

Ruth 4:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Amminadab begat Nahshon, and Nahshon begat Salmon,

Analysis

Genealogy progresses: '**And Amminadab begat Nahshon, and Nahshon begat Salmon**'. Nahshon was prince of Judah during the Exodus (Numbers 1:7; 7:12), brother of Aaron's wife Elisheba (Exodus 6:23), making him Moses and Aaron's brother-in-law. This connection shows Ruth's integration into Israel's leadership families. Salmon married Rahab the Canaanite (Matthew 1:5), making Boaz son of another foreign woman of faith. This pattern—foreign women incorporated through faith and marriage into messianic line—demonstrates God's grace transcending ethnicity.

Historical Context

Nahshon's prominence in wilderness generation (he led Judah's first tribal offering at tabernacle dedication—Numbers 7:12-17) established his family's significance. The marriage to Rahab parallels Ruth's story—another foreign woman demonstrating faith, incorporated into Israel, contributing to messianic lineage. The pattern of Gentile women in Jesus' genealogy (Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba) emphasizes that salvation comes by faith, not ethnicity, foreshadowing the gospel's universal scope.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. What does the recurring pattern of foreign women in messianic lineage teach about God's inclusive grace?
2. How does this demonstrate that God's promises reach all who come to Him in faith?

Interlinear Text

And Amminadab	begat	H853	Nahshon	Nahshon	begat	H853	Salmon
H5992	H3205		H5177	H5177	H3205		H8009

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 1:7 (Parallel theme): Of Judah; Nahshon the son of Amminadab.

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