

FLAWED, BUT CHOSEN - Introduction

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Part of Flawed But ChosenThe Imperfect Road to Redemption

January 23, 2021

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January 24, 2021

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Kintsugi - an ancient Japanese art of repairing broken pottery by mending areas where it's broken with lacquer dusted or mixed with powdered gold, so that what was broken actually becomes something beautiful.

God has always had a purpose for each of our lives, and taking a life seemingly broken beyond repair and restoring it to something ____ is often how God works.

For no matter how many promises God has made, they are 'Yes' in Christ. And so through him the 'Amen' is spoken by us to the glory of God.

—2 Corinthians 1:20 (NIV11)

Just as a broken vase can be restored to something beautiful, God has chosen ____ to do special things, great things, for His Kingdom.

Jesus: 'You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.'

—John 15:16 (NIV11)

Matthew's genealogy is the ____ message for a time such as we're in today, when things are out of whack and seem far from normal or hopeful.

This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham:

—Matthew 1:1 (NIV11)

Right here in this verse we have, in many ways, a ____ of the entire Gospel.

The Gospel of Matthew was written by the apostle and tax collector Matthew, and it was geared for an audience of ____ who had either come to faith in Christ or were investigating Christ and Christianity.

The Jews placed great importance on the ____ of their lineage.

Matthew shows us that Jesus could not only trace his lineage back to Abraham, but that he could also trace it back to ____, so he was also part of a small group of Jews who could trace their lineage back to the line of Judah's kings.

"Jesus" (Greek) = "Joshua" or "Yeshua," (Hebrew) = "Yahweh saves," or "The Lord is salvation"

Joshua was the leader appointed by God to take His people into the promised land, and now Jesus is the leader appointed by God to take sinful people into ____.

"Messiah" (Hebrew) = "anointed one" = "Christ" (Greek)

Starting as early as Genesis 3, there are allusions and prophecies of one to come, the anointed one, the Messiah, who would powerfully deliver God's people, and now Matthew says, "____ the one you've been waiting for."

Matthew tells us Jesus is "the son of David," indicating his royal identity as ____.

'The LORD declares to you (David) that the LORD himself will establish a house for you: When your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I

will establish his kingdom. He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.'

—2 Samuel 7:11-13 (NIV11)

God made a promise to King David - an heir of David's will someday reign ____.

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.

—Isaiah 9:6-7 (NIV11)

This announcement of a king goes beyond the Jews, as the title "son of ____" points to.

The LORD had said to Abram, 'Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.'

—Genesis 12:1-3 (NIV11)

The Jews and we often forget that Abram was originally called to form a covenant people, "a great nation," not simply for themselves but so that God could *bless* ____ *through them*.

God: 'No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations. I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you

and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you.'

—Genesis 17:5-7 (NIV11)

God says His Kingdom will one day expand to welcome all peoples everywhere, and this has been coming to pass through ____.

When Matthew and others in antiquity write so-and-so is the “father” of so-and-so, the Greek word there doesn’t require an actual father/son relationship but typically means “____.”

Vs. 17 tells us there’s a ____ to the ordering of these names.

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.

—Matthew 1:17 (NIV11)

Matthew grouped the names into three sections of fourteen generations each, based on three stages of Jewish history.

- **Abraham to ____**
- **David’s son ____ to “the exile to Babylon”**
- **Exile to the birth of ____**

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

Matthew 1:2-6a: *Abraham was the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, 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, 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....”*

Matthew 1:6b-11: *...David was the father of Solomon,*

whose mother had been Uriah's wife, Solomon the father of Rehoboam, Rehoboam the father of Abijah, Abijah the father of Asa, 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, Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, Manasseh the father of Amon, Amon the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jeconiah and his brothers at the time of the exile to Babylon."

Matthew 1:12-16: *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, 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, and Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, and Mary was the mother of Jesus who is called the Messiah."*

Matthew 1:17: *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.*

—All verses from NIV11

Through *gematria*, a system of assigning numerical values to certain words, according to the letters of the Hebrew alphabet, David's name gives a total of ____.

Everything about the ____ of this genealogy was designed by Matthew to point Jewish readers, whether Christian or not, to a strong connection between Jesus and King David, as well as Father Abraham.

The most surprising element in the genealogy is that four ____ are listed, plus Mary, Jesus' mother.

Matthew's genealogy shows symbolically that the essence of the Gospel of God in Jesus Christ removes barriers, repairs all the cracks, and welcomes even the most unlikely:

1. The barrier between Jew and Gentile is ____.

2. The barrier between male and female is ____.

3. The barrier between saint and sinner is ____.

Jesus: ‘...I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.’

—Matthew 9:13 (NIV11)

At the very beginning of Matthew’s Gospel, in a genealogy of all things, he shows us the all-embracing love of God for ____.

This genealogy tells us that there’s ____ God can’t do, ____ He can’t use, and ____ He can’t fulfill.

God can take even our ____ and lovingly knit us back together into something even more beautiful and useful than we could have ever imagined.

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Next Week: Abraham