

Matthew 1:1
“The Book Of Jesus, The King”

For this Christmas message I felt led to take a peek at Jesus from a different perspective, not from his birth but rather from the prophetic significance of His incarnation. To do this we will need to look at Matthew. The book of Matthew bridges the gap between the O.T. and the N.T. Furthermore, Matthew quotes or alludes to the O.T. 129 times. The final two verses of the final chapter of the O.T. we are told by the prophet Malachi that the Lord “..will send you Elijah the prophet Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. 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.” Between this prophecy and these opening words of Matthew the Bible has been silent for 400 years. During those 400 years the world has changed from being ruled by the Medo-Persian Empire, through the Grecian world to the Roman period to which the N.T. is written. Radical changes have taken place within God's people Israel as well, they have gone from idolatry to legal holiness as the law became an idol. The common spoken language changed from Hebrew, to Aramaic, to Greek. Though the nation was ruled by Rome it was ruled with in by warring political factions, (Pharisees, Sadducees, Scribes, and the Herodians.)

Matthew repeats several phrases like, the words **“might be fulfilled”** mentioned some 15 times, **“spoken”** in reference to the O.T. prophets 15 times, **“kingdom of Heaven”** 32 times and **“Kingdom”** 56 times. What these phrases reveal is that Matthew's main theme is to show Jesus as the fulfillment of O.T. prophecy, the long hoped-for King, the Messiah, thus as John the Baptist & Jesus both said; “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

Verse 1 starts the section with the genealogy, that continues to verse 17. It is divided into three sections, as we see that Jesus' birth answers the failures of each of those 14 generations. The genealogy is important because the accuracy of the claim of Jesus rests upon the fact that He the prophetic promise given to Abraham and David.

The words, **“The book of the generation..”** appears only one other time in the Bible in Gen. 5:1 where we are given the generations of the sons of Adam. All of us are in the family of Adam, and we got into that family by being born into it. And unfortunately, we have taken on his fallen characteristics one of which according to Rom. 5:12 we all die. Adam's record is a record of death. In order to change our trajectory, we must get into the family of Jesus! And to do this we also have to be born into His family by **new birth**, John 1:13, 3:3. It is God's desire that all of mankind can be born into this “new family”, but He won't force you it's your choice!

Right here told that “Jesus Christ, is the Son of David, the son of Abraham.” What isn't immediately apparent is why Matthew felt called to write that? The reason is that every King must be able to show that he has the right to be King which has to be passed on through the ancestors. So, Matthew reveals is that Jesus is rightful heir royally through God's promise to David in 2 Sam. 7:12-16 where God says through Nathan “I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be his Father, and he shall be My son.” But why didn't Matthew place the historical ancestry in chronological order instead of placing David who was born 490 or 14 generations after Abraham? And furthermore, why didn't Matthew consider David's son Solomon the fulfillment this prophecy? Matthew did know that Abraham came before David, but he is seeking to establish that Jesus is the One whom the Kingdom of Heaven on earth will be established not just the furthering on the nation of Israel. Solomon, to some degree, partially fulfilled this prophecy, as he did build a temple. But even

though His name meant “peaceful” and his two great works were that of wisdom and building of the temple; his story and reign is one of great disappointment and failure. The key thing about David was his obedience to the Lord seen in the closeness of his walk with God. In Acts 13:22 we read that “..David the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart, who will do all My will.” That was not the case with Solomon David’s son.

Notice as well that the word “seed” is used not “seeds”, and this reveals that this is speaking of Jesus as **the One who would come and fulfill** “..the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be his Father, and he shall be My son.”

Next, we come to the fact that Jesus is called the “son of Abraham”. Matthew reveals this as he is stating that Jesus has the right to the throne racially, **He is from the father of the founder of the people**. It is here that we look back and remember the promises of God to Abraham in Gen. 12:3, and 22:16-18 right after Abraham took Isaac up on the mount to sacrifice him the Lord said “**By Myself I have sworn, says the LORD, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son; blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies. In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.**” Again, we see the word “seed” and not “seeds”. Isaac was not the one in whom all the “**the nations of the earth shall be blessed**”. He was weak, unlike his father; whom we are told in Rom. 4: 9 “..that faith was accounted to Abraham for righteousness.” The crowning characteristic in Abraham’s life was his total reliance upon God; so, to with Jesus he would say in John 5:30 “**I can of Myself do nothing.**” Matthews introduction to this genealogy is his way of saying that the nation had not produced what it so desperately needed; **the natural heirs did not bring about this NEW BIRTH**, so he shows that Jesus is the fulfillment of this as He has the right to the throne royally and relationally. What about you? What are you looking for? Are you still trying to make it on your own? Are you still missing something? Grace has appeared as we are told in John 1:14 “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”

In Luke’s account we have another genealogy that traces Jesus Christ back to Adam. And when you read the genealogies in Matthew and in Luke, you’ll find that there are differences in the genealogies. Matthew’s genealogy we are tracing the line of Jesus back to David through Solomon, but as you read Luke’s genealogy you’ll find that it traces the genealogy actually not of Joseph, but of Mary. She also goes back to David and to Abraham, but she comes through David’s son Nathan. Mary also was of the tribe of Judah and a descendant of David, but not through Solomon and his line, but through David’s other son Nathan. In Matthew’s gospel, Joseph is actually a descendant of David through the kingly line, (Solomon) and as you read the Kings of Judah you find that they are listed in the descendants of Joseph, thus he was the rightful heir to the throne.

With that said, there is a real problem to Joseph being King in Israel because his line goes back through the kings of Israel which includes Jeconiah, of whom the Lord cursed through Jeremiah the prophet saying that “**none of his seed would sit upon the throne of Israel forever.**” (Jeremiah 22:30) So that kingly line that came through Solomon was disallowed from sitting on the throne, because of Jeconiah’s sin there in Jeremiah 22:30. Jesus, being the son of Mary, still has a claim to the throne of David, but not through Jeconiah who was cursed not able to rule or any of his descendants. If Jesus were the son of Joseph **biologically**, He could not reign upon the throne of David because of that curse in Jeremiah 22; that is why we read in verse 16 that Joseph

was the “**husband of Mary**” and not **the father of Jesus**. But being the son of David through Nathan, and through a different line, He has the right to the throne, coming from Mary. So why dose Matthew trace Jesus’ genealogy through Joseph? Because, as far as the Jewish nation was concerned, they would recognize Joseph as the kingly line, and thus the eldest son of Joseph (*though He was born of the Holy Spirit*) would then have a right to the throne. This then is His **legal lineage not His blood lineage**.