

“The Birth of the King”

Matthew 1

Scripture Ref: Matt 9:13, Rom 3:10; John 8:13-41; 2 Sam 7:16; Mal 3:1, 4:5-6; Is 7:13-14

- 1. Open up our study with the birth of the rightful King of Kings and Lord of Lords.**

The Genealogy of the King

1:1 The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham:

- 2. Only one other place where this phrase is used... Gen 5:1 states “This is the book of the genealogy of Adam”. (Adam vs Christ)**
 - a. As we noted last week – the book of the genealogy of man chronicles the fall of man – from the original sin of Adam, all through history as man has fallen farther and farther away from God.**
 - b. As reflected in the many modern miracles around us, man is capable of many wonderful things – but righteousness is not one of them!**
 - c. And as we noted, God, being God, knew from the beginning that man would need a Savior**
 - d. And in this introduction by Matthew, we are being introduced to genealogy of that Savior – Jesus Christ**
- 3. And Matthew is not going to just cram Jesus down our throat, but he is going to present the credentials that will prove beyond a shadow of a doubt that Jesus Christ is the Messiah.**
 - a. Lineage is important – to the Jews, who could not be included in the congregation (I.E. society) without proof of Jewish heritage**
 - b. But when it comes to establishing a royal position such as king, lineage must be proven.**
 - c. Jesus, we will find, has TWO aspects to His lineage....
Human and Divine.**

Jesus Human Lineage

2 Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob, and Jacob begot Judah and his brothers. 3 Judah begot Perez and Zerah by Tamar, Perez begot Hezron, and Hezron begot Ram. 4 Ram begot Amminadab, Amminadab begot Nahshon, and Nahshon begot Salmon. 5 Salmon begot Boaz by Rahab, Boaz begot Obed by Ruth, Obed begot Jesse, 6 and Jesse begot David the king. David the king begot Solomon by her who had been the wife of Uriah. 7 Solomon begot Rehoboam, Rehoboam begot Abijah, and Abijah begot Asa. 8 Asa begot Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat begot Joram, and Joram begot Uzziah. 9 Uzziah

begot Jotham, Jotham begot Ahaz, and Ahaz begot Hezekiah. 10 Hezekiah begot Manasseh, Manasseh begot Amon, and Amon begot Josiah. 11 Josiah begot Jeconiah and his brothers about the time they were carried away to Babylon.

12 And after they were brought to Babylon, Jeconiah begot Shealtiel, and Shealtiel begot Zerubbabel. 13 Zerubbabel begot Abiud, Abiud begot Eliakim, and Eliakim begot Azor. 14 Azor begot Zadok, Zadok begot Achim, and Achim begot Eliud. 15 Eliud begot Eleazar, Eleazar begot Matthan, and Matthan begot Jacob. 16 And Jacob begot Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus who is called Christ.

17 So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations, from David until the captivity in Babylon are fourteen generations, and from the captivity in Babylon until the Christ are fourteen generations.

4. Not a “complete listing” – obviously, but a “listing of highlights”
 - a. Matthew sets a “meter” or pattern – three sets of fourteen – a way of memorizing genealogy
 - b. All Jewish children would memorize genealogy as part of schooling.
5. What this list does do – establishes Jesus’ legal claim to the throne of David through his adoptive father Joseph.
 - a. This is not His blood lineage through Mary, but His legal lineage through Joseph.
 - b. Jesus also has a blood lineage through Mary, which is given in the Gospel of Luke.
6. Interesting that Matthew included four women –gentile women
 - a. Tamar – A Canaanite woman who was given to the first son of Judah
 - i. Er was wicked, and God killed him – so Judah sent the other son Onan to provide a son (legal duty)
 - ii. Onan was jealous for his own son, so he did not complete the act, and left Tamar childless
 - iii. God was not happy with this, and He killed Onan
 - iv. Judah – seeing two of his sons killed, told Tamar to go and live with her father, and when his next son got older he would fulfill his duty.
 - v. Judah basically forgot about the whole thing – and this angered Tamar, so she took off her mourning clothes, dressed up like a prostitute, and sat by the road that Judah traveled...
 - vi. Judah comes along, sees her, decided to lie with her, had left home without his AMEX or VISA, and so he gives her his signet ring, cord and staff as a pledge.

- vii. Later he hears that Tamar is pregnant, and his first response is “bring her out and let her be burned”
 - viii. But as she is brought forward, she says “OK, but first can you help me figure out who these belong to?”
 - ix. I would have loved to see the look on Judah’s face! But his words were “she has been more righteous than I because I did not fulfill my duty to her –(YA THINK!)
 - x. From here - Perez and Zerah
- b. Rahab – Canaanite harlot who lived in Jericho, assisted Israel in the overthrow of the city. Came to the Lord
 - c. Ruth – Moabite woman who took the faith of mother-in-law Naomi
 - d. Bathsheba – the one whom David had an adulterous relationship with, and killed her husband...
7. Point? To embarrass the Pharisees? (maybe!)
- a. No – the point is that Jesus came not to the righteous – but to save sinners

Matt 9:13 *For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance."*

- b. Jesus was not excluding the righteous – it’s just that there were no righteous people!
- c. This must have been a big shock to the religious establishment of Jesus day – but it was true!
- d. True then – true now. The bible clearly tells us in Romans

Romans 3:10 *"there is none righteous – no not one"*

- e. So if you are here today – no matter what you may have done in the past – Jesus came for YOU – to save YOU from the penalty of sin!
8. Another point is made in the statement - *“of whom was born Jesus who is called Christ.”*
- a. Jesus was not just another boy born in the lineage of David – there were thousands of those boys.
 - b. Something else that set Jesus apart... and we find a clue in that statement *“the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus who is called Christ.”*
 - c. Up to the point of Joseph, everyone “begat” someone. But at Joseph the “begetting” stops – instead we get *“of whom was born”*

Jesus Divine Lineage

18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. 19 Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly.

9. **Most marriages were arranged at that time, and the couple would be “betrothed” or engaged for a period of a year**
 - a. **During that time the couple did not live together or consummate the marriage, but they were considered married just the same.**
 - b. **The bride and groom would prepare for their life – bride would prepare for the wedding, groom would build a room or home, etc.**
 - c. **For a wife to come up pregnant during that time – not a good thing.**
 - d. **Equal to adultery – punishable by death.**

Suspicious Circumstances

10. **So Mary is “found with child” – IOW she started to grow.**
 - a. **Imagine the conversation – “I’m pregnant, but I’m still a virgin.” RIGHT.**
 - b. **Joseph was a just man – did not want to stone her (Romans had removed ability to inflict death sentence, but all you had to do was get a crowd angry enough, and it happened.)**
 - c. **Instead he “was minded to put her away secretly” IOW break the engagement by divorce**
11. **Worth noting that the enemies of Jesus knew there were “suspicious” circumstances surrounding His parentage, and they made reference to it in passages like John 8:19 and 8:41.**

John 8:13 The Pharisees therefore said to Him, "You bear witness of Yourself; Your witness is not true."

John 8:14-18

*14 Jesus answered and said to them, "Even if I bear witness of Myself, My witness is true, for **I know where I came from and where I am going**; but you do not know where I come from and where I am going. 15 **You judge according to the flesh; I judge no one.** 16 And yet if I do judge, My judgment is true; for I am not alone, but I am with the Father who sent Me. 17 It is also written in your law that the testimony of two men is true. **18 I am One who bears witness of Myself, and the Father who sent Me bears witness of Me.**"*

John 8:19 Then they said to Him, "Where is Your Father?"

John 8:41 Then they said to Him, "We were not born of fornication; we have one Father -- God."

- a. (today that's called hitting below the belt!)
- b. There were even lies spread that Mary had become pregnant from a Roman soldier.
- c. Here, Matthew sets the story straight - both then and now...

God Moves After 400 Years of Silence

20 But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. 21 And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins."

12. Three things Joseph is being told....

13. #1 - "Joseph, son of David" – The angel is reminding Joseph of his royal lineage – something significant – a reference to his legal lineage, from the line of David, to whom God had declared...

2 Sam 7:16 "...And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever."

14. #2 – Jesus was miraculously conceived by God Himself

- a. This is known as the "Doctrine of Virgin Birth" or "Virginal Conception"
- b. That means that Mary had not been with a man – any man.
- c. The God's Holy Spirit impregnated Mary with a "seed" that did not contain the curse of sin.
- d. Hence Jesus would be born "of a woman", but without the sin nature of man.
- e. *NOTE: Not to be confused with "immaculate conception", which wrongly teaches that Mary was born without a sin nature; or "Perpetual Virginity" which wrongly teaches that Mary remained a virgin for the remainder of her life. "Wrongly" simply means that there is no biblical reference or proof of either of these doctrines.*
- f. *NOTE: Also not to be confused with Parthenogenesis, which is the development of an embryo without fertilization by a male – produces only female offspring*

15. #3 - "do not be afraid" – makes you wonder if Joseph thought Mary was a few French-fries short of a Happy Meal...

- a. Put yourself in his position – say your daughter or fiancé comes up pregnant – "but I am still a virgin"
- b. Either she is lying or is living in an alternate reality...
- c. But this – this is neither – this is GOD MOVING

16. Remember – God had been silent towards Israel for some 400 years, since Malachi spoke the last words of God to man under the old covenant:

Mal 3:1

"Behold, I send My messenger, And he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, Will suddenly come to His temple, Even the Messenger of the covenant, In whom you delight. Behold, He is coming," Says the LORD of hosts.

Mal 4:5-6

5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. 6 And he will turn The hearts of the fathers to the children, And the hearts of the children to their fathers, Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse."

22 So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: 23 "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us."

17. Matthew is quoting from Isaiah

Isa 7:13-14

13 Then he said, "Hear now, O house of David! Is it a small thing for you to weary men, but will you weary my God also? 14 Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.

- a. **This title of Jesus refers to both His deity (God with us) and His identification and nearness to man (God *with us*)**
- b. **There are over 300 prophecies concerning the Messiah, here are just a few about his coming...**

Prophecies of Jesus Birth

Prophecy	OT Prediction	NT Fulfillment
The "seed of a woman"	Gen 3:15	Matt 1:18, Gal 4:4
Descendant of Abraham	Gen 12:3	Matt 1:1
Descendant of Isaac	Gen 17:19	Luke 3:34
Descendant of Jacob	Num 24:7	Matt 1:2, 2:2
From the tribe of Judah	Gen 49:10	Luke 3:33
Heir to the throne of David	Is 9:7	Luke 1:32-33
Anointed and eternal	Ps 45:6-7, 102:25-27	Heb 1:8-12
Born in Bethlehem	Mic 5:2	Luke 2:4-5, 7
Born to a virgin	Is 7:14	Matt 1:18-21, Luke 1:26-27, 30-31
Messiah's birth would trigger slaughter of children	Jer 31:15	Matt 2:16-18
Messiah would come up out of Egypt	Hos 11:1	Matt 2:14-15

**From Nelson's Study Bible*

24 Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, 25 and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS.

18. The simple submission and obedience of Joseph is noteworthy – can we say that about our lives?

a. Will we simply acknowledge Jesus as our King?

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