

## DAVID'S ANCESTRY AND ORIGINS

### THE LIFE & TIMES OF KING DAVID | DR. RANDY WHITE

David emerged from humble beginnings in the small town of Bethlehem to eventually become Israel's greatest king. Tracing David's family lineage and early life experiences provides crucial insight into how God strategically and providentially shaped him for his future reign and purpose.

#### DAVID'S LINEAGE IN RUTH | RUTH 4:17

The book of Ruth tells the story of Ruth, a young Moabite widow who left her homeland and embraced the Jewish faith, committing herself to her mother-in-law Naomi. In God's sovereignty, Ruth was incorporated into the messianic lineage when she married a man named Boaz, who was an ancestor of David.

After Naomi's husband and sons died, she returned to Bethlehem with Ruth. As destitute widows, Ruth went to glean leftover grain in the barley harvest. In a divinely ordained happenstance, she ended up gleaning in the fields of Boaz, a kind, godly man who was a relative of Naomi's late husband Elimelech. Boaz showed favor to Ruth by allowing her to glean generously and providing extra grain for her and Naomi. When Naomi realized that Boaz was a close relative that could fulfill the role of kinsman-redeemer for their family, she guided Ruth in seeking marriage with Boaz. Being a man of integrity, Boaz took Ruth as his wife so that she could bear a child to carry on her deceased husband's line. Their marriage not only redeemed Naomi's family inheritance, but also preserved Elimelech's lineage within the messianic family tree. In God's providence, Boaz and Ruth bore a son named Obed, who became the grandfather of David.

#### THE GENEALOGY FROM PEREZ TO DAVID | RUTH 4:18-22

The succinct but crucial genealogy provided in Ruth chapter 4 traces David's ancestry over the span of fourteen generations. It starts with Perez, the son of Judah and Tamar, extending through Boaz and Obed to David's father Jesse. This firmly roots David in the messianic lineage coming down from Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Judah. It powerfully attests to God's promise that kings would come from the line of Abraham and the tribe of Judah. The preservation of this family line shows God's faithfulness across centuries in preparing the way for His promised royal Messiah.

#### DAVID'S BETHLEHEM UPBRINGING

David was the youngest of eight sons born to Jesse, himself a shepherd in Bethlehem. Though the Bible does not name David's mother, later Jewish tradition suggests she was a woman named Nitzevet who instilled godly virtues in her son. Growing up caring for his family's sheep near Bethlehem, David learned valuable skills and character traits that would serve him well as king. Protecting the flock from lions and bears demonstrated his courage and faith from a young age. His resourcefulness and strength were honed through the daily rigors of shepherding. His solitary nights under the stars cultivated poetic gifts as seen in the psalms. Most importantly, his experiences as a humble shepherd boy shaped a deep reliance and trust in God that would sustain him through future trials.

Beyond character building, David's immersion in shepherding foreshadowed his later role as a shepherd leader over Israel. King David would lead, feed, and protect his people with the same devotion he showed towards the sheep under his care as a boy. The leadership and vigilance required in shepherding prepared him well for the throne. By obedience and patience in small things, David was being shaped for greater influence and responsibility over the nation. His humble diligence as a shepherd established a model for servant leadership that would characterize his reign.

#### TYPOLGY FORESHADOWING JESUS

Several key connections between David's early life and Jesus point to David being a type (foreshadow) of the Messiah. Jesus was born in Bethlehem, the city of David, highlighting a shared birthplace between two of Israel's definitive leaders. Both were shepherds - David tending sheep and Jesus shepherding people. God's choice of the overlooked youngest son as king in David's story parallels Jesus as the long-awaited but unexpected Messiah, rejected by His brothers.

Beyond these biblical and historical parallels, David's beginnings foreshadow Christ's identity and purpose in a theological sense as well. The shepherd imagery that defined young David's experiences prefigures Jesus the Good Shepherd who tenderly cares for His flock. The protection and leadership shown by David during his obscure shepherd years point forward to Christ as the sacrificial Lamb of God on behalf of God's people. David's heart for God during his youth foreshadows Jesus' perfect obedience and submission.

Ultimately, David's emergence as an iconic king of Israel foreshadows and prefigures Christ's identity as the ultimate King of Kings and eternal ruler over God's kingdom. The messianic lineage through David culminates in Jesus Christ as the perfect fulfillment of the divine promises - the once lowly shepherd boy from Bethlehem exalted to a throne that shall never end.

#### CONCLUSION

In summary, David's ancestry and quiet upbringing in Bethlehem were strategically orchestrated by God as formative experiences that prepared him to become Israel's exemplary king. Yet God's providential shaping of David has significance far beyond his own life and leadership. David's beginnings as an overlooked shepherd foreshadowed the coming of an even greater Shepherd King in Jesus Christ. The parallels between David and Jesus typologically link the two in profound ways as definitive leaders of God's people. Jesus emerges as the perfect fulfillment of the messianic promises and kingdom purposes that began with the line of David. By exploring David's roots, we uncover the strong hand of God purposefully guiding His redemptive plan across generations. The ways that God molded and prepared the young shepherd boy David to lead Israel give us glimpses into how God can providentially use the humble obedience of a shepherd boy to bring about His glorious plans.