

## Do Numerically Balanced Lists of Generations Include Gaps?

**Matt 1:17 divides the the genealogy of Jesus into three lists of fourteen but to do so omits four generations.**

So all the generations from Abraham to David are **fourteen generations**; from David to the deportation to Babylon, **fourteen generations**; and from the deportation to Babylon to the Messiah, **fourteen generations.**" (Matt 1:17)

	<b>Matthew 1</b>		<b>1 Chronicles and Ezra</b>	
v 1	The record of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham:			
v 2	<b>Abraham</b> was the father of <b>Isaac</b> , <b>Isaac</b> the father of <b>Jacob</b> ,	I Chr 1:34	<b>Abraham</b> became the father of <b>Isaac</b> . The sons of <b>Isaac</b> were Esau and <b>Israel (Jacob)</b> .	
v 3	and <b>Jacob</b> the father of <b>Judah</b> and his brothers. <b>Judah</b>	I Chr 2:1 I Chr 2:3	These are the sons of <b>Israel (Jacob)</b> : ... <b>Judah</b> .... The sons of <b>Judah</b> ....	
v 4	was the father of <b>Perez</b> and Zerah by Tamar, <b>Perez</b> was the father of <b>Hezron</b> ,	I Chr 2:4 I Chr 2:5	Tamar his daughter-in-law bore him <b>Perez</b> and Zerah. The sons of <b>Perez</b> were <b>Hezron</b> and Hamul.	
v 5	and <b>Hezron</b> the father of <b>Ram</b> . <b>Ram</b> was the father of <b>Amminadab</b> ,	I Chr 2:9 I Chr 2:10	Now the sons of <b>Hezron</b> ... were... <b>Ram</b> .... <b>Ram</b> became the father of <b>Amminadab</b> ,	
v 6	<b>Amminadab</b> the father of <b>Nahshon</b> , and <b>Nahshon</b> the father of <b>Salmon</b> .	I Chr 2:11	and <b>Amminadab</b> became the father of <b>Nahshon</b> .... <b>Nahshon</b> became the father of <b>Salma</b> ,	
v 7	<b>Salmon</b> was the father of <b>Boaz</b> by Rahab, <b>Boaz</b> was the father of <b>Obed</b> by Ruth, and <b>Obed</b> the father of <b>Jesse</b> .	I Chr 2:12	<b>Salma</b> became the father of <b>Boaz</b> , <b>Boaz</b> became the father of <b>Obed</b> , and <b>Obed</b> became the father of <b>Jesse</b> ;	
v 8	<b>Jesse</b> was the father of <b>David</b> the king. <b>David</b>	I Chr 2:13-15 I Chr 3:1	and <b>Jesse</b> became the father of... <b>David</b> .... Now these were the sons of <b>David</b> ....	
v 9	was the father of <b>Solomon</b> by Bathsheba who had been the wife of Uriah. <b>Solomon</b> was the father of <b>Rehoboam</b> ,	I Chr 3:5  I Chr 3:10	These were born to him in Jerusalem: ... <b>Solomon</b> ... by Bath-shua the daughter of Ammiel; Now <b>Solomon's</b> son was <b>Rehoboam</b> ,	
v 10	<b>Rehoboam</b> the father of <b>Abijah</b> , and <b>Abijah</b> the father of <b>Asa</b> . <b>Asa</b> was the father of <b>Jehoshaphat</b> ,		<b>Abijah</b> was his son, <b>Asa</b> his son, <b>Jehoshaphat</b> his son,	
v 11	<b>Jehoshaphat</b> the father of <b>Joram</b> , and <b>Joram</b> the father of <b>Uzziah</b> .	I Chr 3:11	<b>Joram</b> his son, <b>Ahaziah</b> <sup>1</sup> his son, <b>Joash</b> his son,	Missing in Mathew
v 12	<b>Uzziah</b> was the father of <b>Jotham</b> , <b>Jotham</b> the father of <b>Ahaz</b> , and <b>Ahaz</b> the father of <b>Hezekiah</b> .	I Chr 3:12	<b>Amaziah</b> his son, <b>Azariah</b> his son, <b>Jotham</b> his son,	Missing in Mathew
v 13	<b>Hezekiah</b> was the father of <b>Manasseh</b> , <b>Manasseh</b> the father of <b>Amon</b> , and <b>Amon</b> the father of <b>Josiah</b> .	I Chr 3:13	<b>Ahaz</b> his son, <b>Hezekiah</b> his son, <b>Manasseh</b> his son,	Missing in Mathew
v 14	<b>Josiah</b> became the father of <b>Jeconiah</b> and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon. After the deportation to Babylon:	I Chr 3:14 I Chr 3:15 I Chr 3:16	<b>Amon</b> his son, <b>Josiah</b> his son. The sons of <b>Josiah</b> were ... <b>Jehoiakim</b> .... The sons of <b>Jehoiakim</b> were <b>Jeconiah</b> his son....	Missing in Mathew
v 15	<b>Jeconiah</b> became the father of <b>Shealtiel</b> , and <b>Shealtiel</b> the father of <b>Zerubbabel</b> .	I Chr 3:17	The sons of <b>Jeconiah</b> ... were <b>Shealtiel</b> his son....	
v 16	<b>Zerubbabel</b> was the father of <b>Abihud</b> , <sup>2</sup> <b>Abihud</b> the father of <b>Eliakim</b> , and <b>Eliakim</b> the father of <b>Azor</b> .	Ezra 3:2	<b>Zerubbabel</b> the son of <b>Shealtiel</b>	
v 17	<b>Azor</b> was the father of <b>Zadok</b> , <b>Zadok</b> the father of <b>Achim</b> , and <b>Achim</b> the father of <b>Eliud</b> . <b>Eliud</b> was the father of <b>Eleazar</b> , <b>Eleazar</b> the father of <b>Matthan</b> , and <b>Matthan</b> the father of <b>Jacob</b> . <b>Jacob</b> was the father of <b>Joseph</b> the husband of Mary, by whom <b>Jesus</b> was born, who is called the Messiah. So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; from David to the deportation to Babylon, fourteen generations; and from the deportation to Babylon to the Messiah, fourteen generations. <sup>3</sup>			

**Genesis 5:1-32 lists ten generations from Adam to Noah and Genesis 11: 10-25 adds ten more generations to Abraham**

**Generation**  
1 5:1-5

**Genesis 5**  
Adam

**Genesis 11**  
11:10-11 Shem

2	5:6-8	Seth	11:12-13	Arpachshad
3	5:9-11	Enosh	11:14-15	Shelah
4	5:12-14	Kenan	11:16-17	Eber
5	5:15-17	Mahalel	11:18-19	Peleg
6	5:18-20	Jerad	11:20-21	Reu
7	5:21-24	Enoch	11:22-23	Serug
8	5:25-27	Mehtuselah	11:24-25	Nahor
9	5:28-31	Lamech	11:26a	Terah
10	5:32	Noah	11:26b	Abraham

**Since the numerically balanced list of generations of Matthew 1 contains gaps, is there not a strong possibility that the numerically balanced lists of Genesis 5 and 11 also have gaps, especially in light of the multitude of problems that arise from interpreting without gaps?**

<sup>1</sup> Azariah is another form of the name Uzziah. See D. W. Baker and A. R. Millard, "Uzziah," *New Bible Dictionary* 3rd ed., 1220-21.

<sup>2</sup> The names from Abiud on are not known from any other source. See Donald A. Hagner, *Matthew 1-13* (vol. 33a of *Word Biblical Commentary*; eds. David A. Hubbard and Glenn W. Barker; Dallas: Word, 1993), 12.

<sup>3</sup> Matthew begins his gospel by identifying "Jesus the Messiah" as "the son of David" (Matt 1:1) and the name David is the key for understanding Matthew's dividing his genealogy of Jesus into three series of fourteen names. In Hebrew every letter of the alphabet had a numerical value. The sum of the numerical values of the three consonants in the name David is fourteen, accounting for the three series of fourteen. It is also noteworthy that David is the fourteenth name in the list. For a full discussion, see W. D. Davies and Dale C. Allen, Jr., *The Gospel according to Matthew* (*The International Critical Commentary on the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments*; eds. J. A. Emerton, C. E. B. Cranfield, and G. N. Stanton; Edinburgh: Clark, 1988), 1:161-65

<sup>4</sup> See Eugene Merrill, "Chronology," in *Dictionary of the Old Testament: Pentateuch*, 113-22.