

The Genealogy of Jesus (Matt. 1:1-17)

Introduction

- I. Read Matt. 1:1-17. What do you know about your ancestors? Wouldn't you like to know? Ancestry.com popularity. People are interested in knowing their history.
- II. In the biblical world, your ancestry said a lot about you. The ancients drew conclusions about you from your ancestry. Family meant much more to them than it does to us.
- III. Jesus, as the Son of Man, had ancestors, too. And it was important for men to know about His ancestry. All scripture is profitable (2 Tim. 3:16-17) and that includes lists of genealogies.
- IV. There are things we can learn from these records. Study with me.

Body

I. Matthew Begins with Jesus' Ancestry. Why?

- A. Matthew's audience was (apparently) primarily Jewish. He wrote to convince all men, but especially Jews, that Jesus was the long-awaited Messiah.
 1. Matthew cites much scripture (1:22-23; 2:4-6, 14-15, 23).
 2. Genealogical records were important to the Jews (Gen. 5, 10, 1 Chron. 1-9).
- B. Matthew wants to show the Jews that Jesus fulfills two important prerequisites for being Messiah:
 1. Messiah must be a descendent of Abraham (Gen. 22:18, seed promise).
 2. Messiah must be a descendent of David (Isa. 11:1-2; Jer. 23:5).
 3. Matt. 1:1 asserts that Jesus is both, and 1:2-17 prove it.
 4. If Jesus were not a descendent ("a son") of both Abraham and David, He could not be the Messiah.

II. Digging into the Names

- A. **Division** of the record (1:17).
 1. Three sections of fourteen names (perhaps for memorization).
 - a. Abraham to David
 - b. David to the Babylonian captivity
 - c. Babylonian captivity to Jesus
 2. Some names are obviously omitted.
 - a. 1:8 – between Joram and Uzziah there were three kings (Ahaziah, Joash, and Amaziah).
 - b. This is not a mistake by the Holy Spirit. Why are they left out? Not sure.
 - c. Perhaps they were considered minor characters and not essential to the overall point.
- B. Jesus' **legal right** to the throne of David.
 1. Matthew records Jesus' lineage from Abraham to Jesus in **ascending** order. Luke records Jesus' lineage from Jesus to Adam in **descending** order (Lk. 3:23-38).
 2. God promised David that his throne would be established forever (2 Sam. 7:12ff).
 3. But one of his descendants via Solomon, Jehoiachin (Coniah) was very wicked and God promised that none of his descendants would ever reign (Jer. 22:24-30).
 - a. How will God fulfill His covenant with David?
 - b. By bringing Jesus into the world through another of David's sons, Nathan (Lk. 3:31).

- c. Nathan was another son born to David by Bathsheba. Jesus is connected to David by **blood** through Nathan.
- d. Jesus' father, Joseph, is a blood descendant of Coniah. If Jesus had been biologically Joseph's son, Jesus could not occupy David's throne and fulfill prophecy.
- e. But Jesus was "adopted" by Joseph, thus preserving a legal right to David's throne.

C. Four women

1. Three women were tainted by immorality:
 - a. Tamar pretended to be a harlot and was impregnated by her father-in-law, Judah (Gen. 38).
 - b. Rahab was a harlot (Josh. 2).
 - c. Bathsheba committed adultery with David (2 Sam. 11).
2. Ruth was not tainted by immorality, but she was a gentile from Moab.
3. These women are mentioned while other prominent women are not (e.g. Sarah, Rebekah).
4. God can use all kinds of people to accomplish His purposes.
 - a. In some cases, even women who were guilty of scandalous activity.
 - b. Even a gentile from despised Moab.
 - c. Perhaps this speaks to the type of person Jesus would be: one of cared for sinners and blessed the "outsiders" of the world.

Conclusion

- I. God keeps His promises. Promises to Abraham and David were fulfilled in Jesus. Promises to us will be kept as well.