

The Lineage of the King

Matthew 1:1-17

June 4th, 2017

Intro -

Why teach Matthew?

I want to know Christ. I want our church to know Christ.

Grace and truth were realized through Him

John 1:17-18 ¹⁷ For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained *Him*.

To grow in maturity is to grow to be more like Christ. We must know Him to be like Him.

Why Matthew's gospel rather than Mark, Luke, or John?

All 4 of the gospels tell the same essential story in full agreement with each other. But they include different nuances for different purposes.

It's a teaching gospel – five significant discourses, including the famous Sermon on the Mount

Compelling stories of miracles and healings that confirm and illustrate who He is and why He came.

The recurring themes of Matthew:

Before we begin I want to draw your attention to several themes that we will see throughout Matthew.

Like a melodic line in song or a chorus, there are some themes that pop up over and over again in Matthew's gospel and we'll learn to watch for them. You can see them all encapsulated in the Great Commission at the very end of the book as the now resurrected Jesus gives a final charge to His disciples.

Matthew 28:18-20 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

1. All **authority**

- a. Jesus is presented as THE King.
- b. The family lineage of King David in ch 1
- c. His statements in the Sermon on the Mount in 5-7
 - i. You've heard it said, but I say to you . . .
 1. Claiming to be for the torah, but greater than the torah. For the OT, but greater than the OT.
 - ii. Entrance in to the kingdom is related to Him
 - iii. **Matthew 7:28-29** When Jesus had finished these words, the crowds were amazed at His teaching; ²⁹ for He was teaching them as *one* having authority, and not as their scribes.

- d. He has authority to forgive sins (9:6-8)
 - e. Authority over demons (10:1)
2. All **nations**
 - a. This gospel is clearly targeted at a Jewish audience, showing how Jesus fulfilled the OT prophecies of the Messiah but . . .
 - b. His genealogy will feature Israelites as well as Canaanites, Hittites, and Moabites (ch. 1)
 - c. Heals a Greek soldier's servant and commends his faith (ch. 8)
 - d. Much of His ministry will take place in Galilee of the Gentiles (4:15)
 - e. Culminates in the call for the gospel to go to all nations
 3. All **allegiance** (observe all that I commanded you)
 - a. Related to His authority
 - b. Compares the one who listens to His words and acts on them as a wise builder who constructs his house on a rock (ch 7)
 - c. Those who call Him Lord follow Him.
 4. Always **with you**
 - a. Perhaps a fourth melody
 - b. He is Immanuel, God with us (ch 1)
 - c. And He will be with us always, even to the end of the age (ch 28)

And we see all of this beginning in the genealogy . . . the part you skim through in your reading plan!

Listen for breaks in the pattern

1. Summary: The record of Jesus' **origin** (1:1)

Matthew's chief aim in the genealogy is hinted at in this first verse – to show that Jesus is the promised Messiah who is the King in the line of David and the one who brings a blessing to all nations as promised to Abraham. (Carson)

It is his origin, literally the words is genesis – record is biblos for book, genealogy is genesis so could be the book of Genesis but that title was already taken.

- a. Jesus is the **Messiah** who will fill the Old Testament promises:

Greek – Christos or Christ

Literally, the anointed – as kings and prophets in the OT were set apart to carry out a task of leadership and deliverance for God's people.

Even Cyrus, the Persian King, is described as "anointed" by God for his role in delivering God's people.

They were "messiahs" in a sense – anointed, set apart by God to accomplish His purpose to deliver His people.

Jesus is THE Messiah, the culmination and fulfillment of God's deliverance plan. He is the one longed for and looked for as the OT progressed.

He is the one who will fulfill the Old Testament promises to:

- i. Crush **Satan** under His feet (Genesis 3:15)

Genesis 3:15 And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel."

- ii. Bless all **nations** (Genesis 12:3)

Genesis 12:3b And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed."

Thus the connection to Abraham in Mt. 1:1

- iii. Rule forever as the true **Davidic king** (2 Samuel 7:12-16)

2 Samuel 7:12-13b I will raise up your descendant after you, who will come forth from you, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³ "He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

- iv. Bring good news to the **afflicted** and bind up the broken **hearted** (Isaiah 61:1-2)

Isaiah 61:1-2 The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, Because the LORD has anointed me To bring good news to the afflicted; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to captives And freedom to prisoners; ² To proclaim the favorable year of the LORD And the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn,

- v. Rule with **justice** and **righteousness** on the earth (Jeremiah 33:14-15, 20-21)

Jeremiah 33:14-15 'Behold, days are coming,' declares the LORD, 'when I will fulfill the good word which I have spoken concerning the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵ 'In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch of David to spring forth; and He shall execute justice and righteousness on the earth.

Jeremiah 33:20-21 "Thus says the LORD, 'If you can break My covenant for the day and My covenant for the night, so that day and night will not be at their appointed time, ²¹ then My covenant may also be broken with David My servant so that he will not have a son to reign on his throne,

How do we know that Jesus is qualified? How do we know that He is the one foretold?

2. Genealogy: Tracing the family **lineage** of Jesus (1:2-17)

The three divisions highlight three key events in the life of the nation – the beginning of the nation with the calling of Abraham, the origin of the Davidic line with David, and the Babylonian captivity.

- a. The genealogy proves that Jesus is in the line of **Abraham** and **David**. (1:2, 6)

- i. This is the key question answered by the genealogy – Is Jesus a descendant of David through the rightful line of succession? The answer is yes!
- ii. He faced accusations that He was not qualified by lineage. Matthew's genealogy is answering those accusations.
 1. **John 8:48** The Jews answered and said to Him, "Do we not say rightly that You are a Samaritan and have a demon?"
 2. **Mark 6:3** "Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? Are not His sisters here with us?" And they took offense at Him.

- b. Featuring rather than concealing sins in the record shows that nothing can stop God's plan to save sinners.
- i. Judah (v. 2-3) sinned against his brother and Tamar, both are mentioned!
 1. One of the ring leaders to sell his brother, Joseph, in to slavery in Egypt.
 2. Genesis 38 – one of the “what?!” chapters in the Bible - Failed to honor his obligation to Tamar, his daughter in law, after her husband died. He then propositioned a prostitute, only to find out it was his own daughter-in-law in disguise.
 3. Matthew could have left out the reference to his brothers and Tamar, but he didn't. There is reason to believe that Judah repented after being confronted by Tamar and ended up willing to sacrifice himself for his brother.
 - ii. Rahab (v. 5) actually was a prostitute in Jericho before the walls came tumbling down but became a woman of faith.
 - iii. David (v. 6) committed adultery and had the woman's husband murdered. His repentance is also clearly recorded in scripture. Mentions that he fathers Solomon by the wife of Uriah.
 1. **Psalm 51:4** Against You, You only, I have sinned And done what is evil in Your sight, So that You are justified when You speak And blameless when You judge.
 - iv. Solomon was a polygamous adulterer; Ahaz sacrificed his children to false gods
 - v. Matthew doesn't glory in their sin or write it off as irrelevant. But He doesn't hide it.
 - vi. “There is no pattern of righteousness in the lineage of Jesus.”
 - vii. **1 Timothy 1:15** It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost *of all*.
 - viii. Jesus came for sinners like you and me.
 - ix. The family He has come from anticipates the family He has come for.
 - x. God can work even through the sinful actions of people to bring about His desired plan.
 1. Their sins had consequences! Generations struggled, the kingdom divided, the people were eventually kicked out of their own land! But God was not scrambling to put together a plan b or c.
 2. Consider that next time someone sins against you in a profound way. It's not right, but God is good enough and powerful enough even to use that.
 3. If you ever feel like you've messed up so bad that God can't do anything with your life, read the genealogy of Jesus.
 - a. Trace those names to the stories in the OT. The genealogy should make us want to know our OT. Perhaps join our SS program going through the Bible in 3 years. We just covered Isaac. You're only two names behind!
- c. The inclusion of Tamar, Rahab, and Ruth show that God's plan is to bless all nations. (1:3, 5)
- i. Tamar and Rahab were Canaanites, Ruth was a Moabite
 - ii. Again, these ancestors could have been hidden. It certainly wouldn't have helped Jesus' standing among the Jewish elites.

- d. The Babylonian captivity shows that God's plan wasn't ***thwarted*** by centuries of tragedy. (1:11-12)
 - i. The Babylonians couldn't crush them or annihilate their identity through conquest and deportation.
 - ii. Haman couldn't extinguish them during the days of Esther.
 - iii. The Messiah was coming like a freight train and nothing could stop Him.
 - iv. Heroes and villains. Weak and strong. Righteous and wicked. Repentant and unrepentant. Nothing could thwart his plan.
- e. The pattern that changes with Joseph emphasizes Jesus' ***virgin birth***. (1:16)
 - i. Interrupts the pattern of "father of...father of. . . father of" and instead says "the husband of Mary, by whom Jesus was born."
 - ii. Even before we read the next section on Jesus' birth, we know there's something unusual here. The pattern of the language draws our attention to it.
 - iii. Does He have the right lineage? Yes. Was His birth like every other birth in this line? No.

3. Key truths

- a. God sent His Son at the ***fullness of time***.
 - i. **Galatians 4:4-5** But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, ⁵ so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.
 - ii. History is not meandering along randomly or repeating cyclically. There is a plan and there is a purpose. And at the very center is Jesus. The genealogy prepares us to see this.
 - iii. God designed history around the birth of His Son.
 - 1. He raised one empire, and allowed another to fall. Marriages occurred, people were born, leading to this moment.
 - 2. Jesus was born at just the right place at the intersection of 3 continents – Europe, Asia, and Africa.
 - 3. He birth was followed by a period of relative freedom of travel
 - a. The Roman road system featured in the Rome exhibit in Idaho Falls
 - b. They built 248,000 miles of roads, 50,000 of which were paved
 - c. They built the paved roads by digging a 3 foot deep trench, filling it with large stones, then smaller stones mixed with lime (cement mix), then sand and gravel and finally paving stones.
- d. **PICTURE**
- b. Jesus came to ***save sinners***.
 - i. **Luke 19:10** "For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."
 - ii. This plan was a lot of work from a human perspective. Why go through all the trouble? Why would the eternal God leave His throne to enter in to the mess of humanity?
 - iii. Man has a problem, God has a solution, we have a responsibility

1. Man's problem is sin.
 - a. That was the problem for everyone in Jesus' line, not just the "big" sinners.
2. God's solution shows the seriousness of sin
3. Our responsibility is to recognize our sin for what it is, treason against our Creator, turn from it, and receive His forgiveness.