

PaRDeS

Bijbelstudies

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MYSTERIES IN THE GENEALOGY OF YESHUA ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

Chapter 1, verses 1-18

Introduction

The text unit that we study is made up from three parts:

Verse 1	<i>' This is the genealogy of Yeshua the MESSIAH, son of DAVID, son of AVRAHAM '</i>
Verses 2-16	The actual genealogy from AVRAHAM until Christ.
Verse 17	<i>'Thus there were fourteen generations from AVRAHAM to DAVID, fourteen generations from DAVID to the Babylonian Exile, and fourteen generations from the Babylonian Exile to the MES- SIAH '.</i>

Although the New Testament has been written in *Koine Greek*, in the Gospel by Matthew we do recognize - like we do in all scriptures that make up the New Testament - the Hebrew way of thought, and the typical Hebrew style figures that belong to this. The first and the last part of the above mentioned text unit, together form the style figure called 'CHIASM'.

A CHIASM is a special form of another style figure, called PARALLELISM, that we often find in Hebrew poetry.

Before you despair or think that you have ended up on a wrong website, let me show you that not everything that is unknown is complicated.

The Hebrew style figures are beautiful, powerful and simple at the same time.

Once you have become acquainted with the most important of them, you will read your Bible very differently and unlock a new wealth for you not seen before. Even when you read a translation.

A PARALLELISM is characterized by a REPEAT of a thought, but expressed in other words. An illustration hereof, we find in Tehillim (Psalm) 24:2,

(A1) ' for he set its foundations on

(B1) the seas

(A2) and (A2) established it on

(B2) the rivers ',

Hence we would represent this in the scheme:

A1

B1

—

A2

B2

The second assertion (A2, B2) runs parallel to the first (A1, B1).

A CHIASM adds to the REPEAT an INVERSION, and therefore is considered as a special form of PARALLELISM.

If we look at the subject text unit again (refer to the table at the beginning of this article), we observe that the actual genealogy (vs. 2-16) is wrapped within a CHIASM:

Verse 1:

(A1) *"This is the genealogy of Yeshua the MESSIAH*

(B1) *son of DAVID*

(C1) *son of AVRAHAM°*

(C2) *"Thus there were fourteen generations from AVRAHAM*

(B2) *to DAVID*

(B2) *fourteen generations from DAVID to the Babylonian Exile,*

(A2) *and fourteen generations from the Babylonian Exile to the MESSIAH."*

So the complete scheme of this text unit is:

A1

B1

C1

—

C2

B2

A2

The REPEAT together with the INVERSION Is easily recognized.

The CHIASM is **the** style figure of Hebrew poetry, that can be found on many pages of the Bible.

This tells us that there is more in this text unit than just an historical genealogy. The author draws our attention to the other message that he wrapped in this text.

The theological message

Now that we have viewed the text as meant by the Hebrew mind from which it originated, we understand that it was Matthew's intention to present only a historically reliable genealogy. The author's goal is also to convey to his Jewish audience a theological message; that is to demonstrate that Yeshua (Jesus) is the promised Messiah, the offspring of David, who will sit on David's throne.

Both languages in the Bible, Hebrew and Greek, are languages in which a certain graphic token (character) can be read as a 'letter', as well as a 'digit'.

Gematria, a method by which the letters of a word are converted into the corresponding numbers in order to find hidden meanings, has rightly fallen into a bad light through its (erratic) use within Kabbalah. But we should not throw the baby out with the bathwater. We must acknowledge that in Yeshua's genealogy gematria has been used for the sake of clarifying the message .

DAVID is written in Hebrew as **DALETH-WAW-DALETH**. Reading these letters as digits, this will deliver **4-6-4**. Adding this number together makes the numerical value of DAVID equal to **4+6+4=14**.

This value is consciously used here, to provide structure to the genealogy of Yeshua, and to show that Yeshua (Jesus) is the Messiah, the Son of David.

And it is applied threefold: it concerns **THREE** times **FOURTEEN** generations! Accidentally? This is hardly possible.

It should be noted that in verse 6 there is an explicit reference to David, **THE KING**. Solomon also was king, but his title is not mentioned here. What is the difference? David was the model of the **MESSIANIC KING**, who would come. Solomon was not!

In the Bible is written that a case is settled for good by two or **THREE WITNESSES**.

The numerical value of the name DAVID is applied here consciously (three times) to convey the message that Yeshua is the long expected MESSIANIC KING. 'BEN DAVID', the son of David had come! Period! Three times, you cannot ignore it, it is an established fact.

Translators cannot count

Because it is written "three time '14 generations'", the logical conclusion of common sense would be that 42 generations can be counted, enclosed in the middle of the text unit (vs. 2-16).

But when we list all generations named in the verses 2 till 16, and recount them, then we end up with only 41.

Thus, is it not true that there are three times fourteen generations?

Yes indeed, despite that there are only 41 generations in the list, it is still true that there were three times fourteen generations. You may ask how this arithmetic can be true. Well, in the remainder of this writing I, will demonstrate and calculate that the statement of Matthew is correct.

We will summarize the above in sequence. Almost all translations of the Bible is said:

1) FROM AVRAHAM TO David are FOURTEEN generations

2) FROM David TO the Babylonian exile are FOURTEEN generations

3) FROM the Babylonian exile TO the Messiah are **FOURTEEN** generations

If we recount all data in verses 2 until 17 we conclude:

1) From Avraham TO David, is equivalent to: from **AVRAHAM** until and including **YISHAI**. But these are not fourteen generations! These are only **THIRTEEN**.

2) From David TO the Babylonian Exile is the same as from **DAVID** until and including **YOSHIYAHU**. In this case there are indeed **FOURTEEN** generations.

3) FROM the Babylonian Exile TO the Messiah is equal to from **Y'KHANYAHU** until and including **YOSEF**. Again, these are not fourteen, but again **THIRTEEN** generations

Now, suddenly there seem to be three errors in the Word of God.

First of all, there are not 42 generations, but only 41, and twice we read 'fourteen generations', while we only count 13!!

Indeed, $13+14+13=40$! Not 42! Can you still follow the arithmetic?

How about the church's teaching that "the Word of God was inspired to the very detail of letters and punctuation"? Some people will probably now say: "No, we do not believe that anymore!!"

Therefore, now it is the right time to show that all what is written by Matthew certainly is correct.

Half of the problem is solved when we scrutinize the Greek word **HEOS**. This word appears three times in verse 17, and is (in most English versions of the Bible) every time translated with '**to**'. However, '**until**' and '**until and including**' would also be a legitimate translation.

If we would translate the first **HEOS** into '**until and including**', the second **HEOS** into '**until**', and the third again into '**until and including**', we find a part of the solution of the problem, and the correct translation of verse 17 would be:

- (1) *Thus, there were fourteen generations from Avraham **UNTIL AND INCLUDING** David*

- (2) *fourteen generations from David **TO** the Babylonian Exile,*

- (3) *and fourteen generations from the Babylonian Exile **UNTIL AND INCLUDING** the MESSIAH '.*

The smart and attentive reader would immediately notice that in this translation, David is counted twice!! By using '**until and including**' the first series of fourteen generations will end with David, and the second series of fourteen generations begins with the same David.

For a translator, who assumed to work only with a historical genealogy, this would be an anomaly, and disregarded. But for somebody, who understands that the text contains also a theological message, in which the person of David is the functional center, this would not be peculiar at all.

Remember that a 'REPEAT' (see Introduction above) is a typical Hebrew method to draw particular attention to some assertion, like we would use capital letters, italics, or bold print in the text.

If now you would count again the names in the genealogy of Yeshua (Jesus), you will see that all is in agreement.

More hidden treasures in this genealogy

DAVID is named in THREE verses in this part of the Scriptures, but his name is written FIVE times:

1x in verse 1, 2x in verse 6 and 2x in verse 17.

In total FIVE times.

Do you see it coming? $5 \times 14 = 70!$

In Genesis, chapter 10 you find the list of peoples that occupied the earth after the Flood. Their number is 70!

During the Feast of Tabernacles, 70 cattle have sacrificed on behalf of the pagan peoples of the earth.

The Messianic King has not only come on earth for the deliverance of Israel, but for all 70 PEOPLES on earth!

Last: The number 42 has a very special place in Jewish thinking, because it is the number of Resting Places on their journey from Egypt to the Promised Land. An overview of these places is found in Numbers chapter 33.

Concluding,,: **YESHUA HA-MASHIACH** is the one who brings us into the **PROMISED LAND.**

In conclusion we could say that Matthew in this genealogy, in a Jewish and a very ingenious way, demonstrates that the long-awaited Messiah in Yeshua had come! And not just for Israel, but also for the Gentiles. He will not only Israel, but WITH Israel He will bring also the 70 Peoples into the true promised land.

“Moreover, I tell you that many will come from the east and from the west to take their places at the feast in the Kingdom of Heaven with Avraham, Yitz'chak and Ya'akov. (Matt. 8:11)

The translation used: Complete Jewish Bible – David Stern

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