

Jesus: No Spin Matthew Chapter One: The Son of David

personal / group study for use with the message of September 20 and 21st, 2008

This is the first lesson in the series on the Gospel of Matthew. Matthew wrote this account for the Jewish people so they could recognize that Jesus is the One they have been longing for, the One that their scriptures point to. Jesus is still the One the world longs for. He spoke of us, His followers, are the salt of the earth. When we trust in Jesus as our Savior, He could immediately take us home to heaven, but He leaves us here to be His witnesses. He leaves us here to be a seasoning in our neighborhoods and to be a preservative in our world. Jesus wants to change the world through you!! Will you allow Him to use you as an agent of change?

Introduction.

Jesus is both the "son of David" fulfilling the salvation promise to the Hebrew people and the "son of Abraham" fulfilling the salvation promise to ALL peoples. Jesus is the important one, the who of this passage.

- "Matthew's Gospel is the bridge that leads us out of the Old Testament and into the New Testament. The theme of the O.T. is given in Genesis 5:1, 'this is the book of the generations of Adam.' But the theme of the New Testament is, 'the book of the generation of Jesus Christ' (Matthew 1:1). – Warren Wiersbe, The Bible Exposition Commentary."

Read.

Matthew 1:1-25: *"A record of the genealogy of Jesus Christ the son of David, the son of Abraham: Abraham was the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, Judah the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar. Perez the father of Hezron, Hezron the father of Ram, Ram the father of Amminadab, Amminadab the father of Nahshon, Nahshon the father of Salmon, Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab, Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth, Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of King David.*

"David was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been Uriah's wife, Solomon the father of Rehoboam, Rehoboam the father of Abijah, Abijah the father of Asa, Asa the father of Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat the father of Jehoram, Jehoram the father of Uzziah, Uzziah the father of Jotham, Jotham the father of Ahaz, Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, Manasseh the father of Amon, Amon the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jeconiah and his brothers at the time of the exile to Babylon.

"After the exile to Babylon: Jeconiah was the father of Shealtiel, Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, Abiud the father of Eliakim, Eliakim the father of Azor, Azor the father of Zadok, Zadok the father of Akim, Akim the father of Eliud, Eliud the father of Eleazar, Eleazar the father of Matthan, Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ.

"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 Christ.

"This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about; His mother Mary pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

"But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.

"All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"—which means, "God with us."

"When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus."

*All scripture taken from the New International Version (NIV) unless otherwise noted.

Questions.

Genealogies in the Jewish culture show more than family relationships. A Jew needed to be able to prove tribal membership for ownership and inheritance rights. Matthew clearly omitted some names from the list. He put together groups of fourteen generations, representing periods of Israel's history.

The genealogy is the "who" part of this chapter of Matthew's Gospel. The birth story is the "how." The "who" is of utmost importance. Jesus was a Spirit-born, God-sent Son of David, who would save His people from their sins, fulfilling the Messianic hope of the Old Testament. A first century Jewish reader of Matthew would have recognized that he was boldly claiming that "The One" had arrived, the long-awaited Son of David.

ThinkAboutIt...

1. What do you observe in this passage? What questions do you have?
2. In verse 22 of Matthew 1, it says that Jesus' life was the fulfillment of a prophecy, look up Isaiah 7:14 and write that prophecy here.

ReflectOnIt...

3. What three periods in Jewish history are represented by sets of fourteen generations? (v. 2-6, 6-11, 11-17)
4. The name "Jesus" means "God Saves".! What is the significance of the name "Christ" or "Messiah"? (See Psalm 2:2)
5. Mary and Joseph were in a tough spot. Do you find it difficult to trust God when you believe He is calling you to do something beyond your understanding? Explain.
6. WHO are you looking for to rescue you from your sins?
7. WHO are you looking for to solve the world's problems?
8. WHO are you putting your hope in to bring true, lasting change to your life?

RespondToIt...

9. Have you prayed and told Him that you believe in Him? Have you thanked Him for coming and saving you from your sins through His death on the cross? TRUST HIM TODAY AND FOREVER.

Joseph and Mary trusted God. God has a purpose for each of us. Ask God to work through you to be His witness and believe He will do it

Extra.

Read Romans 11 for a discussion of the future of the Jewish people coming to Christ.

S-See others through God's eyes.

A-Ask God to work in people's hearts (Pray, Pray, Pray).

L-Love People for Jesus' sake. Help your neighbor.

T-Tell them about Jesus; plan for them.