

“An Unusual Family Tree”

Matthew 1:1-17

Message by Michael J. Barnard

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Lesson Aim: To explore the genealogy of Jesus Christ and see how Matthew demonstrates the legal right of Jesus to the throne of David. To realize the genealogy of Jesus Christ is unusual in the sense that it includes men, women, Jews, Gentiles, murderers, adulterers and idolaters. To recognize the genealogy of Jesus uniquely implies that He came to be the Savior of people from all ethnic groups. To understand Jesus is the only person in history who fits all of the qualifications to be the Messiah.

DIGGING DEEPER INTO GOD’S WORD (*BIBLE STUDY*)

Part I: From Abraham to King David (Matthew 1:1-6a)

1. Matthew’s gospel was written primarily to the Jews with the theme of “*Christ the King.*” Following 400 years of prophetic silence since the last book of the Old Testament, Matthew begins his gospel and the New Testament by demonstrating the genealogical right of Jesus to the throne of David (**vs. 1**). This genealogy is critical to understanding Jesus is the Messiah. The concept “*the son of*” can be translated “*the descendent of*” or “*the forefather of.*” Why do you think Matthew chose Abraham and David to begin with (**vs. 1**)?

2. What is the meaning of the word “*covenant?*” (See Dictionary) What two Old Testament covenants were named after Abraham and David? What did each represent?

3. Abraham was known as “*the father of the Jews.*” What specific promises did God make to Abram? (See **Gen. 12:2-3; 15:9-21; 17; 22:18**). Did Abram believe God’s promises in spite of the fact that he and Sarai were too old and had no children at this time? How does the Abrahamic covenant ultimately point towards Jesus Christ?

4. King David was the greatest of the forty plus kings who reigned in the united and divided kingdoms of Israel and Judah. What covenant did God make with David? (See **2 Sam. 7:12-14a**) What was the nature of this covenant? Who ultimately fulfills the Davidic Covenant (**vs. 1**)?

5. What title do we find Scripture using for Abraham, Isaac and Jacob as they are spoken of collectively (**vs. 2**)? (See **Heb. 7:4; Rom. 15:8**)
6. What unusual relationship brought about the birth of Perez (**vs. 3**)? Was Judah aware of what he was doing? (See **Gen. 38:1-16**) What did Judah's daughter-in-law Tamar pose as? Why? Would you want a story like this included in your genealogy? Why or why not? Why do you think the Holy Spirit included this story in the genealogy of Jesus Christ?
7. Who were Amminadab and Nahshon (**vs.4**)? (See **Exod. 6:23; Num. 1:1-7; 7:12**) What great period of Israel's history did these two ancestors of Christ live?
8. Who is listed as the mother of Boaz in **verse 5**? How did this woman once make her living? (See **Josh. 2:1**) If there is hope for sinners like Tamar and Rahab, is there hope for us today? What is the meaning of the word "*compassion*" as it relates to genealogical records? Note: Some 400 years may have passed between Salmon and the birth of Boaz. How can the Bible say that Salmon begot Boaz?
9. Who was the wife of Boaz (**vs. 5**)? What curse was this woman under? (See **Deut. 23:3-4**) How did God demonstrate mercy in the case of Ruth? In what way is Ruth a picture of us today? What three famous ancestors of Christ are listed as descendants of Boaz and Ruth in **verse 6**?

Part II: From King David to the Babylonian Captivity (Matthew 1:6b-11)

1. Who is listed as David's son in **verse 6b**? Who was the mother of this child? Out of what evil relationship was this child born? (See **2 Sam. 11**) Did David get away with adultery and murder? (See **2 Sam. 12**) How could God say that David was "*a man after His own heart*?" (See **Psalm 51**)

2. At the death of King Solomon, the nation of Israel divided into two separate kingdoms, the 10 northern tribes known as “*Israel*” and the two southern tribes (Judah and Benjamin) known as “*Judah*.” The kingly line of Jesus follows the kings of the southern kingdom of Judah. Investigate and find out if each of the kings listed in **verses 7-11** were good or evil men? Rehoboam (See **2 Chron. 12:13-14**); Abijah (See **1 Kings 15:1-3**); Asa (See **1 Kings 15:9-11**); Jehoshaphat (See **2 Chron. 17:1-6**); Joram (**2 Chron. 12:1-6**); Uzziah (See **2 Chron. 26:3-4**); Jotham (See **2 Chron. 27:1-2**); Ahaz (See **2 Chron. 28:1-2**); Hezekiah (See **2 Chron. 29:1-2**); Manasseh (See **2 Chron. 33:1-2**); Amon (See **2 Chron. 33:21-22**); Josiah (See **2 Chron. 34:1-2**); Jeconiah, also known as Jehoiachin (See **2 Chron. 36:9-10**). What can we learn about the kind of people that were listed in the genealogy of Christ based upon the way they lived their lives? How can Jesus Christ be perfect and without a sin with such evil men and women in the royal line? (See **Isa. 7:14**)
3. It is important to note that by the use of “*compression*” four kings were left out of this list: Ahaziah (See **2 Chron. 22:2-4**), Joash (See **2 Chron. 24:1-4**), Amaziah (See **2 Chron. 25:1-2**) and Jehoiakim (See **2 Chron. 36:5-6**). This was done to keep the genealogy in three segments of fourteen generations; probably to aid in memorization. (See **vs. 17**) What important curse was placed upon King Jeconiah [also known as Jehoiachin] (**vs. 11**)? (See **Jer. 22:29-30**) How did God bypass the curse? (See **Isa. 7:14**) How many of the “*physical descendants*” of Jeconiah would be allowed to sit on the throne of David? Is Jesus a “*physical*” or “*legal*” descendant of Jeconiah? What tragic event ended the second fourteen-name segment (**vs. 11**)?

Part III: From the Babylonian Captivity to the birth of Jesus Christ (Matthew 1:12-17)

1. The genealogy of Jesus is broken up into three fourteen-generation segments: the first from Abraham through David; the second from David to the Babylonian Captivity; the third from the Babylonian Captivity to the birth of Christ. What famous event did Zerubbabel lead (**vs. 12**)? (See **Ezra 2:1-2**) Zerubbabel is the last person in the genealogy of Christ to appear in the Old Testament, who is the next famous person to appear in the genealogy (**vs. 16**)?

2. Every other father/son combination is found in the form of “*the father begot the son.*” What is the meaning of the word “*begot?*” (See Dictionary under “*beget*”) Does Scripture say that “*Joseph begot Jesus*” (**vs. 16**)? If not, why? What does **verse 16** reveal to us? It is important to note here that Joseph is the foster, or stepfather of Jesus; in other words, “*the legal*” but not the biological father. How did “*the virgin birth of Christ*” bypass both the sin nature from Adam and the curse of Jeconiah? (See **Jer. 22:29-30; Matt. 1:21-23**) Why is the genealogy of Jesus in **Luke 3:23-38** different from that found in Matthew’s gospel? (See Commentaries) What makes Luke’s genealogy so unusual? What are some of the major differences between the two genealogies? Why is it necessary to include both genealogies in Scripture?
3. Why do you think Matthew divided the royal ancestry of Jesus into three fourteen generation segments (**vs. 17**)? (See Commentaries)
4. The Romans destroyed the Jewish Temple and the genealogical records of the Jews in A.D. 70. With the destruction of the genealogical records, who is the only Jew alive who can prove He has the legal right to the throne of David? Who declared Jesus to be the Son of God [*or the Jewish Messiah*] through genealogical records, Christ’s resurrection from the dead and by His spoken word from heaven? (See **Matt. 3:13-17; 17:1-7; Rom. 1:1-4**) Have you received Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord? If not, why not do so right now in prayer?

MINER’S CORNER ~ *Manna to live by!*

- “*Genealogy*” is our English word for the Greek word “*genesis*,” meaning “*beginning or origin.*”
- The theme of Matthew’s gospel is “*Christ the King.*” The book begins with Matthew using the genealogy of Jesus to demonstrate His legal right to the throne of David.
- The two key individuals mentioned in the genealogy of Jesus Christ are Abraham and King David. Abraham is the father of the Jews and David was Israel’s greatest king.
- The Abrahamic Covenant promised both descendants and land to Abram; all the families of the earth would be blessed through Abraham’s seed: Jesus.
- Through the Davidic Covenant, David was promised that one of his descendants would sit on his throne forever – this would be “*the Jewish Messiah.*”
- The genealogy of Jesus Christ includes men and women, Jews and Gentiles; both godly and ungodly people implying that Jesus came to save people from all nationalities and backgrounds.”

