug,
  19. The father of Nahor,
- Laughed at his drunk and naked father (Noah). His brothers were ashamed and instead walked backwards to cover him without looking at his naked body. Ham's lineage was cursed as a result. *Gen 9:18-28*

20. The father of Terah,
21. The Father of Abraham ("Father of Faith").

Lied to Egypt's Pharaoh that his wife Sarah was his sister (*Gen 12: 14-20*); Had a son, Ishmael with his wife's slave Hagar (*Gen 16: 1-4*); His Nephew Lot slept with his two daughters, while drunk (*Gen 19: 30 – 36*) – Moabites and Ammonites resulted from this; Proved faithful to God by being willing to sacrifice his son of promise, Isaac (*Gen 22: 1-18*).

### Abraham to King David

22. Abraham was the father of Isaac,
23. Isaac the father of Jacob,
24. Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers [Jacob was also called "Israel" and had 12 sons].

Stole his brother's birth right and blessings *Gen 25:29-34. Gen 27: 1-40*

25. Judah the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar,

Slept with his daughter in law – Tamar, thinking she was a prostitute. She got pregnant from this "one night stand". She acted this way as Judah's sons had failed/refused to give her children. *Gen 38: 1-30*

26. Perez the father of Hezron,
27. Hezron the father of Ram,
28. Ram the father of Amminadab,
29. Amminadab the father of Nahshon,
30. Nahshon the father of Salmon,

31. Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab,
32. Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth [the Moabite],

Prostitute. Saved Israeli spies. *Josh 2: 1-22*

33. Obed the father of Jesse and
34. Jesse the father of King David.
35. David was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been Uriah's wife,

Ruth was Lot's descendant (see above) yet Moabites & Ammonites not allowed into God's presence for generations.

### King Solomon to Exile in Babylon

36. [King] Solomon the father of Rehoboam,
37. [King] Rehoboam the father of Abijah,
38. [King] Abijah the father of Asa,
39. [King] Asa the father of Jehoshaphat,
40. [King] Jehoshaphat the father of Jehoram,
41. [King] Jehoram the father of Uzziah,
42. [King] Uzziah the father of Jotham,
43. [King] Jotham the father of Ahaz,
44. [King] Ahaz the father of Hezekiah,
45. [King] Hezekiah the father of Manasseh,
46. [King] Manasseh the father of Amon,
47. [King] Amon the father of Josiah,
48. [King] and Josiah the father of Jeconiah and his brothers at the time of the exile to Babylon.

David killed Goliath (1 sam 17: 1-51); He eventually became King but then took a man's wife and had the man (Uriah), a valiant soldier killed to conceal the adultery. *2 Sam 11: 1-26*

Burned his son alive as a human sacrifice. *2 Kings 16:3*

Participated in sacrificial cult of moloch where young children were sacrificed to gods including by passing them through fire (*2 kings 21: 6*)

### After the exile to Babylon

49. Jeconiah was the father of Shealtiel,
50. Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel,
51. Zerubbabel the father of Abihud,
52. Abihud the father of Eliakim,
53. Eliakim the father of Azor,
54. Azor the father of Zadok,

55. Zadok the father of Akim,
56. Akim the father of Elihud,
57. Elihud the father of Eleazar,
58. Eleazar the father of Matthan,
59. Matthan the father of Jacob and
60. Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, and Mary was the mother of Jesus who is called the Messiah.

## .... Are the heroes of faith

Yesterday's desplicables are today's heroes of faith for indeed "When we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."<sup>viii</sup> When Christ came, he came to shed his precious blood for Adam's helpless race.

Jesus, knowing his earthly family line was full of sinners truly understands us, our battles, our temptations and he can indeed sympathise with our own weaknesses <sup>ix</sup>for God Almighty in his divine purpose, even with broken vessels that we are can turn our stories of shame into the "Great Hall of [faith] fame" stories, as he did with the heroes of old. For example:

About Abraham the liar, he redeemed him and declared:

*"I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me."<sup>x</sup>*

Judah, who slept with his daughter in law was given the "royal line" such that Jesus is now referred to as "the Lion of the Tribe of Judah!"<sup>xi</sup> Can you imagine such honour? Such was Judah's transformation that his father Jacob just before his death when blessing him even made a prophecy about Jesus as follows:

*Judah, your brothers will praise you;  
your hand will be on the neck of your enemies;  
your father's sons will bow down to you.  
You are a lion's cub, Judah;  
you return from the prey, my son.  
Like a lion he crouches and lies down,  
like a lioness—who dares to rouse him?  
The scepter will not depart from Judah,  
nor the ruler's staff from between his feet,  
until he to whom it belongs shall come  
and the obedience of the nations shall be his.<sup>xii</sup>*

About David – the murderer and adulterer he promised:

*"When the time comes for you to lie down in death with your ancestors, I will send one of your descendants, one who will come from you. I will establish his kingdom. He will build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be his Father, and he will be my Son. If he sins, I will punish him with a rod and with blows inflicted by people. But I will never stop showing him my love as I did to Saul, whom I took out of your way. Your royal house will remain in my presence forever. Your throne will be established forever."<sup>xiii</sup>*

Noah was hailed as the “heir of righteousness” and by faith the prostitute Rahab, because she welcomed the spies, was not killed with those who were disobedient.

What more can I say?

I do not have time to tell of the good report that many of these heroes of the faith, finally achieved because they put behind the sin which so easily entangles and thinking of the great cloud of witnesses, their forefathers of faith, they run their own races with perseverance, even from afar, looking at Jesus – the author and finisher of faith. <sup>xiv</sup>

If like them, we put off the outer man of sin and put on a new garment created in God’s holiness <sup>xv</sup>— then like them, our past sins will be washed clean and we will enter the city of our God and sit down at the banquet dinner of the lamb with Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and the rest of the heroes of faith <sup>xvi</sup> who our merciful God, the blessed amen has redeemed for himself that we may be with him – having life that has no end, in the New Heaven and New Earth, there where there will be no weeping, no pain, where the former things will have passed away, <sup>xvii</sup> Amen!

## Notes

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<sup>i</sup> See Proverbs 25: 2 NKJV for reference.

<sup>ii</sup> See Matthew 11: 25 (NIV) for reference.

<sup>iii</sup> See Psalms 103: 10 for reference.

<sup>iv</sup> See John 15:15 for reference.

<sup>v</sup> Matthew 1: 1-16

<sup>vi</sup> The account of the genealogy in Luke 3: 23 – 38 has been inverted or shown backwards to reflect the period from Adam to Abraham. From Abraham onwards, the account of Matthew has been used.

<sup>vii</sup> Summarised from [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kings\\_of\\_Israel\\_and\\_Judah](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kings_of_Israel_and_Judah)

<sup>viii</sup> Romans 5: 8

<sup>ix</sup> Adapted from Hebrews 4: 16

<sup>x</sup> Genesis 22: 16- 18 (NIV)

<sup>xi</sup> Taken from Revelations 5: 5

<sup>xii</sup> Genesis 49: 8-10

<sup>xiii</sup> 2 Samuel 7: 12 - 16

<sup>xiv</sup> Adapted from Hebrews 11: 32-39 and 12: 1 - 4

<sup>xv</sup> Adapted from Ephesians 4: 22- 24

<sup>xvi</sup> Adapted from Matthew 8: 11

<sup>xvii</sup> From Revelation 21: 4