The Forgotten Jesus Podcast
S3E9
Title – Jeconiah: The problem in Matthew's Genealogy
Description – Jeremiah 22:30 records the Lord saying about Jeconiah, "None of his descendants will succeed in sitting on the throne of David or ruling again in Judah." So why does Matthew list Jeconiah

Today we're looking again at the genealogy in Matthew

To recap: Why start a gospel with a genealogy? Matthew's trying to make a point, that Jesus is a real person who lived in a real timeframe, and has a real lineage.

We started the past few weeks talking about how Matthew used women in the genealogy, women who were not jewish, and who had checkered pasts. Matthew then uses Mary as the 5th woman, who is jewish, but has a cloud hanging over her because she's pregnant out of wedlock.

The second reason Matthew begins the genealogy through the lineage of Joseph is that he's trying to go ahead and address the elephant in the room.

The problem Matthew's addressing right out of the gate was the question of Jeconiah. Because Jeconiah was disqualified from being in the lineage of David, his forefather.

Look at Jeremiah 22,

Jeremiah 22:24-30
24 "As I live"—this is the LORD's declaration—"though you, Coniah (Jeconiah) son of Jehoiakim, the king of Judah, were a signet ring on my right hand, I would tear you from it. 25 In fact, I will hand you over to those you dread, who intend to take your life, to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon and the Chaldeans. 26 I will hurl you and the mother who gave birth to you into another land, where neither of you were born, and there you will both die. 27 They will never return to the land they long to return to."

28 Is this man Coniah a despised, shattered pot, a jar no one wants? Why are he and his descendants hurled out and cast into a land they have not known? 29 **Earth, earth, earth,** hear the word of the LORD! 30 This is what the LORD says: Record this man as childless, a man who will not be successful in his lifetime. None of his descendants will succeed in sitting on the throne of David or ruling again in Judah.

22:29 - "earth, earth, earth" - one of the seven "triplets" in the bible, where the author's only way to emphasize something is to repeat it twice, a doublet, or a three times, a triplet.

Example of a doublet: When Jesus says, "Truly, truly, I say to you…"

The seven triplets in the Bible:

- Holy, Holy, Holy (Isaiah 6:3, & Revelation 4:8)
- Temple Lord, Temple Lord, Temple Lord (Jeremiah 7:4)
- Earth, earth, earth (Jeremiah 22:29)
- Ruin, Ruin, Ruin (Ezekiel 21:32 in Hebrew, Ezekiel 21:27 in LXX and English)
- Jerusalem, Jerusalem, Jerusalem (Luke 13:33-34)
- Woe, Woe, Woe (Revelation 8:13)

So in Nazareth everyone knew and kept copious notes and genealogical records. They all knew this, and knew that Joseph was a descendant of Jeconiah.

That's why in Luke 4, the crowds say, "Isn't this Joseph's son?" Because they know Joseph is disqualified.

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Matthew knows Joseph is not of the lineage of David because of Jeconiah, who was cut off by God in Jeremiah 22.

So look at what Matthew does in 1:16
[6] and Jacob fathered **Joseph the husband of Mary**, *who gave birth to Jesus* who is called the Messiah.

Notice that Matthew emphasizes that Joseph is just the husband of Mary. It was Mary who gave birth to Jesus.

Luke's genealogy in Luke 3:23-38

Have to get technical here and look at the Greek and the usage of the definite article in Luke's genealogy. Every name listed by Luke has the definite article with the exception of Joseph.

The whole genealogy has this, showing both Father and Son, except for one name, Joseph's, without the definite article, "The"

Luke 3:23-24 (Berean Greek Bible, 2016)
23Καὶ αὐτὸς ἦν Ἰησοῦς ἀρχόμενος ὡσεὶ ἐτῶν τριάκοντα, Ὢν υἱός, ὡς ἐνομίζετο, Ἰωσὴφ, τοῦ Ἡλὶ
24 τοῦ Μαθθὰτ τοῦ Λευὶ τοῦ Μελχὶ τοῦ Ἰανναὶ τοῦ Ἰωσὴφ

Luke 3:23 - reference to Joseph without the definite article.

Next week we'll look at Easter Eggs in the genealogy of Matthew.