



In “Legacy,” Rosenstein links the Lurie lineage — which includes such modern luminaries as Sigmund Freud and Martin Buber — to Rashi, the 11th-century sage, and many other revered Jewish figures from Hillel to Hezekiah — and ultimately to King David of the 10th century BCE.

The book significantly extends on Rosenstein’s monumental 1990 work, “The Unbroken Chain,” which focused on the genealogies of the major Ashkenazi rabbinic dynasties from medieval times to the present. Rosenstein joked that “Legacy” is a “prequel” to the earlier book — “you know, just like in the Star Wars series.”

The earlier work documented the descendants of the legendary 16th-century Rabbi Meir Katzenellenbogen of Padua, who gave rise to the Ger, Bobov and other major Chasidic dynasties of 18th-century Europe.

The new book enlarges the genealogical pyramid, connecting it to Rabbi Jehiel Lurie, head of the 13th-century rabbinical court in Brest-Litovsk, then back to Rashi and beyond.

In a foreword, former Israeli Chief Rabbi Yisrael Meir Lau unequivocally endorsed the validity of the historical links. “After examining the subject, I came to the conclusion that indeed it is correct to connect the Lurie family back to the Rashi — and from there to Rabbi Yochanan HaSandlar, King Yehizkiyahu and, obviously, to King David,” he wrote.

The Guinness Book of Records has also accepted the Luries as the oldest-known living family in the world today, citing them in the “longest lineage” category in its 1999 edition.

The family tree boasts an astonishing array of celebrated historical figures from the prophet Isaiah to Sir Isaiah Berlin, from Felix Mendelssohn to Karl Marx and Moses Montefiore.

The list also includes Yehudi Menuhin, Helena Rubinstein, the Rothschilds and even Rosenstein himself. If it begins to sound like a “Who’s Who” of the Ashkenazi world.

[Lurie Family Story \(in Russian\)](#)