

MATTHEW 1:1-18

Introduction:

1. Matthew presents Jesus Christ as King, Matthew 1:6 [David the king]
*Matthew 1:1 [Son of Abraham] - [Son of David]
2. Chapters 1-25 Son of David → the king
3. Chapters 26-28 Son of Abraham → Interestingly, Chapters 26-28 are about the crucifixion and **re**surrection. With Abraham in Gen. 22, it is Abraham's son, Isaac, that gives us a clear **type** of Christ's sacrifice. *Isaac was Abraham's only begotten son.

*Remember, the purpose of the Abrahamic Covenant:

Israel to **rise**/ **Christ** reigning/ World-**nations** blessed (Gen. 12:13)

4. So in Matthew-John, Christ focuses on Israel so the Gentiles **could** ultimately be saved - Jews first, then the Gentiles.
5. Book of Matthew:
 - a. Historically, it meant something to some Jewish people at a particular time in history: Kingdom of heaven is at hand.
 - b. Doctrinally, it showed dispensational truth to those Jews it was written to, being under law in "Time **Past**".
 - c. Spiritual application: There are spiritual truths and principles that **apply** through all dispensations.

A.

Genealogies:

Matthew 1:1 - The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

1. We know from scripture that in Adam all **die** (with a couple of exceptions). However, in Christ all live!
Genesis 5:1 - This *is* the book of the generations of Adam. In the day that God created man, in the likeness of God made he him;
Romans 5:12 - Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:
Hebrews 9:27 - And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:
I Corinthians 15:20, 22 - But now is Christ risen from the dead, *and* become the firstfruits of them that slept. 1Cor. 15:22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.
2. Both Davidic and Abrahamic covenants promised that Messiah would sit on the throne and in the land (Canaan-Israel).

- a. Land - Genesis 17:5-8 - [Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham; for a father of many nations have I made thee. Gen. 17:6 And I will make thee exceeding fruitful, and I will make nations of thee, and kings shall come out of thee. Gen. 17:7 And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee. Gen. 17:8 And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.]
- b. Throne - II Samuel 7:10, 12-13, 16-17 - [Moreover I will appoint a place for my people Israel, and will plant them, that they may dwell in a place of their own, and move no more; neither shall the children of wickedness afflict them any more, as beforetime, 2Sam. 7:12 And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom. 2Sam. 7:13 He shall build an house for my name, and I will stablish the throne of his kingdom for ever. 2Sam. 7:16 And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever. 2Sam. 7:17 According to all these words, and according to all this vision, so did Nathan speak unto David.]

*So here in the first 17 verses, Christ is the Son of David and the Son of Abraham. This shows He has the **legal** right to the throne and land.

- B. 1. Here in verse 2, the genealogy begins. It is Abraham to Isaac to Jacob to his 12 sons (12 tribes of

Matthew 1:2 - Abraham begat Isaac; and Isaac begat Jacob; and Jacob begat Judas and his brethren;

Israel). Matthew goes with the kingly line of Judas, or Judah.

2. Jacob prophesied on his deathbed that Messiah would come from his son's tribe of **Judah**. So Matthew will focus on the kingly line of Judah.

Genesis 49:8-10 - Judah, thou *art he* whom thy brethren shall praise: thy hand *shall be* in the neck of thine enemies; thy father's children shall bow down before thee. Gen. 49:9 Judah *is* a lion's whelp: from the prey, my son, thou art gone up: he stooped down, he couched as a lion, and as an old lion; who shall rouse him up? Gen. 49:10 The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him *shall* the gathering of the people *be*.

The reason it is spelled Judas, instead of Judah, here is because of the language that the N.T. was written in, as compared to the O.T. The O.T. was written in **Hebrew; whereas, the N.T. was written in **Greek**. From one language into another, words are often spelled **differ**ently. Ex. Isaiah and Esaias.

3. Notice the **women** in Christ's genealogy (vs. 3-17).

Verse 3 - Thamar - seduced her father-in-law

Verse 5 - Rachab - a madam or prostitute

Verse 5 - Ruth - an idol worshipper

Verse 6 - Wife of Urias - Bathsheba

Verse 16 - Mary - simple, poor girl

- a. *This was **un**heard of because the Jewish leaders did not put women in their genealogies. And, if that wasn't bad enough, some of them are **Gentiles**! Five women and 5 is the number of grace. The Bible honors women, even exalts them.

- b. Verse 6 - [Solomon of her that had been the wife of Urias]. Since Urias was dead, the **law** permitted King David to marry her.

C. Matthew 1:17 - So all the generations from Abraham to David *are* fourteen generations; and from David until the carrying away into Babylon *are* fourteen generations; and from the carrying away into Babylon unto Christ *are* fourteen generations.

1. Matthew gives his **summation** of Israel's history up to Christ. He divides the generations into three categories, each with **14** generations.

*It **starts** with Abraham, when the nation did **not** exist or was nothing. Then Israel climbed to its history of greatness with David as king. Then Israel plunged into the depths of idolatry and **apostasy**. It culminated when Babylonian armies invaded and ravished the nation. They destroyed the temple and carried away thousands of Jews into **captivity**.

2. Then Matthew, being Spirit led, shows that all was not lost. Israel failed, but God **had not** forgotten His **covenant** with Israel, or His prophesied promises. Matthew traces the lineage down to Christ - the fulfillment of every Messianic promise, the hope of Israel, the One whose kingdom will **never** end.

Matthew is thrilled to be able to announce that God had the remedy for Israel's fall...Christ!**

D. Matthew 1:18 - Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.

1. Here we have the **incarnation-virgin** birth (no earthly father) protected in these verses that follow.

Mary was espoused to Joseph. This means that at some earlier date, Mary had been promised to Joseph. Then she made that promise official by being espoused to Joseph (probably for 12 months). This espousal period considered them to be as husband and wife, yet without **consummation. In verse 19, Joseph is called "her husband" while they are espoused.

2. Before they were married (officially) note:

a. Matthew 1:18 - Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.

b. Luke 1:34-35 - Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? Luke 1:35 And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.

*Mary makes it clear that Joseph, or any other man, was **not** the father. Then God makes it clear *that her pregnancy was supernatural - by the Holy Spirit placing the seed of Christ into Mary.
*It is this **conception** that is miraculous...not His birth (except for its fulfillment of prophecy).

Note: Luke 3:23 - And Jesus himself began to be about thirty years of age, being (as was supposed) the son of Joseph, which was *the son* of Heli,

3. Supernaturally and omnipotently, God prepared a sin~~less~~ body of flesh and blood outside of mankind that was holy - without a sinful human nature.

Hebrews 10:4-5 - For *it is* not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.

Heb. 10:5 Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me:

Acts 20:28 - Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

*Conception was the connection between Christ's seed of a sinless human nature, body and blood, into union-fusion with God, His divineness into Mary's womb.

4. The importance of this is because if it were not:
 - a. The scriptures are proved false, removing their authority on other matters.
 - b. Mary, instead of being blessed among women, is found to be unchaste and immoral because Joseph asserted that Jesus was not his son.
 - c. It would mean that Jesus came from sinful parents, thus inheriting a sinful nature. That would dis-qualify Him from being our Savior and He would need a Savior Himself!
 - d. If this miracle is denied, where do we stop? Then logically we should deny all miracles that scriptures show us.

Note: Regardless of our human inability to grasp this truth, just remember that through the Holy Spirit, it was God Who kept Jesus from the contamination of Mary's sinful nature.

5. Also important, Matthew will present Jesus Christ as King.

*"Luke's genealogy is that Mary was apparently of the same tribe and family as Joseph. Matthew records the genealogy of Joseph, because it was necessary that Messiah's right to the throne of David should be established. It is true that Jesus was in direct line, or a descendent of David, through his mother, Mary. But as a woman who had no right to the throne, her son would be similarly disqualified. But as legally adopted son of Joseph, who was also of the Davidic line, Jesus had a legal claim to the throne. From the two genealogies, it is established that Jesus was of the seed of David by natural, as well as legal descent." (J.O. Sanders)

E. Some other truths about Christ:

1. When the eternal Son of God became (in a point in time) the God-man, He was 100% man and 100% God.

John 1:1, 14 - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

Romans 8:3 - For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:

2. When God became flesh, He did **not** empty Himself of His divine nature. He lost none and did not relinquish any of His Godness. He only **covered** His full glory and deity.

Colossians 2:9 - For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.

****When Christ had flesh-fused with His Godness, He willingly and voluntarily placed Himself under the Father's **purpose** (John 3:16) to identify with **man**. But again, at no time did He ever set aside His Godness.**

3. Christ, before His adding flesh, possessed one divine nature and He was Spirit. But now He has **two** natures, one divine and one sinless human nature.
 - a. Jesus' divine nature **never** changes. Jesus' human nature had **normal** human development.

Luke 2:40, 52 - And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him. Luke 2:52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.

- b. This is why we see **seemingly** conflicting statements at times:

<u>Sinless nature</u>	→	<u>As God</u>
(1) Began in Bethlehem	→	Always has existed
(2) Grew in wisdom	→	Knows all
(3) Spirit and Body	→	Spirit
(4) Finite	→	Infinite
(5) Limited	→	All Powerful
(6) Dependent	→	Self-Sufficient
(7) Tired-Hungry-Thirsty	→	He is the Bread of Life - Omnipotent

- c. Now we can somewhat understand when it says:

- (1) He grew in wisdom vs. He knows all things (God side)
 - (2) The Father is greater than I (human side) vs. I and My Father are one (God side)

4. Why was the great miracle of the virgin birth necessary?

Answer: I Timothy 2:5 - [For *there is* one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;]

- a. As the God-man, Jesus Christ could become the middle person, the **go**-between, the **mediator** between God and man. This gave the Father the reason to be **able** to reconcile sinners to Himself.
 - b. As God, He was the absolute perfect sacrifice for man's **sins**.
 - c. As man, made under the law, not only did He **fulfill** the law - but by taking our sins, He suffered its penalty for sin....**death**.

II Corinthians 5:17-19 - Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. 2Cor. 5:18 And all things *are* of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; 2Cor. 5:19 To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.