

Day 4: A King who lives up to the hype

Read

'This is the list of the ancestors of Jesus Christ, a descendant of David, who was a descendant of Abraham.' Matthew 1.1 (GNB)

'Judah will hold the royal sceptre, and his descendants will always rule. Nations will bring him tribute and bow in obedience before him.' Genesis 49.10 (GNB)

"You will always have descendants, and I will make your kingdom last for ever. Your dynasty will never end." 2 Samuel 7.16 (GNB)

Reflect

Let's zoom back in on another key character in Matthew's list, David. Around some 800 years later than Abraham, David is another main player in Israel's history – and he connects with Christmas in a couple of important ways. Firstly, he was part of the tribe of Judah. That might not seem obviously festive but consider an ancient prophecy given by Abraham's grandson on his deathbed: 'The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet... to him shall be the obedience of the peoples' (Genesis 49.10).

David was thought to be the long awaited king, but a quick read of the second part of his life shows he wasn't. But God had promised that one of David's descendants would rule on his throne forever still stood. By identifying Jesus as 'Son of David' it's like Matthew is saying: 'Here he is! Israel, meet your long awaited Messiah king!' Your challenge today is to bless those who lead you.

Challenge 1

Write a Christmas card to your MP, boss or church leader and thank them for all their work

Challenge 2

Post a prayer for a politician or leader on our prayer wall

Challenge 3

Encourage someone who needs reminding of their purpose or calling