

The Gospel of Matthew

Chapter 1

Message 2

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1

Introduction

Matthew chapter 1 presents the evidence that the Lord Jesus is the Messiah.

- We'll break this chapter into 3 sections:
 1. The Genealogy of the Christ.
 2. The Birth of the Christ.
 3. The Naming of the Christ.

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Introduction

It has been observed that:

- Matthew wrote for the **Jews**.
 - Mark wrote for the **Romans**.
 - Luke wrote for the **Greeks**.
 - John wrote for the **Church**.
- Since Matthew's gospel was designed to convince Jews that Jesus is the Messiah he must begin with a genealogy.
 - From a legal perspective, Matt. 1:1 proclaims the Lord Jesus to be the Christ, and Matt. 1:2-17 demonstrates it via His genealogy.

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Genealogy

The genealogy of the Lord Jesus opens the book of Matthew.

- At first this may seem very dry and boring.
- But it is likely the most important document in the Scriptures.
- The entire Bible and its doctrines rest upon its accuracy.
- It establishes the Lord is of the line of David and Abraham.
 - The Line of David puts Him in the Royal Line.
 - The line of Abraham puts Him in the Nation.
- The Messiah had to be a descendant of David - Isa. 11:1-2&10
- The Messiah had to be a descendant of Abraham - Gen 22:18

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Genealogy

Genealogy in the Nation was key to the Jew.

- When Israel returned from captivity, Ezra records that some priests were excluded from service because they were not found in the genealogies.
 - *“These sought their registration among those enrolled in the genealogies, but they were not found there, and so they were excluded from the priesthood as unclean.”* Ezra 2:62
- It was essential that Matthew’s record was meticulously accurate.

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Genealogy

It’s very likely that, as in Ezra’s day, these genealogies were accessible to all the men of Israel.

- The enemies of the Lord could have (and likely did) check His genealogy.
- They challenged every move He made.
- Interestingly, they questioned the resurrection but not His heritage.
- They could not question who He was, because the record was plain for all to see.

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Genealogy

The Lord said, “*he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. But He who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep.*” Jn. 10:1-2

- The Lord was saying that He entered the fold (the Nation) by the gate (by birth), not by “jumping the fence”, as other leaders did - Herod.

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Genealogy

2 of the 4 Gospelists include the genealogy of the Lord Jesus, Matthew and Luke.

Matthew:

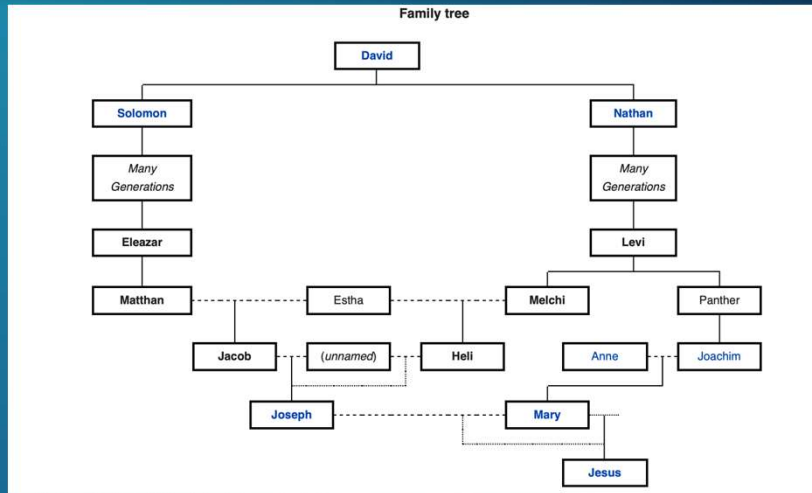
- Follows Joseph's line
- Written to a Jewish audience
- Begins with King David
- Shows Christ is the Messiah
- Beginning of the Book
- Includes Women

Luke:

- Follows Mary's line
- Written to a Greek audience
- Goes back to Adam
- Shows the Humanity of Christ
- Beginning of Public Ministry
- Inverted to point to Christ

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Genealogy



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Genealogy

Comparison of Matthew's and Luke's genealogies

Matthew	Luke
	God, Adam, Seth, Enos, Cainan, Maleleel, Jared, Enoch, Mathusala, Lamech, Noah, Shem, Arphaxad, Cainan, Sala, Heber, Phalec, Ragau, Saruch, Nachor, Thara,
Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Judah, Perez, Hezron, Ram, Amminadab, Nahshon, Salmon, Boaz, Obed, Jesse, David,	Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Juda, Phares, Esrom, Arni, Admin, Amminadab, Naasson, Salmon, Boaz, Obed, Jesse, David,
Solomon, Rehoboam, Abijah, Asa, Jehoshaphat, Jehoram, Uziah, Jotham, Ahaz, Hezekiah, Manasseh, Amon, Josiah, Jeconiah,	Nathan, Mattatha, Menan, Melea, Eliakim, Jonam, Joseph, Judah, Simeon, Levi, Matthat, Jorim, Eliezer, Jose, Er, Elmodam, Cosam, Addi, Melchi, Neri,
Shealtiel, Zerubbabel,	Salathiel, Zorobabel,
Abiud, Eliakim, Azor, Sadoc, Achim, Eliud, Eleazar, Matthan, Jacob,	Rhesa, Joannan, Judah, Joseph, Semei, Mattathias, Maath, Nagge, Esli, Naum, Amos, Mattathias, Joseph, Jannai, Melchi, Levi, Matthat, Heli,
Joseph, Jesus	Joseph, Jesus

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Genealogy

Matthew begins with David, not Abraham. Did he not know Abraham came before David?

- Of course, he did. So why then does he place David first?
- Matthew set out to display LEGALLY, Christ's REGAL lineage. He is the King come to set up His Kingdom. So, he begins with the Royal line - King David.
- Then he goes on to link Him with Abraham, the father of the Nation.

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Genealogy - Kingship

The generations are in 3 parts to emphasize the Kingship:

1. Abraham to David - 14 names
 - 1 Chron. 1&2
 - This period is characterized by the fact there was NO "TRUE" KING
2. David to Jechonias (Jechoiachin or Coniah) - 14 names
 - 1 Chron. 3
 - This period is characterized by THE KINGS who ruled Jerusalem/Judah
3. Jechonias to Jesus, who is called the Christ - 14 names
 - 1 Chron. 3 (first part), last part not in OT.
 - This period is characterized by the fact there was NO "TRUE" KING

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Genealogy - Surprise

Matthew includes 4 surprising individuals because they were:

1. Women
 2. Gentiles
 3. Unacceptable according to the law
- Examining the names in the list we find something quite unusual. Customarily, women are not mentioned in genealogies of that time.
 - Vestiges of this can be seen in marriages today. Usually, when a couple marries, she takes his name, and her line ends while his goes on.

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Genealogy - Women

The 4 Women in the Genealogy of Christ

1. Tamar - Gen. 38
 2. Rahab - Josh. 2
 3. Ruth - Ruth 4
 4. 'Her that had been the wife of Uriah' (Bathsheba) - 2Sam. 11
- Each represents an ASPECT OF SALVATION for the believer

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Genealogy - Women

1. Tamar:

- Judah had twin sons by his widowed daughter-in law, Tamar, as she posed as a harlot (unbeknown to Judah).
- When Perez and Zerah were born, it appeared that Zerah would be born 1st.
- But in the end, Perez (who's name means 'breach') was born 1st.
- Among twins, for the breach to be born 1st is uncommon to say the least.

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Genealogy - Women

1. Tamar:

- Her son, Perez was a:
 - Breach baby born 1st.
 - To a mother posing as a harlot.
 - With a man who was both father and grandfather to him.
- He becomes part of the Messianic line.
- "but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more" Rom. 5:20
- Salvation is FROM SIN

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Genealogy - Women

2. Rahab:

- Rahab is described twice in Joshua 2 & 6 as a harlot.
- She received the Israelite spies and hid them “*by faith*” Heb. 11:31.
- But James describes her as being “*justified by faith*” Jam. 2:25.
- Matthew’s quotation of the Lord is extremely poignant “*tax collectors and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you (chief priests and the elders)*” Matt. 21:31
- But why do they go in? The Lord tells us in the next verse, because “the tax collectors and harlots **believed**” Matt. 21:32
- Salvation is **BY FAITH**

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Genealogy - Women

3. Ruth:

- Though Ruth was morally an upright woman, she was a Moabite.
- Moabites descended from the incestuous relationship between Lot and his eldest daughter and the Ammonites from his younger (yet another immoral set of events).
- Thus, the Lord proclaimed that “*No Ammonite or Moabite may enter the assembly of the LORD. Even to the tenth generation... forever.*” Deut. 23:3
- What of Ruth?
- Evidently, she had been converted, as evidenced by her famous attestation.

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Genealogy - Women

3. Ruth:

- *“For where you go, I will go, and where you lodge, I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and **your God my God.**”* Ruth 1:16
- Further, it is said of her that, *“she fell on her face, bowing to the ground, and said to him (Boaz), **“Why have I found grace in your eyes,** that you should take notice of me, since I am a foreigner?”* But Boaz answered her, *“...you **left** your father and mother and your native land and came...”* Ruth 2:10-11
- All believers ask the same question, “Why Oh Lord have we found grace in Your eyes!”

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Genealogy - Women

3. Ruth:

- As with Ruth, at conversion, the penalty of the law is removed.
- *“Christ redeemed us from the **curse of the law** by becoming a curse for us.”* Gal. 3:13
- Salvation is FROM THE LAW

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Genealogy - Women

4. “Her that had been the wife of Uriah”:

- From 2 Samuel 11 we obtain her name - Bathsheba.
- Many commentators have attempted to surmise why her name is not used by Matthew.
- Interestingly, for most of 2 Samuel 11, she's not called Bathsheba. Her name is mentioned only once, in vs.3 where David asks her name.
- The rest of the time she is called, 'the wife of Uriah'.
- Matthew chooses to refer to her in the same way.
- Nonetheless, the sins hidden in the phrase are, again, most odious - adultery and murder.

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Genealogy - Women

4. “Her that had been the wife of Uriah”:

- David's firstborn, Amnon, would not be king - 2 Sam 3:2.
- Nor would the son born first by Bathsheba, that child would die - 2 Sam. 12:18.
- David and Bathsheba's 1st son conceived in sin and adultery would die.
- Would the lineage be lost? Would God's promise go unfulfilled?
- God forbid!
- David and Bathsheba's 2nd son, conceived in legitimate wedlock, would not only live, but would fulfill the promise of God to David, “...your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before Me. Your throne shall be established forever.” 2 Sam. 7:1

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Genealogy - Women

4. “Her that had been the wife of Uriah”:

- Solomon, as improbable a successor as he was, would sit on his father David’s Thone.
- He would be the fulfillment of Gods promise that David’s Thone “*shall be established forever*”.
- Of course, the ultimate fulfillment of this promise comes in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Salvation is ETERNAL

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Genealogy - Women

The 4 Women in the Genealogy of Christ

Display 4 Aspects of our Salvation:

1. Tamar - Salvation is **FROM SIN**
2. Rahab - Salvation is **BY FAITH**
3. Ruth - Salvation is **FROM THE LAW**
4. Bathsheba - Salvation is **ETERNAL**

Our **SALVATION** is complete and embodied in the Genealogy of our Lord!

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Genealogy - Final Woman

Matthew has now taken the reader back from Christ to:

- The end of the Babylonian captivity - 500 years - Genealogy Part 3
- The reign of King David - 1000 years - Genealogy Part 2
- The time of Abraham - 1900 years - Genealogy Part 1
- In each case, for 3500 years, we read:
 - 'So, and So' BEGET 'So, and So'.

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Genealogy - Final Woman

In every case, but One, the last:

- “*Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ.*” Matt. 1:16
- Joseph DID NOT beget Jesus, rather HE was born of the seed of the woman Gen. 3:15

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An Unusual Birth

This story is reminiscent of Isaac's birth.

- God's promise to the aged Abraham and Sarah was: *"I will bless her, and moreover, I will give you a son by her.Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed and said to himself, "Shall a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?"*
Gen. 17:16-17
- An amazing thing, AFTER IT WAS HUMANLY POSSIBLE God gave Abraham a son by his 90-year-old wife.

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Virgin Birth

But Matthew wants to be absolutely clear; Christ's birth was even more miraculous.

- If the Old Testament patriarch laughed at the prospect of a child's birth AFTER it was humanly possible, what would He say about Christ's birth?
- Christ was born BEFORE IT WAS HUMANLY POSSIBLE to remove all doubt that He was indeed the Son of God.
- Speaking of Mary and Joseph Matthew says, "BEFORE they came together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit" Matt. 1:18

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Virgin Birth

Isaac was born to an impossibly old MOTHER.

- But Christ Jesus was born without a FATHER at all!
- Without an earthly Father that is.
- Mary was with child “*of the Holy Spirit*” Matt 1:18
- “*when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of woman...*” Gal.4:4
- Christ’s birth was even more miraculous than that of Isaac’s.

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Virgin Birth - Costly

There is no doubt there was a cost to both God and Christ at His birth.

- But let's look at the cost to Mary. Was there a cost to her?
- Mary suffered privately. What must it have been like for Mary to have the man she loved think she was unfaithful? “*...her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly*”. Matt. 1:19
- High service to God is costly, but as Paul says, “*these light momentary afflictions are preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison*”. 2 Cor. 4:17

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Christ's Naming

It appears, at first, the Lord was given one name and prophesied to have another.

- The angel of the Lord says: “...*thou shalt call His name JESUS: for He shall save His people from their sins.*” Matt. 1:21
- Isaiah prophesied: “*Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name EMMANUEL*” Matt. 1:23
- JESUS describes His **OFFICE** (what was He to do.)
- EMMANUEL describes His **NATURE** (who He is.)

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Christ's Naming - Jesus

“...*thou shalt call His name JESUS: for He shall save His people from their sins.*” Matt. 1:21

- Archaeologists have discovered at least 71 ‘Yeshuas’ from the period of the Lord Jesus’ death.
- ‘Jesus’ comes from the transliteration of ‘Yeshua’ into Greek and then English.
- The name also appears 30 times in the Old Testament in reference to at least 4 separate characters.
- ‘Jesus’ was not an uncommon name.

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Christ's Naming - Jesus

But our Lord is uniquely qualified to have this Name.

- JESUS = "The LORD is our Salvation"
- Describing His office - what He would do.
- *"there is salvation in no One else, for there is no other Name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved"*
Acts 4:12

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Christ's Naming - Jesus

Every manner of being recognized Him as 'JESUS'.

Believing Men:

- *"And when he heard that it was JESUS of Nazareth, he began to cry out, and say, Jesus, thou Son of David, have mercy on me."* Mk. 10:47, Blind Bartimaeus

Unbelieving Men:

- *"And Pilate wrote a title and put it on the cross. And the writing was, JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS."*
Jn. 19:19, Pilate

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Christ's Naming - Jesus

Demons:

- "...what have we to do with Thee, Thou JESUS of Nazareth?.... I know Thee who thou art, the Holy One of God." Mark 1:24, The unclean spirit in the synagogue of Capernaum.
- "What have I to do with thee, JESUS, thou Son of the Most High God?" Mark 5:7, The spirit known as legion in the country of Gerasenes.

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Christ's Naming - Jesus

Angels:

- "Fear not, for I know that you seek JESUS, who was crucified" Matt. 28.5, Angels to the women at the tomb.

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Christ's Naming - Jesus

Even the Lord Jesus Himself uses that Name:

- Saul on the road to Damascus asked “*Who are you, Lord? And the Lord said, ‘I am JESUS whom you are persecuting’.*” Acts 26:15

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Christ's Naming - Jesus

Gabriel brought that Name to Earth, but the Lord took it back up to heaven Himself.

- At His ascension, angels spoke of His return: “*Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? this same JESUS, who is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as you saw him go into heaven.*” Acts 1:11
- The NT closes with the prayer of all saints: “*Even so, come, Lord JESUS.*” Rev. 22:20

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Christ's Naming - Emmanuel

EMMANUEL: "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name **EMMANUEL**" Matt. 1:23

- Immanuel literally means "God is with us".
- This name describes the Messiah's NATURE - He is Deity, who He is.

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Christ's Naming - Emmanuel

- He is: "Mighty God, Everlasting Father", Isa 9:6
- He is: "God", possessing the "glory of God"; the Great "I AM", who shared in the glory of the Father prior to His incarnation, Jn 1:1-3,14; 8:56-59; 17:5; Isa 42:8
- He is: "equal with God" who willingly humbled Himself, Phil. 2:5-11
- He is declared to be "the Son of God with power" by virtue of His resurrection, Rom. 1:3-4
- In Him: "dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily", Col. 2:9
- Human minds, finite and feeble, wrestle with this great mystery, but Jesus is "God manifested in the flesh", 1Tim. 3:16

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Christ is both Jesus and Emmanuel

The two are bound up together.

- For Christ to be EMMANUEL, God with us, He must be virgin born.
- For Christ to be JESUS, the Savior, He must be EMMANUEL, God with us.
- Because He was virgin born, He is EMMANUEL, and because He is EMMANUEL, He is JESUS, our Savior.