

Reading Genealogies

MATTHEW 1:1-16

BASIC BACKGROUND QUESTIONS:

- ✕ Who wrote the gospel of Matthew?
 - + Matthew
- ✕ To whom was he writing?
 - + Jews
- ✕ What is his purpose in writing?
 - + To display to the Jews that Jesus was the perfect Messianic King for all peoples.
- ✕ When was he writing?
 - + AD 55-65
- ✕ What was the major point of discussion among Matthew's readers?
 - + What was the place of Gentiles in the church?

TEXTUAL QUESTIONS

- ✗ What type of literature is this paragraph?
- ✗ Who is the main subject?
- ✗ What are the main verbs?
- ✗ Who does the action?
- ✗ What is the main point?
- ✗ Are there any abnormalities that the author is stressing?
- ✗ Are there any unusual figures, actions, or statements? If so, why are they there?

FOUR STRANGE WOMEN

- ✘ Tamar – Genesis 38 – Canaanite – prostitute – condemned by Judah
- ✘ Rahab – Joshua 2 – Canaanite – prostitute – condemned by Joshua
- ✘ Ruth – Ruth 1 – Moabite – condemned by Moses (Deut 23:3)
- ✘ Bathsheba – unsure of ethnicity – 2 Samuel 11

PERSONAL APPLICATIONS

- ✘ God's grace covers the most wicked of sins. Thus, God can forgive me when I fall short, turn away, or make rebellious choices.
- ✘ God loves to highlight His forgiveness, so I should rejoice in my total forgiveness, and not let the feeling of guilt paralyze me in future ministry.
- ✘ Since God's grace can forgive others, I should forgive others of their sins.

PERSONAL APPLICATIONS

- ✘ Since God's grace can forgive others, I will give people a second chance even if they don't deserve it in my eyes.
- ✘ God's love extends to all races and people. All races are included within His divine plan. Thus, I should stop thinking or saying things that communicate racial or gender prejudice since it is not Christlike.
- ✘ God's love extends to people who are not pretty and social outcast. I naturally seek the near and dear, while God seeks the ugly and outsider. Thus, I will seek to serve someone in the next two weeks who is racially diverse or who is socially an outcast.