

Sermon Supplement

Matthew 1:1-17

A New Hope

UNDERSTANDING THE PASSAGE

1. **Main Idea of the Passage:** God is at work among us, even when we don't see it and even when we don't deserve it, and he is faithful to fulfill his promises.
2. **Melodic Line of the Book:** "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:18-20).

KEY WORDS/THEMES

1. **Hope** (*elpizō*) – to have confidence or trust in; the Bible uses this not in terms of a wish but something that is sure and certain; see, Matt. 12:21; Rom. 5:4-5; Col. 1:5.
2. **Genealogy** (*genesis*) **v. 1** – an account of someone's life or history; the expression 'book of the genealogy' is from the Old Testament (Gen. 2:4; 5:1) and refers to a 'history of the origin.' See also, Luke 3:23-38.
3. **Fourteen** (*dekatessares*) **v. 17** – "The simplest explanation—the one that best fits the context—observes that the numerical value of "David" in Hebrew is fourteen. By this symbolism Matthew points out that the promised "son of David" (1:1), the Messiah, has come. And if the third set of fourteen is short one member, perhaps it will suggest to some readers that just as God cuts short the time of distress for the sake of his elect (24:22), so also he mercifully shortens the period from the Exile to Jesus the Messiah." – D.A. Carson

STRUCTURE/OUTLINE OF THE PASSAGE

- I. Overview of the Genealogy (v. 1)
- II. Fourteen Generations – Abraham to David (vv. 2-6a)
- III. Fourteen Generations – David to the Exile (vv. 6b-11)
- IV. Fourteen Generations – The Exile to Christ (vv. 12-16)
- V. Summary of the Genealogy (v. 17)

GOSPEL CENTRALITY

Our hope is not rooted in something, not in who we are or what we can do, but in a person, Jesus Christ, the fulfillment of God's promises. The gospel is ultimately a person and what he has done for us.

KNOWING AND BEING KNOWN

- What does the list of those mentioned in the genealogy show about God's character? How does this list give you hope that God can use you?
- Share with the group areas of your life or times in your life when it has been difficult to trust God. What have been besetting idols that have been hard to release and let God reign in your heart (e.g., approval, comfort, power, control)?
- Spend some time recounting the faithfulness of God. Where has He proven to be faithful? What were some dark situations in the past where it was difficult to see how God was working, but now there has been more light or awareness of how God was indeed at work?

RESPONDING IN PRAYER

- Thank God for the sure and certain hope that we have in Jesus Christ.
- Ask God to bring comfort and peace in the midst of difficult and uncertain days.
- Ask God for a posture of humility, that we would come to Him, not in pride, but in recognition of who He is and what He has promised to do on our behalf.
- Ask God for greater depths of trust in Him and his faithfulness, that He is who He says He is and that He will do what He says He will do.
- Pray for those among your family, friends, and community that have not put their trust in Jesus, that their eyes would be opened to who He is and their hearts would be drawn to Him.