



Who were the 'Patriarchs'?

A Patriarch is a leader and ruler of a family or tribe, the founding person or first people of a family line.

In the Bible this line of family is that of the people of Israel, the line of Abraham and his son Issac, Issac's son Jacob. Through many generations this brings us to David, and eventually that brings us to Joseph and Mary and the story of Christmas.

It was because St Joseph was of the family of David that he had to take Mary with him to Bethlehem, the town of David, to register his name in the census of people.

'So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee for Judaea, to David's town called Bethlehem, since he was of David's House and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.'

So the 'Patriarchs' that we remember today are the great great great great.....great great great great great.....grandfathers of the Israelites, the line of David, the family of Joseph, Mary and so Jesus.

So, the 'Patriachs', the very first people of the line of Israel, were Abraham, his son Isaac and Isaac's son Jacob.

Then there were fourteen generations from Abraham to David and 28 generations from David to Christ. So, there were forty two generations between the time God promised Abraham that 'his descendants would be as many as the stars in heaven', to the time of the birth of Jesus.

