

What significance in the bible do Jacob's sons have, and which son's lineage leads to Jesus?

Jacob, son of Isaac and Rebekah (Ge 25:20–26; Hos 12:2, 3), was born as an answer to prayer (Ge 25:21).

Jacob, his name meaning supplanter, obtained Esau's birthright (Ge 25:29–34, He 12:16), wrestled with an angel [preincarnate Christ] (Ge 32:22–32, Hos 12:3, 4) and received a new name: Israel (Ge 32:28).

Jacob showed favoritism toward his son, Joseph (Ge 37:1–31), who was a type of Christ.¹

D. Mangum wrote:

Jacob is the grandson of Abraham and the inheritor of the patriarchal promises to Abraham concerning possession of the land of Canaan (Gen 28:3–4, 13; compare Gen 12:7), abundant descendants, and blessing to all humanity (Gen 28:14–15; compare Gen 12:2–3). He is the third and last of the major patriarchs whose experiences with God form the basis for Yahweh's later identification of Himself as the "God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob" (see Exod 3:6, 15; 4:5; see also 1 Kgs 18:36; 1 Chr 29:18, as "Israel"). Like many other figures from Israel's early history, Jacob is unknown outside of the Bible. However, the customs and lifestyle of the patriarchs have been shown to be broadly consistent with that of the pastoral nomads of the ancient Near East in the Middle Bronze Age....²

Israel still wrestles with God. Jews rejected their savior (Mt 27:20–27); but, one day they will cry out to him and be saved (Mt 23:39).

Regarding Jesus' genealogy Chuck Missler wrote:

The Bible provides us with two lengthy genealogies of Christ. Matthew, as a Levite, focuses on the Messiahship of Jesus in that he traces the legal line from Abraham (thought to be the first Jew) through David, then Solomon and the royal line, to Joseph, the legal father of Jesus (Matthew 1:1-17) and the husband of Mary. Luke, as a physician, focuses on the humanity of Jesus. He traces the blood line from Adam (the Son of God versus us, the sons of Adam) and once Luke gets to Abraham, the genealogy is identical to Matthew's up to the House of David. Then Luke goes from David, through Nathan (a different son of David) to Mary, the mother of Jesus (Luke 3:23-38).³

Matthew's gospel records the genealogy from Abraham to Jesus (Mt 1:1-16) and Luke's gospel lists the genealogy from Jesus to Adam (Lk 3:23 –38).

¹ Thomas Nelson Publishers. (1996). Nelson's quick reference topical Bible index (p. 329). Thomas Nelson Publishers.

² Mangum, D. (2016). Jacob, Son of Isaac. In J. D. Barry, D. Bomar, D. R. Brown, R. Klippenstein, D. Mangum, C. Sinclair Wolcott, L. Wentz, E. Ritzema, & W. Widder (Eds.), *The Lexham Bible Dictionary*. Lexham Press.

³ Missler, Chuck. "The Genealogy of Christ." *Koinonia House*, 1 Dec. 2020, www.khouse.org/articles/2020/1403. Accessed 19 Jan. 2024.