

1. **Week 1 Review:**

- “The Kingdom of Heaven” could be rendered in English as “the *Reign* of God.”
- “Kingdom” is not a noun, a place. It is action-oriented – the reign of God in the present.
- The power of God manifested on earth

2. **Matthew and the Hebraic/Rabbinic Mind:¹**

- Matthew is considered the most Hebraic/Rabbinic of the four Gospels.
- Reflects Rabbinic scripture interpretation techniques that his audience would understand.
- Techniques designed to draw your mind into the Old Testament scripture
- We look to Rabbinic literature for comparisons and to understand the thinking (Mishnah, Talmud, other Jewish writings)
- Examples that we also find in Matthew:
 - Redemptive history is a Tripart History (*Talmud Sanbedrin*, 97a)
 - Abraham as the beginning of Redemptive History
 - Genealogy with 14 generations (*Pesiqta of Rab Kahana* 5:12)

3. **Psalm 89:35-37**

- Messianic Psalm – God will keep his promise to David for a future King.
- David’s descendants compared to the moon.
- The moon reflects God’s light into the darkness.

4. **Jesus is the promised Messiah:**

- Genealogy
- Fulfillment texts (see handout with the ten fulfillment texts and their OT references).

5. **Genealogy – Does Jesus qualify?**

- **Son of David** = 1st-century term for the Messiah (Psalms of Solomon 17:21; written around 50 BCE).

Abraham	Genesis 22:18
Jacob	Numbers 24:17 (Messianic)
Judah	Genesis 49:10
Jesse	Isaiah 11:1 (Messianic)
David	2 Samuel 7:13

¹ Bassler, Herbert. 2009. *The Mind Behind the Gospels: A Commentary to Matthew 1-14*.

6. Abraham:

- Abraham is seen as a new phase in human history and the beginning of God’s plan of redemption
- Rabbis compare Abraham to the divine light in Genesis 1
 - Light into the darkness that brings order – righteousness and justice (Gen. 18:19)
- God’s covenant with Abraham is ultimately fulfilled in Jesus.

7. Why 14 Generations?

- Matthew deliberately arranges into 14 generations of 41 names (13 in the final 3rd), while Luke’s genealogy has 77 names.
- One suggestion is that Matthew wants to show that Jesus is the “Son of David.” In Hebrew, the name David has a numerical value of 14.

D	ד – <i>Dalet</i>	4
V	ו – <i>Vav</i>	6
D	ד – <i>Dalet</i>	4
		14

8. The cycle of the Moon:

- The first-century Jewish calendar was based on the Moon –
 - Required observation of the 1st sliver of the moon in Jerusalem.
- The moon has a 29.5-day cycle that includes the New Moon (darkness)
- 14 days the Moon is waxing (becoming full/increasing light)
- 14 days the Moon is waning (decreasing morning each night until the darkness of the New Moon)

Abraham	Represents the light that breaks forth out of the darkness to illuminate the world.
David	The 14 th generation represents the moon coming into its fulness.
Solomon	The 15 th generation is still a glorious period for Israel, but Solomons's sin leads the nation to decline.
Exile	The period of the exile is like the New Moon – darkness
Jesus	Represents the 14 th generation from the exile and the moon coming back into its fulness.