

Matthew 1:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; and from David until the carrying away into Babylon are fourteen generations; and from the carrying away into Babylon unto Christ are fourteen generations.

Analysis

Matthew explicitly draws attention to the genealogy's three-fold structure, emphasizing God's sovereign design in salvation history. Each period represents a distinct phase of covenant administration, all culminating in Christ. This demonstrates that the Old Testament is not random history but purposeful preparation for the gospel.

Historical Context

This summary statement helps Jewish readers see continuity between their entire history and Jesus. The structure moves from promise (Abraham) to kingdom (David) to judgment and exile (Babylon) to fulfillment in Christ.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does seeing salvation history as purposefully structured strengthen faith in God's sovereign plan?
2. In what ways does your life story demonstrate God's purposeful design and providence?

Interlinear Text

Πᾶσαι οὖν αἱ γενεαὶ ἀπὸ ἄβραὰμ ἕως Δαβὶδ
all So G3588 generations from Abraham to David
G3956 G3767 G1074 G575 G11 G2193 G1138

γενεαὶ δεκατέσσαρες καὶ ἀπὸ Δαβὶδ ἕως τῆς
generations are fourteen and from David to G3588
G1074 G1180 G2532 G575 G1138 G2193

μετοικεσίας Βαβυλῶνος γενεαὶ δεκατέσσαρες καὶ ἀπὸ^{τῆς}
the carrying away into Babylon generations are fourteen and from
G3350 G897 G1074 G1180 G2532 G575

τῆς μετοικεσίας Βαβυλῶνος ἕως τοῦ Χριστοῦ γενεαὶ^{τῆς}
the carrying away into Babylon to Christ generations
G3588 G3350 G897 G2193 G3588 G5547 G1074

δεκατέσσαρες
are fourteen
G1180

Additional Cross-References

2 Kings 24:14 (Parallel theme): And he carried away all Jerusalem, and all the princes, and all the mighty men of valour, even ten thousand captives, and all the craftsmen and smiths: none remained, save the poorest sort of the people of the land.

