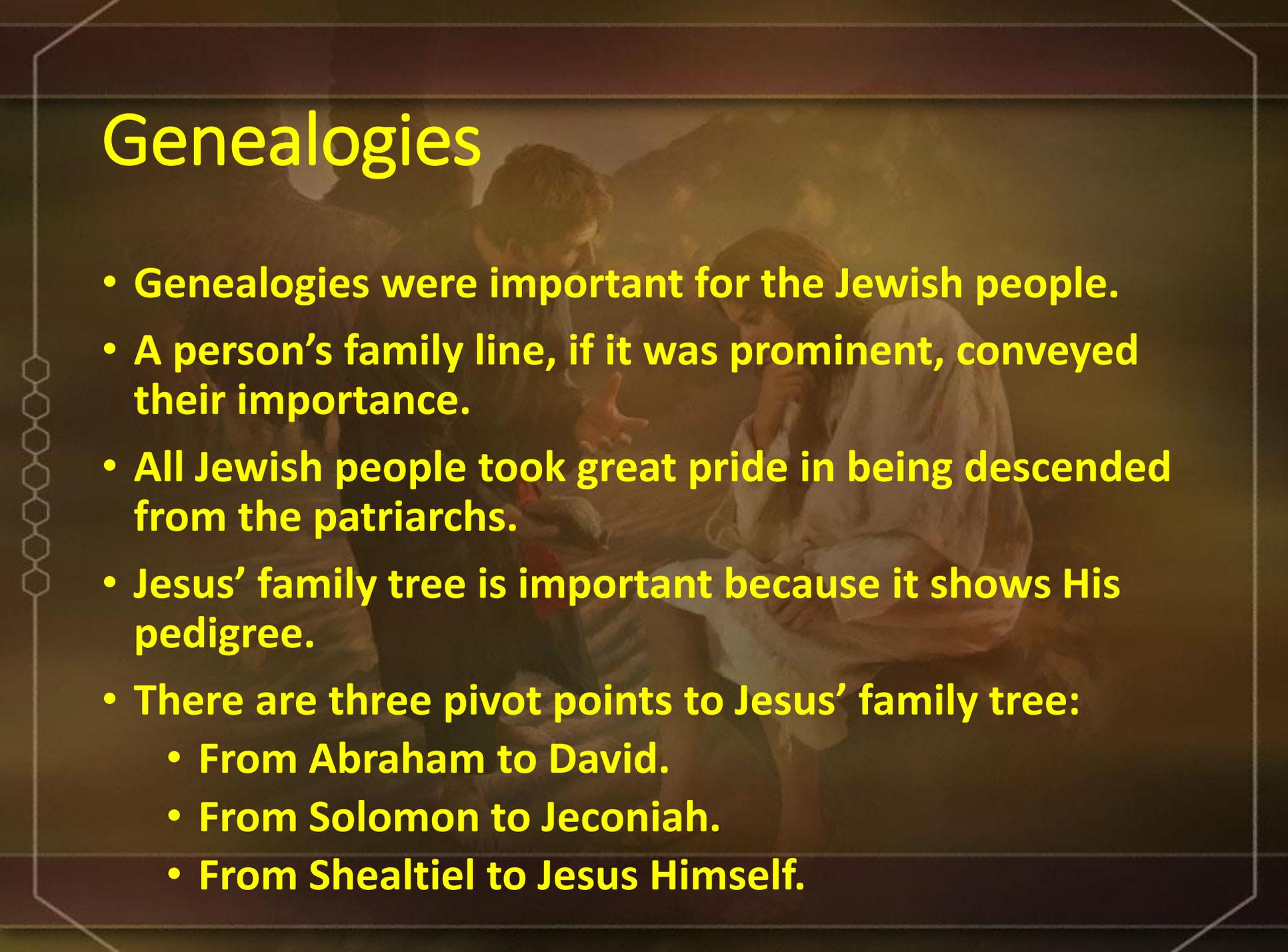


An angel with large, dark, feathered wings is shown in profile, wearing a dark robe and speaking to a woman. The woman is seated, wearing a white, flowing robe, and looking down thoughtfully. They are in a desert landscape with mountains in the background. The scene is framed by a white geometric border on the left and bottom.

Skeletons in Jesus' Family Tree

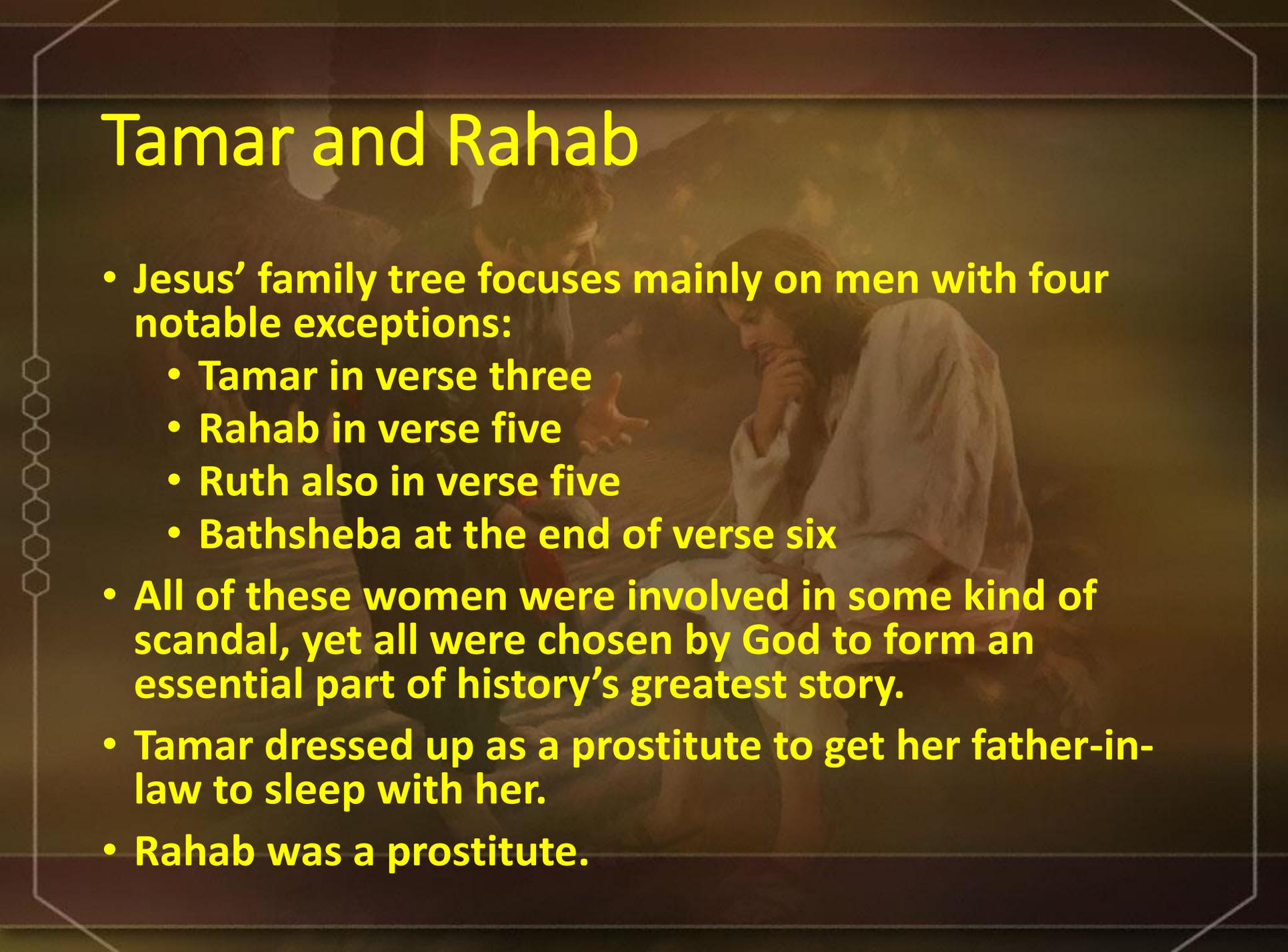
Matthew 1:1-17

Genealogies



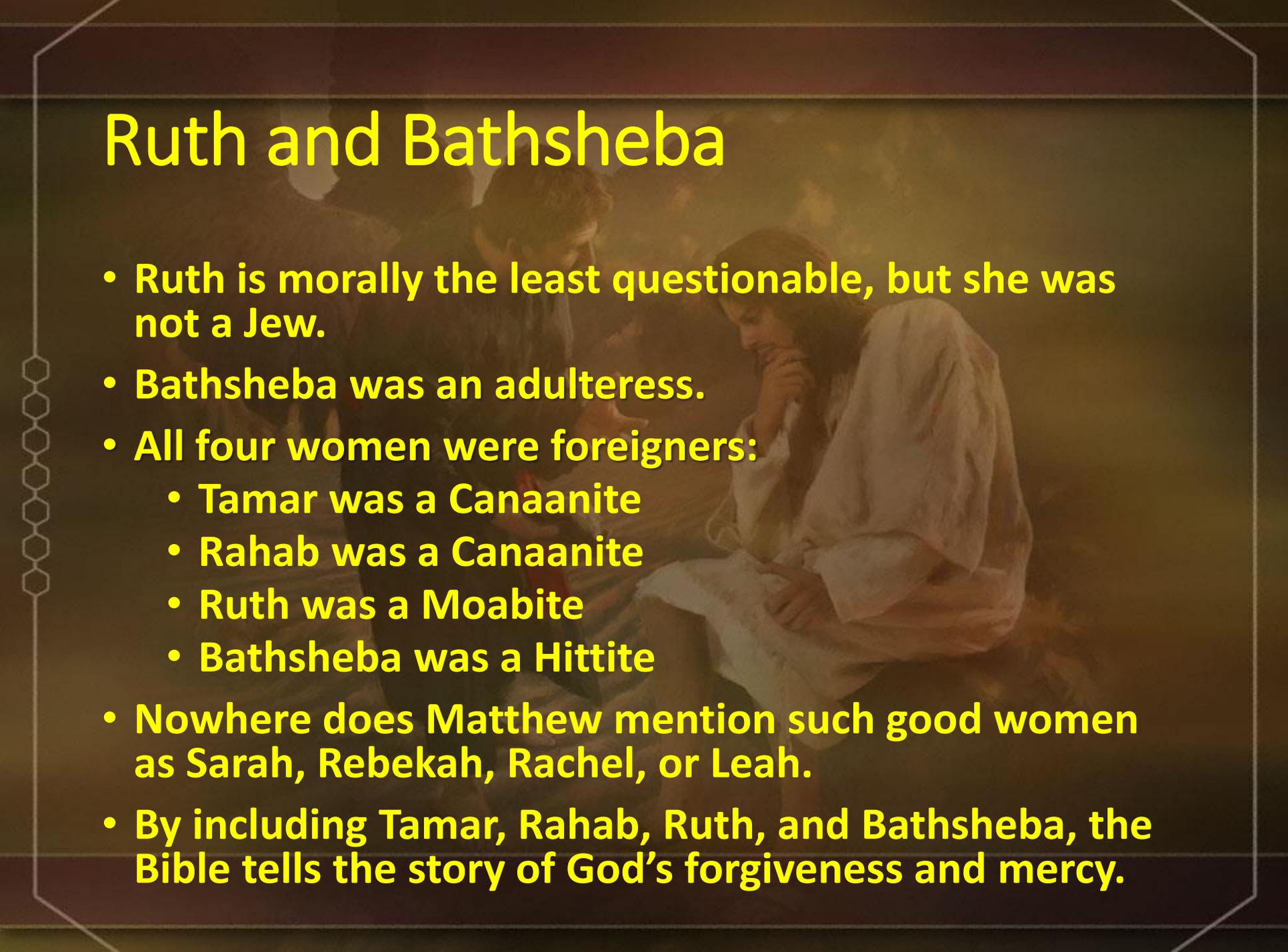
- Genealogies were important for the Jewish people.
- A person's family line, if it was prominent, conveyed their importance.
- All Jewish people took great pride in being descended from the patriarchs.
- Jesus' family tree is important because it shows His pedigree.
- There are three pivot points to Jesus' family tree:
 - From Abraham to David.
 - From Solomon to Jeconiah.
 - From Shealtiel to Jesus Himself.

Tamar and Rahab

A painting depicting Jesus sitting and talking to a group of people. In the foreground, a woman with long dark hair is shown in profile, looking thoughtful with her hand to her chin. The background shows other figures in a dimly lit setting, possibly a room or a cave.

- Jesus' family tree focuses mainly on men with four notable exceptions:
 - Tamar in verse three
 - Rahab in verse five
 - Ruth also in verse five
 - Bathsheba at the end of verse six
- All of these women were involved in some kind of scandal, yet all were chosen by God to form an essential part of history's greatest story.
- Tamar dressed up as a prostitute to get her father-in-law to sleep with her.
- Rahab was a prostitute.

Ruth and Bathsheba



- Ruth is morally the least questionable, but she was not a Jew.
- Bathsheba was an adulteress.
- All four women were foreigners:
 - Tamar was a Canaanite
 - Rahab was a Canaanite
 - Ruth was a Moabite
 - Bathsheba was a Hittite
- Nowhere does Matthew mention such good women as Sarah, Rebekah, Rachel, or Leah.
- By including Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, and Bathsheba, the Bible tells the story of God's forgiveness and mercy.

Conclusion

- Providence refers to God's invisible hand turning random and chaotic events of life into His order.
- Jesus' family tree displays God's grand purpose throughout history.
- The skeletons just did not happen to appear in Jesus' family tree, God placed each one there on purpose.
- God never has a plan B; all things work out as He has planned.