

# Genealogy

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It's likely that most of us have researched our family tree or at least have some interest in our lineage. We take great pride in the character, accomplishments and heroics of our ancestors. We boast if our ancestors came to America on the Mayflower, are sons and daughters of the American Revolution or daughters of the Confederacy. Unfortunately, some of us find less than notable and glorious ancestors in our family trees.

Genealogy is an important part of God's plan for mankind as evident by the Bible's genealogy of His people from Adam to Jesus. The genealogy of Adam is given in the first nine chapters of I Chronicles. Jesus' genealogy is given in Matthew chapter 1 and Luke chapter 3. The passage in Matthew was written to show Jesus is the legal heir to God's promise to Abraham and David (Genesis 22, II Samuel 7). Luke's account shows Jesus' bloodline from David according to the flesh (Romans 1). These passages are also important to us because they help us understand God's plan for mankind, that His word can be trusted, and He keeps His promises.

The Jews in Jesus' day put great emphasis on being Abraham's children. They confidently told Jesus "Abraham is our father" (John 8:39). They believed because they were Abraham's descendants they were serving God, but Jesus made it clear to them if one does not do the works of Abraham, just being in the fleshly lineage of Abraham was of no value. Jesus also told them, "you are of your father the devil" (John 8:44a) because they would not hear His words. He who is of God hears God's words (John 8:47a).

Whether we have royalty or rascals in our individual family trees, our ancestors do not affect our relationship to God. It is a blessing to have godly parents but our relationship to God depends solely on our faithfulness, not the faithfulness of our ancestors. We are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. The conclusion is simply stated in Galatians 3:29: If we are Christ's, then we are also Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

For the elders,  
Don Denton