



1: The King is Coming! (Matthew 1:1-17)

We begin our study through the gospel of Matthew looking at the family tree of Jesus and what it tells us - **all families NEED God's forgiveness.** And that's why the King is coming!

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VISUAL NOTES

AUTHOR

This gospel has no writer's name attached in the earliest forms, but this doesn't mean we don't have a good idea of who wrote it. The earliest Christian tradition links this writing to **Matthew**, a former tax collector who became an apostle of Jesus - Matthew (aka Levi - Mt 9:9; 10:3; Mk 2:14; Lk 5:27-29). The **Didache** (greek "teaching"), an early collection of Christian sayings and practices, quotes from Matthew more than any other gospel.¹ Matthew contains more of the teachings of Jesus than any other gospel. This writing was likely authored **BEFORE** the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple (AD 70), since the writer notes Jesus prophesying of its destruction, yet not mentioning its fulfillment.

AUDIENCE

This audience was **Jewish**, which is why the author quotes multiple Hebrew Scriptures to demonstrate how Jesus fulfills numerous prophecies of the long awaited Jewish Messiah. While Jesus was thoroughly Jewish, Matthew highlights how Jesus came to be the Savior for people from all nations. All who refuse to receive Jesus' claims & teachings...will be condemned by Him in the last judgement - including Jews.

Jesus the Messiah

Matthew 1:1 (NIV) This is the genealogy of **Jesus the Messiah** the son of David, the son of Abraham:

Jesus is not just another rabbi, and Jesus is more than a prophet; He is the long anticipated Messiah. The Greek word here is **Christou**, meaning "**Messiah**".

- **Messiah** is a term for the anointed king. Matthew demonstrates how Jesus fulfills the prophecies to be in the family line of **David** (the greatest king of Israel) and **Abraham** (the founding father of Israel).
- 🕒 We should understand "**the son of**" to mean "in the family lineage of" rather than the direct son of.
- The phrase "**Son of David**" is littered throughout Matthew's Gospel (1:1, 1:6; 1:20; 9:27; 12:23; 15:22; 20:30-31; 21:9, 15; 22:42-45) - 17 times, more than any other book of the New Testament (next is Luke with 13).² Further, in a passage often read at Christmas-time, look at the promise given (also see [Ps 89:3-4](#))...

Isaiah 9:6-7 (NIV) For **to us a child is born**, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called **Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace**. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. **He will reign on David's throne** and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness **from that time on and forever**. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

- Jesus is referred to as **the son of Abraham**. But before Abraham has *any* children, he is promised that his family would be like the number of stars he could see (Gen 15:5). Further, God promises that all nations would

¹ Michael J. Wilkins, Matthew, *The NIV Application Commentary* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 2004), 21-22.

² Leon Morris, *The Gospel according to Matthew, The Pillar New Testament Commentary* (Grand Rapids, MI; Leicester, England: W.B. Eerdmans; Inter-Varsity Press, 1992), 20.

be blessed through Abraham's family (Gen 12:1-3; 22:18), setting the stage for *someone in the family of Abraham to impact the world.*

Father Abraham Had Many "Sons" & "Daughters"

Matthew 1:2 (NIV)

Abraham was the father of **Isaac**, Isaac the father of **Jacob**, Jacob the father of **Judah** and his brothers,

Yahweh - the one true God - is referred to as "the God of **Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob**" (Ex 3:6, 1 Kgs 18:36, 2 Chr 30:6, Mt 22:32, Acts 3:13). Anyone familiar with the Hebrew Scriptures will note that these patriarchs had shortcomings.

- **Abraham** was faithful to God, but gave in to the whims of his wife to be intimate with her servant so he could have a son (Gen 16:2), leading to a family feud. Abraham twice told said his wife was only his sister, to keep from being killed by kings who found her attractive (Gen 12:13, 20:2).
- **Isaac** is the promised son through whom all nations would be blessed. He is also the son whom Yahweh told Abraham to sacrifice on Mt Moriah, but whom God spared by providing a substitute sacrifice. Later, Jesus - the promised Son of God - would become the substitute sacrifice on the same mountain. Isaac was a godly man, ***BUT still a sinner...following his father's example and told powerful men that his wife, Rebecca, was his sister*** (Gen 26:7).

Big Truth: All families NEED God's forgiveness.

- **Jacob** the trickster lied to his father & cheated his brother out of his birthright. Jacob was later humbled by God and renamed **Israel** "God prevails" (Gen 32:28). Jacob (aka Israel) had 12 sons - the 12 tribes of Israel.
- **Judah** was the tribe from whom the future Messiah would come from. Just before his father, Jacob/Israel, died, Jacob prophesied that:

Genesis 49:10 (NIV) The **scepter** will not depart from **Judah**, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until He to whom it belongs shall come and **the obedience of the nations shall be His**.

Judah was known for some righteous deeds, but he was also known for some unrighteous deeds - like the one known to any Jew reading this next text.

Matthew 1:3-4 (NIV)

Judah the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was **Tamar**, Perez the father of Hezron, Hezron the father of Ram, Ram the father of Amminadab, Amminadab the father of Nahshon, Nahshon the father of Salmon,

Tamar had previously been married to 2 of Judah's sons, after 1 died (Gen 38). When the 2nd son died Tamar expected to be married to the next oldest son, but Judah delayed and Tamar went back to live with her family. After Judah's wife dies, is intimate with a supposed prostitute who was daughter-in-law, Tamar, and she gets pregnant with twins **Perez & Zerah** - courtesy of her father-in-law, **JUDAH**.

Tamar heads the list of 5 women mentioned in the genealogy of Jesus. Women were not typically included in Old Testament genealogies.

🔍 *What point is Matthew trying to make?* Matthew shows the value & redemption of both men and women who have sinned, Jews & Gentiles who have sinned, yet who are all invited into the KINGDOM of God.

All families NEED God's forgiveness.

Matthew 1:5-6a (NIV)

Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was **Rahab**, Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was **Ruth**, Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of **King David**.

- **Rahab** was a prostitute of a pagan people who protected the spies who came to Jericho as the Israelites entered the Promised Land (Hebrews 11:30-31).
- **Ruth** was not Jewish; Ruth was a Moabite (Ruth 1:4).
- 🔍 **Rahab & Ruth** (2 Gentile women) become great, great grandmother & great grandmother of King David!
- Matthew spotlights **King David**. This emphasis on the word "king" is used 22 times in Matthew's writing, more than any other New Testament writing.³ King David didn't always live rightly, and Matthew reminds readers of that in the next line.

³ Michael J. Wilkins, Matthew, The NIV Application Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 2004), 60.

Matthew 1:6b (NIV)

David was the father of **Solomon**, whose mother had been **Uriah's wife**,

Why mention **Uriah's wife - Bathsheba**? Every Jewish person would have immediately recoiled when reminded of this wicked sin of King David (2 Sam 11).

1 Kings 15:5 (NIV) For David had done what was right in the eyes of the LORD and had not failed to keep any of the LORD'S commands all the days of his life—**except in the case of Uriah** the Hittite.

Solomon was given wisdom by God and was world-renown, but he disobeyed Yahweh, and married foreign wives who turned him to their false gods (1 Kings 11:1-13).

Matthew 1:7 (NIV)

Solomon the father of Rehoboam, **Rehoboam** the father of **Abijah**, Abijah the father of Asa,

Rehoboam & his son **Abijah** were both wicked kings. Speaking of Abijah the Scriptures state:

1 Kings 15:3 (NIV) He [Abijah] committed all the sins his father had done before him; **his heart was not fully devoted to the LORD his God**, as the heart of David his forefather had been.

Matthew 1:8-9 (NIV)

Asa the father of Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat the father of Jehoram, Jehoram the father of Uzziah, Uzziah the father of Jotham, Jotham the father of Ahaz, Ahaz the father of **Hezekiah**,

Note: Matthew omits some of the kings who are in the genealogy of Jesus between **Jehoram & Uzziah** (Ahaziah - 2 Kgs 8:25-26, Joash - 2 Kings 12:1-3, and Amaziah, father of Uzziah (2 Kings 14:1-4).⁴

Ahaz was a wicked king who trusted other foreign powers for help rather than trusting Yahweh.

Hezekiah ("*Yahweh is strength*") was a godly king who listened to God's prophet Isaiah. Hezekiah cleaned, repaired, and reopened the temple while tearing down the altars of false gods that littered the land (2 Kings 18:3-7; 2 Chron. 29). When the Assyrians came to conquer Jerusalem after destroying hundreds of other cities in the surrounding nations, Hezekiah went to the temple and pled with Yahweh to defend them (Isaiah 37). The angel of Yahweh killed 185,000 of Assyria's troops! (2 Kings 19:35-37)

Matthew 1:10-11 (NIV)

Hezekiah the father of **Manasseh**, Manasseh the father of **Amon**, Amon the father of **Josiah**, and Josiah the father of **Jeconiah** [aka **Jehoiachin**] and his brothers at the time of the **exile to Babylon**.

Manasseh & Amon were ungodly kings who brought images of their false gods into Yahweh's temple. Manasseh even sacrificed one of his sons to these idols (2 Kings 21).

Josiah was a godly king, OBEYING the Word of Yahweh, cleaning the temple, getting rid of false prophets, and calling the people back to following Yahweh.

Matthew skips the wicked son of Josiah - **Jehoiakim** (who burned Jeremiah's scroll), but mentions his son, **Jeconiah** [aka **Jehoiachin**]. Jeconiah (Jehoiachin) was 18 years old when he became king and only reigned 3 months when Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonians besieged Jerusalem. But rather than kill Jeconiah, he was taken captive to **Babylon** (2 Kings 24:8-17).

Nebuchadnezzar made **Zedekiah** (Jeconiah's uncle) king of Judah. Eleven years later in 586 BC Nebuchadnezzar came back to Jerusalem and besieged the city again. He destroyed Jerusalem and the temple, and forced Zedekiah to watch all his sons slaughtered. Zedekiah's eyes were gouged out and he was taken to Babylon (2 Kings 25:7).

Was the family tree of Abraham & David cut down? Nope. Jeconiah (Jehoiachin) has sons while in Babylon. And one of those sons, **Zerubbabel**, was allowed to come back to Jerusalem.

Matthew 1:12-13 (NIV)

After the exile to Babylon: Jeconiah was the father of Shealtiel, Shealtiel the father of **Zerubbabel**, Zerubbabel the father of Abihud, Abihud the father of Eliakim, Eliakim the father of Azor,

The Persians (conquered the Babylonians) allowed Jews to go back to Jerusalem, including **Zerubbabel**, the grandson of Jeconiah (Jehoiachin). Although he was only given the title of governor, *the kingly line of David through Hezekiah, through Josiah, and now through Zerubbabel was still alive!* Zerubbabel leads the rebuilding the temple that the prophecies say the Messiah would walk through generations later!

⁴ Michael J. Wilkins, Matthew, The NIV Application Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 2004), 61-62.

Malachi 3:1-2 (NIV) I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before **me**. Then suddenly **the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple**; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come," says the Lord Almighty. But who can endure the day of **his coming**? Who can stand when **he appears**? For **he** will be like a refiner's fire or a launderer's soap.

Beyond Zerubbabel, there is not much known of several of the generations that followed including...

Matthew 1:14-15 (NIV)

Azor the father of Zadok, Zadok the father of Akim, Akim the father of Elihud, Elihud the father of Eleazar, Eleazar the father of Matthan, Matthan the father of Jacob,

The Main Characters of the Story

Matthew 1:16-17 (NIV)

and Jacob the father of **Joseph**, the husband of **Mary**, and Mary was the mother of **Jesus** who is called **the Messiah**. Thus there were fourteen generations in all from Abraham to David, fourteen from David to the exile to Babylon, and fourteen from the exile to the Messiah.

Scholars debate the meaning of the 3 sets of 14 generations. Some point to the number of King David's Hebrew name equaling 14. Others focus on these 3 sets of 14 also being **6 sets of 7**, awaiting the 7th - the number of completion, in which Jesus is about to fulfill. Others note that these names point to the high points of Abraham & David contrasted with the lowest point in Israel's history - the exile to Babylon.

The stage was set. It was the time for the long awaited Messiah King to show up on the scene.

- **HOW would the Messiah arrive?** As you know, Jesus would be born to the young, humble family of **Joseph & Mary**.
- **WHY He arrives** will become crystal clear. The King is coming because...***all families need God's forgiveness***.



- **Seek & Share CHRIST during the CHRISTmas season.** Open the Scriptures. Make time to pray. Look for opportunities to serve others and share Jesus with them.
- Take the opportunity to tell your family and friends of the FORGIVENESS that Jesus has given you...and offered to them.

heretoserveyou

Have questions and need some help? ...real soon...how about now? Please **call** or **text** us soon!

- * Contact **Jackie** (850-673-1582), **Christy** (850-673-9764), or another follower of Jesus soon!
- * Or call our **deacons & wives**: Alan & Christy Androski (850-464-1428), Freddy & Joyce Howard (850-973-0047), Tim & Joni Hughey (850-464-1156), Mark & Dot Mancil (850-253-5405), Boss & Amelia Mulkey (850-464-6717), Jim & Derita Pinkard (850-464-6188), or Tom & Martha Waddail (850-973-0011).

discussionquestions

Take some time to discuss these questions with your family, friends, or group.

1. What challenged or encouraged you most from today's teaching? (You might need to look back in your notes to help explain your answer.)
2. Why do you think Jesus wasn't born into a righteous family of pure-blooded Jewish people? Why did Matthew point to men and women, Jews & Gentiles, righteous and unrighteous moments in the family tree of Jesus?
3. Take a few minutes to discuss which family members of Jesus are most intriguing to you and share why.
4. Which friend or family member can we pray for you to care for and share with this Christmas season?
5. **Share prayer needs and pray for one another.**