

(Matthew 1:1-17) - (Introduction and Genealogy)

- Opening Comments – Close in Prayer
- Today we are starting a short series on the Book of Matthew. I'm not going to go through every chapter, but I do encourage you to read and review the whole gospel on your own.
- Chapter 2 is one that you should review before we meet again. It covers the time from when Jesus was born, the visit of the Magi, the escape into Egypt, and ends with the safe return into Nazareth, which is the town where Jesus would spend His childhood and years, of preparation for the start of His ministry.
- Matthew, of course is one of the 4 Gospels. Gospel means good news. It's the good news of Jesus Christ. Mark is the oldest and shortest of the gospels, and there Jesus is characterized as the suffering servant, for we know that He did not come to this earth to be served, but instead He came to serve others. Luke is the longest, where Jesus was shown to be the Son of Man. The Gospel of John is where we see Jesus as the Son of God. It shows us the divinity of Jesus right from the start. It's an up close and personal look at Him, and emphasizes the significance of Jesus for all of humanity.
- Today, we will look at Matthew, where we see Jesus as the Sovereign King. Jesus came from the line of David. He is the Savior, The Messiah, the son of Abraham, and the son of David.
- Matthew wanted to write an account of the good news of Jesus Christ, and it's very important to note that this isn't a message written to the various congregations of that time, but rather it a message about Jesus directly to the people who were mostly Jewish.
- Matthew wanted to let the people know how Jesus came to this earth, what He did when He came, what He said, and most importantly, what He accomplished through his death and resurrection. It is a beautiful picture of His words and His deeds, and he starts with the genealogy of Jesus.
- Luke started with Adam, but Matthew started with Abraham.
- It covers 14 generations from Abraham to David, generations that brought their state to dignity and glory in the kingdom of David.

- Then the next 14 generations cover David to the exile to Babylon. It began with the building of the temple and ends with its destruction.
- And the next 14 generations are from the exile until the birth of Jesus, which begins with their captivity in Babylon, and ends with their spiritual deliverance by Christ. It sets the stage for Mary who discovered that she was expecting.
- **Matthew 1:1 - This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham: ² Abraham was the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, ³ Judah the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar, ... 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.**
- Matthew was very smart to start off with the genealogy, as they were extremely important to the Jewish people. There are scriptures which illustrate this.
- **Deut. 17:15** tells us that Israel's king had to be a Jew and not a foreigner, so it was important to be able to trace the roots for verification.
- **Ezra 2:62** tells us that no one could serve as priest unless they were found in the genealogical records.
- **Matthew 1:1 "A record of the genealogy of Jesus Christ the son of Abraham**
- In the Greek text this means, "The book of the genesis of Jesus Christ." It's the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created **Gen 2:4**. This is the record of the family line of Adam, for **Gen 5:1**, tells us that when God created man; He made them in His likeness.
- And just as important, the genealogy of Jesus Christ starts with you and I. It starts with all who received Him into their hearts as their Lord and Savior. Personally, I am thrilled to be in the lineage of Jesus Christ
- There are some pretty big names in that list! Abraham was the man through whom God's promised blessing would come through the whole world. Isaac was the miracle son born to Sarah and Abraham at an extreme age.
- And there are women who played a big part in our history, and similar to men some were greatly flawed, such as Tamar, Rahab, Ruth and Bathsheba.
- If you think about it, this is quite a crooked family tree, full of flawed people.

- And all of us are certainly flawed as well, yet this is the tree that our Savior stepped onto the pages of human history.
 1. Verse One in Matthew makes it clear that Jesus is the Savior. The name Jesus in Greek is Joshua or Yeshua, which means "Yahweh saves", or the "Lord is salvation". And it's important to know that Christ is not Jesus last name. The name Christ means "Messiah", or "The anointed one." Jesus is the son of David, even though it was not David who built the temple. God made a covenant with David and promised him 2 important things: **2 Sam. 7:13** promised that a continual seed would endure to the end, and God promised David that an honored son would rein on the throne. We can see that in 3 scriptures:

Isaiah 9:6-7 ⁶ For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. ⁷ Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this

Jeremiah 23:5-6 - ⁵ Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. ⁶ In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

Isaiah 11:1-3 - A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. ² The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD—³ and he will delight in the fear of the LORD. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears;

- Let's go back to Genesis and see what God said to Abraham:
- **Gen 12:1-3** – " ¹ The Lord had said to Abraham, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household, and go to the land I will show you. ² 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, ³ I will bless those who bless you and

whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”

- We see that God promised to form a covenant with the people. He would make Israel into a great nation, and give them a promised inheritance on earth, (and this would be known as the “promised land”). Also, that God was going to use them to accomplish a global purpose.
- Please know this: - You and I, and our generation are not the center of history.
- Generations of people have lived and died, and will continue to do so until Christ returns. The USA is not the center either, and neither were the Roman, Greek, Babylonian, or British Empires, they all come and go. There is but one center, and that is Jesus.
- God’s kingdom figures prominently in Matthew Chapter 1, and here is what we can find in His kingdom
 1. **The Gospel**, which is the message of the kingdom – (**Mat. 4:17** “**Repent, because the kingdom of heaven has come near.**”)
 2. **Disciples**, these are the citizens of the kingdom, and in **Mat. 5-7**, The Sermon on the Mount tells us what the citizens of the kingdom are like.
 3. **Discipleship** – these are the demands of the kingdom that we face – **Mat 10:37** – “**Anyone finding his life will lose it, and anyone losing his life because of me will find it.**” Discipleship is living a life that imitates Christ the best that we can.
 4. **The Church**, which is the kingdom outpost – (ecclesia)
 5. **And the Mission**, which is the spread of the gospel of the kingdom: **Matthew 16:18 - ¹⁸ And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.**
 6. **Demons**, who are the enemies of the Kingdom. The Devil and his workers who totally oppose Jesus and all of us, who follow Him.
 7. **And Our Enduring Hope**, which is the coming of the Kingdom”. And the Kingdom is here now, because Christ is here with each of us.
- For Jesus brought healing and forgiveness. He brought rest to the weary, He brought sight to the blind, and life to the dead.

- It's also our future as He is coming back, His first coming as a baby, and the second will be as the King.
- As we study the gospel of Matthew we will see 3 groups of people:
 1. The religious leaders who deny Jesus
 2. The crowds that follow Jesus, as long as He is giving them what they want
 3. The small group of disciples who want to follow Him, and who will eventually will lose their lives for Him.
- Each one of us here today has a choice: We can either be casual observers or true followers of Christ.
- As we start on our journey through this gospel, maybe it's time we push the reset on our hearts, a time to truly examine our hearts. It's a time to listen to what God is saying to us. Are we on the right track? Or is it time to push the reset button?
- Next week, we will look at Matthew, Chapter 3, a hugely important Chapter.
- Close in prayer.