

SO: The Genealogy of Jesus (David Brown)

The Family Tree

Introduction

I. General thoughts.

A. The gospel of Matthew begins: "The book of the genealogy..."

1. The word "book" is translated from the Greek word "Biblos."
2. The word "genealogy" comes from the Greek word "Geneseos," which is the genitive singular of **genesis**. It means birth or origin.
3. This is interesting because, through Jesus, there is to be a new beginning.

B. Also of interest: the gospels have a unique beginning.

1. Matthew immediately enters into the genealogy of Jesus. "The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham:" (Matthew 1:1)
2. Mark's gospel of Jesus begins with prophecy. "The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. 2 As it is written in the Prophets: "BEHOLD, I SEND MY MESSENGER BEFORE YOUR FACE, WHO WILL PREPARE YOUR WAY BEFORE YOU." 3 "THE VOICE OF ONE CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS: 'PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD; MAKE HIS PATHS STRAIGHT.'"'" (Mark 1:1-3)
3. Luke's gospel starts with an historical narrative. "Inasmuch as many have taken in hand to set in order a narrative of those things which have been fulfilled among us, 2 just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word delivered them to us, 3 it seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write to you an orderly account, most excellent Theophilus, 4 that you may know the certainty of those things in which you were instructed." (Luke 1:1-4)
4. John begins all the way back to the beginning with God. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." (John 1:1)

C. As we study the genealogies of the Bible, we soon realize that they are more than just lists of names. There are great truths revealed in them.

1. From the genealogy of Genesis 5, we learn that God's word is true. Sin brings forth death.
 - a. Men lived several years; then they died.
 - b. Enoch, on the other hand, walked with God and did not see death. Walking with God preserves life.

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2. In the genealogy of Genesis 11, God makes us aware that His promise was not forgotten, even though much time and many generations passed.

a. Genesis 3:15 "And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."

b. Through Abram, God would bring forth the One Who would bruise the head of the serpent.

D. Ancient families were concerned about their lineages.

1. Genesis 28:5. Because Jacob was a relative, Laban took him into his household.

2. Deuteronomy 25:5-10. If a man died, his brother was to take his brother's wife in order to secure his brother's heritage.

3. Kings would establish their successors to thrones by lineage: David, Solomon, Rehoboam, and so forth.

4. 2 Samuel 7:11-16. The establishment of a kingdom was promised through the lineage of David.

5. Genealogy was of particular importance to the Jews.

a. Ezra 2:62: To keep the priestly line pure.

b. Leviticus 24:28: To retain the inheritance of the land.

E. The genealogy of Israel is important to us as well because we "are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus!" (Galatians 3:26-29)

II. Let's search with intuitive minds the great truths contained in the genealogy of Matthew 1.

Discussion

I. **Through the Genealogy Provided by Matthew, We Learn that Jesus is the Anointed One Who Brings Salvation.** (Matthew 1:1: "The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ...")

A. In the Old Testament, a name often indicated a characteristic of the one to whom it was given.

B. This is true of the name, "Jesus Christ."

1. The name "**Jesus**" means "**Jehovah is salvation.**"

a. Jesus is referred to as our "**Savior.**"

b. Matthew 1:21: "And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins."

2. The name “**Christ**” means “**Anointed One**.” In Old Testament scriptures, the following were commonly anointed:
 - a. Prophets. (1 Kings 19:6)
 - b. Priests. (Exodus 28:41)
 - c. Kings. (1 Samuel 16:3, 13; Isaiah 45:1 - Cyrus)
- C. Jesus is introduced as “the Son of David, the Son of Abraham.”
 1. As the Son of David, Jesus is also the ancestor of Abraham. Matthew, however, is calling attention to God’s promise to bring a blessing to “**all the nations**.”
 2. Genesis 22:18: “In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.”

II. **Through Matthew's Genealogy, We Learn that Jesus is the Fulfillment of Old Testament Prophecies.** (1:22)

- A. Fulfilled prophecy is one of the greater pieces of evidence used to validate Scripture.
- B. Throughout Matthew’s gospel, he uses the phrase, “that it might be fulfilled.”
 1. 1:22: “So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying...”
 2. 2:15: “and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, ‘OUT OF EGYPT I CALLED MY SON.’”
 3. 2:23: “And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, ‘He shall be called a Nazarene.’”
 4. 4:14: “that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying...”
 5. 8:17: “that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: ‘HE HIMSELF TOOK OUR INFIRMITIES AND BORE OUR SICKNESSES.’”
 6. 12:17: “that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying...”
 7. 13:35: “that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying: ‘I WILL OPEN MY MOUTH IN PARABLES; I WILL UTTER THINGS KEPT SECRET FROM THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD.’”
 8. 21:4: “All this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying...”

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9. 27:35: "Then they crucified Him, and divided His garments, casting lots, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet: 'THEY DIVIDED MY GARMENTS AMONG THEM, AND FOR MY CLOTHING THEY CAST LOTS.'"
- C. Jesus fulfilled so many prophecies that there could be no mistaking Who He was. "And that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name." (John 20:31)

III. **The Genealogy of Matthew Reveals God's Love and Forgiveness.**

- A. Have you ever noticed that in Matthew's genealogy women **are** mentioned? Or have you ever noticed that in other Biblical genealogies women are **not** mentioned?
- B. Consider the women who are mentioned by Matthew.
 1. 1:3 – Tamar.
 2. 1:5 – Rahab.
 3. 1:5 – Though not mentioned by name, Bathsheba is obviously implied.
 4. 1:5 – Ruth.
 5. 1:18 – Mary, the mother of Jesus.
- C. Consider the women who are not mentioned.
 1. Sarah, the wife of Abraham.
 2. Rebekah and Leah.
- D. Of the women mentioned:
 1. Tamar was an undeniable skeleton in Israel's closet. Her sons Phares and Zara were conceived through incest with her father-in-law Judah!
 2. Rahab had been a harlot.
 3. Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah, was guilty of adultery, a sin punishable by death.
- E. These women (Tamar, Rahab, Bathsheba) reveal God's love for those who repent. God desires to save those who acknowledge Him! Consider that Rahab is mentioned as the wife of Salmon; but in Joshua, she is mentioned as being a harlot.

IV. **The Genealogy of Matthew Reveals the Justice and the Wrath of God.**

- A. Notice in verses 11-12 that Matthew includes the Babylonian captivity. The sin of the Jews was not forgotten.
- B. Why bring this up in the genealogy?
 - 1. 1 Kings 8:46: "When they sin against You (for there is no one who does not sin), and You become angry with them and deliver them to the enemy, and they take them captive to the land of the enemy, far or near;"
 - 2. We are reminded that "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23)
 - 3. There is a price to be paid for sin. Romans 6:23: "For the wages of sin *is* death..."

V. **Matthew's Genealogy Reminds Us that Jesus Is Man's Only Savior.** (Matthew 1:21)

- A. Acts 4:12: "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."
- B. Hebrews 5:9: "And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him..."
- C. Hebrews 12:25: "See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth, much more *shall we not escape* if we turn away from Him who *speaks* from heaven..."

VI. **The Genealogy of Matthew Makes Known the Power of God.**

- A. Matthew 1:18. Jesus was born of a virgin.
- B. Isaiah 7:14: "Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel."

VII. **The Genealogy of Matthew Makes Known the Self-Imposed Limitations of God.**

- A. Matthew 1:2-3. Jesus is of the lineage of Judah.
 - 1. Hebrews 7:14: "For *it is* evident that our Lord arose from Judah, of which tribe Moses spoke nothing concerning priesthood."
 - 2. Jesus would not be a priest on earth according to the order of Aaron.
- B. Matthew 1:11. Jesus is of the lineage of Jeconiah.
 - 1. Jeremiah 22:28-30: "Is this man Coniah a despised, broken idol—A vessel in which *is* no pleasure? Why are they cast out, he and his descendants, And cast into a land which they do not know? 29 O earth, earth, earth, Hear the word of the LORD! 30 Thus says the LORD: 'Write this man down as childless, A man *who* shall not prosper in his days; For

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none of his descendants shall prosper, Sitting on the throne of David, And ruling anymore in Judah.' "

2. Jesus would not be a king ruling from Jerusalem.

Conclusion

- I. We, too, can be part of the lineage of Jesus.
- II. Galatians 3:26-29: "For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. 27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 And if you *are* Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."