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## **8.9.20**

### **Matthew 1**

### **The Importance of the Genealogy of Jesus**

Before we get started into looking at the importance of the genealogy of Jesus found in Matthew 1, I wanted to recap some of the things I shared last week about the author of this Gospel, Matthew.

Matthew was a man who was conflicted. By birth he was a Jew but by profession he was a tax collector which meant he was despised by the Jewish people.

As I mentioned last week, nobody likes a tax man but Matthew took this title to a new level. In the days of Matthew and Jesus, Rome was the governing body. This did not sit well with the Jewish people. They hungered for their glory days of when David was their king and they were a mighty, feared country of their own. But because they had forsaken God their country fell upon hard times.

The country of Israel experienced civil war and two separate nations were formed. Then, one nation fell then the other into captivity under various other regional powers. The nation of Israel as a country and military power was gone but the people of Israel, the Jews, still lived through the middle east.

The Jewish people despised the Roman government and since Matthew collected taxes for Rome, he was despised even more than the Romans. He was considered a traitor of his own country men.

But as the writer of the first of the four Gospels, Matthew was an example of the power of the gospel, the good news of Jesus Christ.

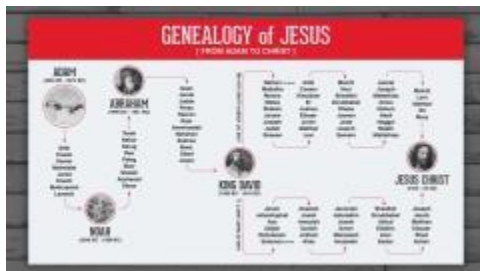


When Jesus passed by the booth where Matthew was working, Jesus said, Matthew, follow me and Matthew without hesitation did.

Jesus looked beyond Matthew's profession. He looked beyond the greed and self-serving attitude that Matthew probably had. He looked beyond the life-style that Matthew had probably fell into. Jesus looked beyond all those things and looked into the heart of Matthew and there He found someone who loved God. So Jesus called him took him on a wonderful journey where Matthew would experience the power of God working in and through Him.

That is the power of the Gospel, the good news of Jesus Christ. It doesn't matter what our past is, if we follow Jesus He will take us on a journey where we too, will experience the power of God working in us and through us.

In Matthew's case he was highly qualified to write of the life and works of Jesus because he was one of the saving works of Jesus.



As we move into the first half of Matthew 1, it might be one of those sections of the Bible you tend to skim or even skip over. I have read it a couple of times in the past more out of duty than looking for any truths found in it. I said to myself, I want to be faithful and read the whole Bible so I must read this part too.

This is easy to do but there is value in reading the genealogy of Jesus. There are some interesting things found here as well as some important facts.

I don't know if you have gotten on ancestry.com. Some people spend a lot of time researching and finding out who their ancestors were and where they came from. I have a couple of extended family members that do this and it is interesting to see who was back there and a bit about their lives. Some good and some not so good.

My family has people who did the land run in Oklahoma and we also have one guy that was hung as a horse thief. We all probably have those skeletons in our closet so to speak.

If you study out the genealogy listed here of Jesus you will find some interesting people as well, some of them not as squeaky clean as you might expect and some who might be considered saints. We won't take the time to read through this entire passage this morning but I would encourage you to take some time and look up the different men and women who make up the lineage of Jesus.

Always like God, He surprises us with who He uses to accomplish His purposes. You will see this as you study this out in Matthew and in Luke 3.

Now this morning, I wanted to encourage you to become Bible carrying people. I know I make it easy for you by listing most of the passages I use but let's get used to carrying our Bibles to church. Having your Bibles open during this time will help you become familiar with the location of certain passages and you can make notes in your Bible if your comfortable with this.

Let's start by looking at the first verse in Matthew.

**Matthew 1:1, "The record of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham."**

Matthew starts out with the two most important figures in all of the Old Testament and of the nation of Israel. If you were a Jewish person reading Matthew's writing, the mention of Abraham and David would have gotten your attention.

If you remember your Bible stories you know that Abraham was the man God called to leave his country, his family and go to a place where God directed him. After God's interaction with Adam and Eve and then Noah and his family, Abraham is the next person we see God interacting with. In Abraham's case, this was a great calling and the beginning of the nation of Israel.

Let's look at Abraham's call in **Genesis 12:1-3, "Now the Lord said to Abram, 'Go forth from your country, and from your relatives and from your father's house, to the land which I will show you; and I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great; and so you shall be a blessing and I will bless those who bless you, and the one curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed."**

And in **Genesis 22:17**, “**indeed I will greatly bless you, and I will greatly multiply your seed as the stars of the heavens and as the sand which is on the seashore...**”

You can see how far reaching this promise from God is. Abraham is promised that his seed will be multiplied to an uncountable number and all the families of the nation will be blessed.

### **God’s Promises to Abraham**

- **God will make Abraham a great nation**
- **God will bless Abraham**
- **God will make Abraham’s name great**
- **All the families of the earth will be blessed through Abraham**

Now I don’t think Abraham knew the fullness of the promises of God. He had no idea how all of those promises were going to play out. All he knew is that if he remained faithful to the Lord in the day he would be blessed, his family would be blessed for generations upon generations and so would all the world.

That would be something to get excited about wouldn’t it? That kind of promise of blessing from the Creator of the Universe would motivate anyone to move from their home and follow God.

As you study the life of Abraham you certainly know he lived a blessed life. A bit messy at times, but who isn’t?

Matthew also mentions David in the opening of this Gospel. He actually mentions David first because he is closer in his family connection to Jesus than Abraham. Verse 17 tells us there are three sets of generations mentioned. 14 generations from Abraham to David, 14 from David to captivity and fourteen generations who lived in captivity until Jesus showed up.

God did a lot of things between Abraham and David. The Israelites were enslaved in Egypt, Moses was used for their deliverance. Jacob led them into the promised land and David becomes the king of their dreams.

Under David the nation of Israel becomes a mighty, powerful nation. Subduing the nations around them and expanding their lands. Things seem to be good and the nation is celebrating their new found prosperity.

The promise of Abraham seems to be fulfilled in David. In fact, God makes a covenant with David found in 2 Samuel 7:1-16. We wont read it but I have listed the highlights for you.

### **2 Samuel 7:1-16 – God’s Promises to David**

- **Make David’s name great**
- **Give rest from David’s enemies**
- **Establish a house for David**
- **Raise up offspring to succeed David**
- **David’s house and kingdom will endure forever**
- **From David would come the Kingdom and the King of God**

Some pretty impressive promises from God here not only to David but to the nation of Israel.

As you read through the life of David you can see that in David’s lifetime God blessed him in a lot of ways. David struggled in some areas and he payed the price for his mishaps but he was always repentant and he always came back to his relationship with God.

God said this about David. **Acts 13:22, “...He (God) raised up David to be their king, concerning whom He also testifies and said, “I have found David, the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart, who will do all My will.”**

It is no wonder that God blessed David in his life and promised the kingdom He established under David would endure forever.

Tragically, after David passed and his son Solomon became king, things went well for a while but ended poorly. So poorly that Solomon's sons were responsible for the destruction of the nation of Israel. Civil war led to being conquered by other nations which led to captivity for 400 years until the time of Jesus. And even with Jesus coming on the scene, the nation of Israel never did flourish again, not in a physical way anyway.

But look with me how the announcement of the birth of Jesus found in ties into the promise of Abraham and David.

### **FOLLOWING SCRIPTURE FOR SCREEN ONLY – NOT ON OUTLINE**

**Luke 1:26, 30-33, “Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin...the angel said to her, ‘Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and his kingdom will have no end.’”**

1,000 years after David dies, the Kingdom of David endures and enters into an eternal kingdom. 2,000 years after Abraham dies, God's promises of blessing all the nations of the earth becomes a reality.

Such is the faithfulness of God. As we read about the history of God and how He interacted with and made promises to Abraham and David

I believe we can know that...

### 1. God is **faithful**

**2 Corinthians 1:20a, “For as many as are the promises of God, in Him they are yes...”**

All throughout the Bible you can read about God’s faithfulness. Not just in the big things like establishing a kingdom or through someone blessing the whole world, but also in the small things in life.

Think about these promises for God’s people. **Isaiah 26:3, “You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in You.”**

We are promised perfect peace if we keep our mind on God. How many of us need an extra measure of peace today?

### 2. **Keeping our mind steadfast on God and Jesus is the key to unlocking the promise from God for perfect peace.**

What does it mean to keep our mind steadfast on God? That means every time a stray thought, attack or anything else that is not of God we take our mind captive and turn it back to God. Something happens and you go, nope, I’m not going to go there. I’m not going to feed into whatever that thing going on is. God, you promised me peace if I turn to you so to you I am turning. I am claiming Your promise for perfect peace if I turn to you.

How about this next promise.

**Deuteronomy 31:8, “The Lord Himself goes before you and will be with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid, do not be dismayed.”**



Do we have to worry about what may or may not happen in the future? Guess who has already gone out before you making sure your path is safe and not just safe but blessed.

**3. God is always out in front of you, making sure your path is safe**

Look at this last one.

**Isaiah 41:10, “...do not fear, for I am with you, do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.”**

Do not fear, do not be dismayed. Easier said than done right? I know I catch myself being dismayed as some of the things I see happening but God promises us that we don't have to worry about them. He knows. He sees it happening and even if things get tough He will give us the strength or whatever else it is that we need in the moment.

The promises of God. As I look back at the genealogy of Jesus I see how faithful God was to His promises and this builds my trust that He will always be faithful. Faithful in the world and faithful in my life.

Say this verse with me.

**“For as many as are the promises of God, in Him they are yes...”**

Let's pray