

The 14 Generations *from* David to the Carrying Away to Babylon: Mat. 1:17

Matthew 1:17 states there are 14 generations “from David until the carrying away into Babylon”. Some insist that as the books of Kings & Chronicles record 19 monarchs ruling over the Kingdom of Judah *from* David to “about the time” of Josiah, who “begot Jeconiah and his brothers” (Mat. 1:11) – therefore, an error must be admitted.

Most scholars negotiate the presumed flaw by insisting that Matthew has arbitrarily arranged three sets of 14 generations in this artificial fashion due to some supposed penchant that he or the Jews in general had for that number or, for the sake of symmetry, he allegedly omitted five names from the “begots” in the second set (1:6-11). However, strictly speaking, there were but 14 actual generations *from* David to “about the time” of Josiah, who “begot Jeconiah and his brothers.”

- from* David to
1. Solomon
 2. Rehoboam
 - ← Abijah (reigned 3 years)
 3. Asa
 4. Jehoshaphat
 5. Jehoram
 - ← Ahaziah (reigned 1 year)
 6. Joash
 7. Amaziah
 8. Uzziah
 9. Jotham
 10. Ahaz
 11. Hezekiah
 12. Manasseh
 - ← Amon (reigned 2 years)
 13. Josiah
 - ← Jehoahaz (reigned 3 months)
 14. Jehoiakim
 - ← Jeconiah (reigned 3 months & 10 days)

Although there were 19 kings (14 + 5), as shown above, five reigned for such short terms that it may not properly be said that the duration of their governing or its omission is that of a “*generation*”. Moreover, it is actually misleading to insist that the interval from David to Jeconiah was that of 19 generations, whereas it is that of 19 *monarchies*.

All such problematic occurrences are present in the Holy Writ exactly as recorded for God’s intended purposes. They must not be regarded as a *faux pas* or inaccuracy as though God somehow became lax in overseeing His Word and in keeping His abundant promises to preserve it as originally given to man. At least they must not be so considered by Biblicists.