

There Were Fourteen Generations From Abraham to David

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There Were Fourteen Generations from Abraham to David (Mt. 1:17).
There Were But Thirteen Generations from Abraham to David (Mt. 1:2-6).

There Were Fourteen Generations from the Babylonian Captivity to Christ (Mt. 1:17).
There Were But Thirteen Generations from the Babylonian Captivity to Christ (Mt. 1:12-16).

As mentioned in another study (see study: The Father of Salah was Arphaxad), debates over various genealogies, dates, and numbers are not the right focus for anyone who wants to serve and obey Almighty God. However, the fact that God tolerates these disputes confirms His patience (Ex. 34:6; Nu. 14:18; Ps. 86:15; Rom. 2:4; 9:22). In the spirit of God's longsuffering, the scriptures that appear to be contradictory will be examined.

The key to proving there is no contradiction in the scriptures mentioned above, is correctly understanding God's method of counting. God gave instructions on how to start counting when He commanded the observance of the Day of Pentecost,

He (the officiating priest) shall wave the sheaf before the Lord, to be accepted on your behalf (picturing the resurrected Christ being accepted by his heavenly Father on behalf of all repentant sinners); **on the day after the** (weekly) **Sabbath** (during the Days of Unleavened Bread; see study: The Feast of Unleavened Bread) the priest shall wave it (Lev. 23:11; NKJV used throughout unless otherwise noted; Ed. note in parentheses; emphasis added).

And you shall **count for yourselves from the day after the** (weekly) **Sabbath** (during the Days of Unleavened Bread), from the day that you brought the sheaf of the wave offering: seven Sabbaths shall be completed. ¹⁶ **Count fifty days to the day after the seventh Sabbath**; then you shall offer a new grain offering to the Lord (Lev. 23:15-16; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

In this example, God made it clear that He wants the count to the Day of Pentecost to be exclusive of the weekly Sabbath that falls during the Days of Unleavened Bread. If He wanted the Day of Pentecost to fall on another weekly Sabbath, He would have made the count inclusive of the weekly Sabbath during the Days of Unleavened Bread. However, if God had commanded the count to start from, and be inclusive of, the weekly Sabbath, the term Pentecost (count 50) would be incorrect because God uses seven Sabbaths of years (forty-nine years) as a method of counting to the commencement of a Jubilee, or fiftieth year (cf. Lev. 25:8-17), and the Jubilee is considered separate from a Sabbatical year, or forty-ninth year in the case of a Jubilee. Consequently, the Day of Pentecost will always fall on the first day of the week, or

Sunday according to many of this world's calendars and not on a weekly Sabbath. With this principle in mind, Matthew 1:17 can now be examined,

So all the generations from (SGD 575 of origin of a cause) Abraham to David are fourteen generations, from David until the captivity in Babylon are fourteen generations, and from the captivity in Babylon until the Christ are fourteen generations (Mt. 1:17; Ed. note in parenthesis).

If Abraham's generation was not meant to be included in the count, God would have stated something like, "So all the generations from the one after Abraham...". Had this been the case, there would have been thirteen generations, but that is not the method that God used in counting the generations from Abraham to David. Following is a chart that will illustrate the correct count,

Abraham -	Generation	1 (the origin)
Isaac -	Generation	2
Jacob -	Generation	3
Judah -	Generation	4
Perez -	Generation	5
Hezron -	Generation	6
Ram -	Generation	7
Amminadab -	Generation	8
Nahshon -	Generation	9
Salmon -	Generation	10
Boaz -	Generation	11
Obed -	Generation	12
Jesse -	Generation	13
David -	Generation	14

The next apparent contradiction, regarding a discrepancy in counting generations, is the claim that there are thirteen generations from the Babylonian captivity until the time of Jesus Christ. According to Matthew 1:11, King Josiah of Judah begot Jeconiah (Jehoiachin) about the same time the Jews were taken into Babylonian captivity, but Josiah was not meant to be included in the count to Christ. Instead, Josiah is part of the count from David to the Babylonian captivity. Consequently, counting from the time of Jeconiah to Christ equals fourteen generations.

Jeconiah (Jehoiachin) -	Generation	1
Shealtiel -	Generation	2
Zerubbabel -	Generation	3
Abiud -	Generation	4
Eliakim -	Generation	5
Azor -	Generation	6
Zadok -	Generation	7
Achim -	Generation	8
Eliud -	Generation	9
Eleazar -	Generation	10

Matthan - Generation 11
Jacob - Generation 12
Joseph - Generation 13
Christ - Generation 14

In conclusion, Almighty God knows how to count and He provides instructions to assist in any task that involves counting. The scripture in Matthew 1:17 states plainly that Abraham's generation is to be included in the count to David, which adds up to fourteen generations. Most reputable Bible commentators are in agreement that there are not thirteen generations from Abraham to David or from the Babylonian captivity to Christ.

This document is the collaborative work of individuals who believe God's truth should be given freely (Mt. 10:8; 1Cor. 2:12; 2Cor.11:7; Rom. 10:14-21) and the message of the one true God should be made available to all nations (Mt. 24:14) as a prerequisite to the return of Jesus Christ as King of kings (Mt. 17:10; 19:17; Mk. 9:11; Lk. 1:17; Rev. 19:11-16).

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