

Advance to the Manger — Day 8

Advance from Where you're From

Matthew 1:1-17 TPT

"This is the scroll of the genealogy of Jesus, the Anointed One, the son of David and descendant of Abraham. Abraham had a son named Isaac, who had a son named Jacob, who had a son named Judah (he and his brothers became the tribes of Israel). Judah and Tamar had twin sons, Perez and Zerah. Perez had a son named Hezron, who had a son named Ram, who had a son named Amminadab, who had a son named Nashon, who had a son named Salmon, who, along with Rahab, had a son named Boaz. Boaz and Ruth had a son named Obed, who was the father of Jesse, and Jesse had a son named David, who became the king. Then David and Bathsheba had a son named Solomon, who had a son named Rehoboam, who had a son named Abijah, who had a son named Asa, who had a son named Jehoshaphat, who had a son named Joram, who had a son named Uzziah, who had a son named Jotham, who had a son named Ahaz, who had a son named Hezekiah, who had a son named Manasseh, who had a son named Amos, who had a son named Josiah, who was the father of Jeconiah. It was during the days of Jeconiah and his brothers that Israel was taken captive and deported to Babylon. About the time of their captivity in Babylon, Jeconiah had a son named Shealtiel, who had a son named Zerubbabel, who had a son named Abiud, who had a son named Eliakim, who had a son named Azor, who had a son named Zadok, who had a son named Achim, who had a son named Eliud, who had a son named Eleazar, who had a son named Matthan, who had a son named Jacob, who was the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary the mother of Jesus, who is called "the Anointed One." So from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the Babylonian captivity, fourteen generations, and from the Babylonian captivity to Christ, fourteen generations."

Introduction:

Start from Where you Are.

- Contemplate the trust exhibited by Mary and Joseph in their journey.
- Read Matthew 1:1-17 and reflect on what's in Jesus Past.
- Prayer: Ask for grace and understanding of God's guidance in your own journey.

As we approach the manger where our Savior was born, it is important to reflect on the lineage from which He came. In Matthew's Gospel, we find a genealogy that traces Jesus's ancestry, reminding us of the rich tapestry of individuals who played a part in God's plan of salvation. Today, let us journey through this passage and discover the significance of our own heritage as we advance to the manger.

Verse 1:

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

The mention of David and Abraham in the very first verse connects Jesus to the promises made to them. It reminds us that God's plan of redemption was not a spontaneous event but a fulfillment of His covenant promises. Our journey to the manger begins with the recognition of God's faithfulness throughout generations.

Verses 2-17:

The genealogy presented in these verses lists various individuals from different backgrounds, including both the righteous and the flawed. It is fascinating to see how God weaves together the stories of ordinary people into His extraordinary plan.

Heart Reflection

1. Remembering Our Imperfections:

As we read through the names, we encounter individuals like Judah, who committed a great sin, and Rahab, a former prostitute. Their inclusion reminds us that God's grace extends to all, regardless of our past mistakes or shortcomings. It is a reminder of His redemptive power in our lives.

2. Honoring Our Heritage:

Many well-known figures are also mentioned, such as King David and Solomon. These individuals played significant roles in Israel's history, and their presence in Jesus's lineage highlights the importance of our own heritage. We are part of a larger story, connected to the faithfulness of those who came before us.

3. Embracing Our Diversity:

The genealogy includes both Jews and Gentiles, reflecting God's plan to reconcile all people to Himself. It reminds us that in Christ, there is no distinction or division. Our journey to the manger is a celebration of unity in diversity, as we recognize that our faith transcends cultural and ethnic boundaries.

Call To Action

- **Repent**
 - Search your heart.
 - Seek forgiveness from those you have wronged in the past.
 - Allow hope and grace to flood in.

- **Honor**
 - Give honor to those who have gone before you.
 - Tell those in your life who are still here how you honor them.
 - Celebrate them in front of others.

- **Embrace**
 - Accept those who are different than you.
 - God's plan is for all, no barriers.
 - Reject, renounce all prejudice.

Take A Way

Conclusion:

As we advance to the manger, let us not forget the significance of our ancestry. We are part of a story that began long before us, and our lives are interconnected with the lives of those who have gone before. Just as Jesus's birth fulfilled the promises made to David and Abraham, we too have a role to play in God's ongoing plan of redemption.

Take a moment to reflect on your own heritage. Consider the faithfulness of those who have influenced your journey of faith. Praise God for His redemptive work in your life and the diversity of His family. As you approach the manger, remember that you are part of a larger narrative of God's love and grace.

May this devotional on tracing our ancestry as we advance to the manger enrich your Christmas season and deepen your understanding of God's love and grace.

Prayer:

Oh Lord,

Thank You for the genealogy recorded in Matthew's Gospel, which reminds us of our rich heritage. Help us to honor and appreciate the faithfulness of those who have gone before us. May we embrace the diversity within Your family and recognize our role in Your ongoing plan of redemption. In Jesus's name, we pray. Amen.