

The Messiah Has Come; the Christ of God

Matthew 1:1-17

MPS Jesus is the Messiah, the Christ of God who fulfills every promise from God for life everlasting.

OBJ Every person should believe Jesus is the Christ because of Four Revelations from Matthew's genealogy.

READ Matthew 1:1-17

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

²Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, ³and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram, ⁴and Ram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, ⁵and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, ⁶and Jesse the father of David the king.

And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, ⁷and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asaph, ⁸and Asaph the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, ⁹and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, ¹⁰and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josiah, ¹¹and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

¹²And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, ¹³and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, ¹⁴and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, ¹⁵and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, ¹⁶and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ.

*¹⁷So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations. **Matthew 1:1-17***

SERIES INTRO

Only a few months ago the world gasped in unbelief as Prince Harry and his new wife walked away from their royal status to live a "normal" life. Didn't you want to ask, "**what are you thinking / doing?**" Actually, what he walked away from was his royal duties. I would explain them to you, but I haven't a clue nor a care as to what they actually entail. What I want to say today is that while in this world they can "give up their royal duties" only to be applauded by many for their philanthropic work, this is, albeit wrongly, how so many perceive what Jesus did. He gave up His divine-royalty to come to earth as a man. But this is in fact NOT what Jesus did.

Jesus did not "give-up" anything, but rather offered up his divine royalty to come to earth. Philippians 2 tells us that He did not consider the fact that He was God a reason not to serve but that He was the only One who could serve in the way that was demanded. **Jesus, who IS God, became a man in obedience to His Father to offer up Himself as a sacrifice for sin.**

Throughout the summer we will walk through Matthew 1-4 in a series titled, "The Messiah Has Come; the Christ of God." I know what many of you may be wondering, "**Can we study these chapters when it is not Christmas?**" Well, yes! And we should. God did not send Jesus to legitimize our holiday. **The narrative of Jesus' birth are the revelation of God Incarnate, more than annually legitimate, they are eternity-altering.**

TRANS As we study God's revelation to us in Matthew 1-4, I pray you see Jesus with fresh eyes to believe and fresh ears to hear and obey Him by faith.

Matthew introduces Jesus by genealogy because the Jews highly valued this record of descent. He writes from a distinctively Jewish-Christian perspective to a predominantly Jewish mindset, with a priority on the fulfillment of prophecy in



the Old Testament and “the relevance of Jesus for all the nations.”¹ Matthew presents the generations of the Old Testament to show God’s sovereign hand in His redemptive plan, beginning from Abraham, the Father of the Israelite people, ascending to the greatest King of Israel, David, to exalting Jesus Christ as the exclusive Messiah who has come, the Christ of God. God became man in Jesus to save us, the Christ of God who preached “*Repent, for the Kingdom of heaven has come near.*”^{4:17} Jesus is the promised Messiah; God who came near to save sinners. There are a number of notable distinctives about Matthew’s genealogy. One distinct feature is that he arranges it in three groups of fourteen.² Today I draw from these groups to consider Matthew’s genealogy of Jesus and what it reveals about the Messiah who has come, the Christ of God.

Jesus is the Messiah, the Christ of God who fulfills every promise from God for life everlasting.

OBJ I want every person to believe in Jesus because of **Four Revelations** of God’s salvation from Matthew’s genealogy.

The first group begins with Abraham, the father of the Hebrew people, the nation of Israel. Surely Matthew begins here because he addresses the whole people with the one who was their beginning. As occurs in the gospels by the Jewish religious leaders, they claimed Abraham as their Father but rejected Jesus as God’s son. **Matthew begins with Abraham to reveal that to truly believe in Abraham as father means to receive Jesus as God’s son.**

TRANS Abraham was the Father of our faith, but Jesus brings something far more important that Abraham could not.

1. Jesus came as the Founder of salvation from God.

Hebrews tells us how Jesus served as the “*founder of (our) salvation.*”^{2:10} He suffered in temptation^{2:18} and was tempted in every way that we are yet was without sin.^{4:15} He was made perfect to become the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him.^{5:9} A working definition of this word means “proven as perfect”, not made something that he wasn’t. Your sin doesn’t “make” you anything but reveals who you are, that you are sinful in nature and not only in actions. Jesus’ perfection in defeating sin on the earth reveals that He is holy. **Jesus fulfilled God’s divine promise of Messiah by coming as the Christ of God, the holy One worthy to be offered as sacrifice for sin.**

Abraham taught us to trust God because He would supply the lamb for the sacrifice. **Gen22:8** Jesus revealed that He is worthy of our faith because He came as the perfect, spotless lamb of God. **Joh1:29** **Jesus perfectly fulfills God’s divine promise as the perfect, spotless lamb who takes away the sin of the world.**

Matthew’s genealogy reveals that Jesus is the Christ because He came as the Founder of salvation from God.

TRANS **The second group begins with David, the greatest King of Israel who fathered the wisest and richest.** But sinful imperfection is on full display in David’s description; “the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah.” Remember Uriah, the top soldier David killed to cover up that he got his wife pregnant. And this in the genealogical record! God is not afraid of your sin because He neither tolerates it nor is He thwarted by it. The glory of God’s redemptive plan is that He uses sinful people to bring salvation to the world. **God works through sinful people not to legitimize, dismiss or tolerate their sin, but to display the glory and sovereignty of His redemption.**

2. Jesus is King of a perfect Kingdom, who conquered sin once for all by sacrifice of Himself.

Matthew identifies David as King to establish Jesus’ lineage as of royal descent.³ But His royalty was not limited to earth alone. Jesus’ Kingship is not derived from earthly power or authority, but of divine authority and power from above. Jesus came “*not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.*”^{Mark10:45} Jesus didn’t use people for personal

¹ Leon Morris, [The Gospel according to Matthew](#), The Pillar New Testament Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI; Leicester, England: W.B. Eerdmans; Inter-Varsity Press, 1992), 3. Morris notes, “But most of all he was a genuine follower of Jesus, a convinced Jewish Christian.”

² Morris, [The Gospel according to Matthew](#), 22.

³ Morris, [The Gospel according to Matthew](#), 24. “When he comes to David, Matthew adds the king; this is where kingship is attained in the line he is tracing. Here he is making it clear that there is royalty in Jesus’ line so that he is rightly called “King of the Jews” (2:2; 27:11, 29, 37, 42).”



pleasure and kill to cover his immorality. Rather, He is the King who came to “*offered up Himself*”^{Heb7:27} to conquer sin, that which separated us from God, and rescued us to His Kingdom.^{Cor1:13} [King David is God’s instrument that points to the perfect King, Jesus.](#)

Jesus is the King of a perfect Kingdom. He never fails the Kingdom by being in the wrong place at the wrong time so to be tempted to commit sin that produces more sin. Jesus was never found by Satan or sin’s temptation to be lax and susceptible. King Jesus won His Kingdom by facing every temptation, test and trial with the highest focus and greatest humility, to defeat it once for all. And King Jesus bestows His royalty on all who believe in Him for His Kingdom sake.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. 1 Peter 2:9

Jesus rescues all who believe in Him to His Kingdom to live as royal ambassadors of His Kingdom. He did not come to us in our sin to pity us in our situation and doing nothing about it. He rescues from death and brings us to life in His eternal Kingdom. You are not just in a better place because of Jesus. You do not just have a better life because of Jesus. You have life in Him because of Him. You can and must fight your sin every day because Jesus has conquered that sin for you. You can walk in His light because in Him we have the light of Life.^{John8:12} [King Jesus offered up Himself to save you to His Kingdom and authorizes you to live HERE to declare the excellencies and glory of HIS Kingdom.](#)

[Matthew’s genealogy reveals that Jesus is the Christ because He is the perfect King of God’s eternal Kingdom.](#)

TRANS These two earthly fathers of Jesus hold high importance for Matthew’s purpose in writing. One commentator notes, “In combining David and Abraham Matthew is drawing attention to two strands in Jesus’ Hebrew ancestry and implying that he fulfilled all that would be expected in a Messiah with such connections.”⁴ But Jesus’ genealogy reveals not only earthly royalty and highest ancestry, but identification with those who have no identity and of lowly positions in this world.

TRANS The third group covers the period of exile, when Israel lost their official status as a nation, but not as God’s people. Matthew begins verse 12, “*And after the deportation to Babylon*”. The kingdom of Israel was divided and conquered, and the people dispersed, but God’s redemptive plan was not lost nor thwarted.

3. [Jesus is born from people who had no identity to be called the Christ.](#)

Matthew traces the final genealogical group to show how Jesus was born of Mary, a virgin^{Matt1:18}, and given the title Christ. Christ is not Jesus’s last name, but His divine title. Christ is how we know that He is from God and signifies his office as anointed Savior. Jesus’ genealogy is important, that Jesus was descended from Abraham and David, to fulfill God’s promise in Scripture.^{John7:42} God’s promises are never in vain, for all God’s promise is fulfilled in Jesus.^{2Cor1:20} But this last group is no less significant. Though the people lost their status and identity as a nation, they were never forgotten by God. God’s redemption was never dependent on their high status but comes through their lowly humility. [From people of little power, authority or status in the world, God works His redemptive plan through a virgin to be the Christ.](#)

[Matthew’s genealogy reveals that Jesus is born from people who had no identity to be called the Christ.](#)

TRANS There remains one more revelation that I want to draw from.

4. [God’s salvation is by faith in Jesus and no earthly status hinders His saving grace.](#)

Four women stand out in Matthew’s genealogy as highly unlikely, and unwelcomed, inclusion. These four names bring with them an endless list of indescribable tragedy, absolute desperation, and sinful baggage of illegitimate childbirth, ethnic division, sexual immorality, horrible abuse and corruption, and much more. But none of that is highlighted here. Here they

⁴ Morris, [The Gospel according to Matthew](#), 21.



are included in the genealogy of the Christ. Here their life status that condemned on the earth is included, not ignored.⁵ [By God's grace, all are welcomed by faith in Jesus Christ.](#)

Matthew's genealogy reveals that none of these can keep you from God's saving grace, the great depth of dysfunction of your family lineage --cannot keep you from God's saving grace, your past sin, --cannot keep you from God's saving grace, the excellency of nor the lack of your ability or accomplishment, --cannot keep you from God's saving grace, the origin of your ethnicity, nationality, nor color of your skin, --cannot keep you from God's saving grace, your abuse, neglect and forsaken-ness, --cannot keep you from God's saving grace, the illegitimate-ness nor forgotten-ness, --cannot keep you from God's saving grace. There is nothing about you that can keep you from God's saving grace.

[God's salvation is by faith in Jesus Christ and no earthly status hinders His saving grace.](#)

[Jesus is the Messiah, the Christ of God who fulfills every promise from God for life everlasting.](#)

Why not receive God's salvation today! Believe, repent and enter the Kingdom of His beloved Son, King Jesus today!

⁵ Leon Morris, [The Gospel according to Matthew](#), The Pillar New Testament Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI; Leicester, England: W.B. Eerdmans; Inter-Varsity Press, 1992), 23. "But Matthew's four—Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, and Bathsheba—are probably all Gentiles; and since Ruth was a Moabitess, we should not overlook the fact that to the tenth generation a Moabite was not to be admitted to the congregation (Deut. 23:3). Three of the four are of morally dubious reputation. Matthew is surely saying that the gospel is for all people, not Jews only, and that the gospel is for sinners. It is a sinful world, and Matthew is writing about grace."

