

“GENEALOGY”
JESUS THE FULFILLMENT OF GOD'S PROMISES!
MATTHEW CH1:1-17

ILLUSTRATION

The “standing up” at the E.M.A. The umbrella, box of sweets and wedding ring!

WHY START WITH A GENEALOGY?

- The Greek expression for “record of the genealogy” (V1), “Biblos Geneseos” occurs in both Genesis Ch2:4 and Ch5:1
- It deals with facts! It creates and establishes a **RECORD!**

Matthew wanted his generation to have the facts about JESUS, that is why he put together an accurate record! Matthew is writing his letter to mainly Jewish readers, God has demonstrated His faithfulness to human beings for over 4000 years! GOD demonstrates His faithfulness to us through keeping His Word and His promises! Matthew illustrates this through the opening chapters of his letter! Now I accept that starting with a genealogy, isn't necessarily the most exciting way to start talking about a new Book, but *it can be* if you are looking for the right things!

Matthew wanted his generation to have the facts about JESUS, that is why he put together an accurate record! *The climax of God's work for human beings is JESUS!* When a new King is presented, his heredity (that is the inheriting of a title) needs to be authentic, accurate and open to the public for scrutiny! Matthew starts with a genealogy because for his Jewish readers he needed to show them just this, that JESUS' lineage had not been falsified! Without accurate records no Jew was allowed the benefits and privileges that were afforded to them as Jews (Ezra Ch2:62).

THE REAL RECORD!

- Names, names and more names. A record of Relationships.
- You can trace your family ancestors. It can help deal with legal rights.
- It can help deal with issues relating to responsibilities.
- It reveals God's royal line! It reveals GOD'S faithfulness to His promises!
- Matthew wanted to draw attention to the links Jesus had with both David and Abraham.
- Jesus is the fulfilment of all history and in particular God's promise to Abraham – Gen Ch12:1-3, and David 2 Samuel Ch7:11

The record shows God's all-embracing love as He continues to work through His plan for history.

THE REAL ROYAL LINE!

- *God's PROMISES*
- V1 “son of David” (2 Samuel Ch7:11-16 God's promise)
- V1 “son of Abraham” (Genesis Ch12:1-3 God's promise)
- V3 Judah (The Royal Line, Genesis Ch49:8-12)

- **5 WOMEN**
- V3 – TAMAR (Genesis Ch38 slept with her father-in-law and became pregnant)
- V5 – RAHAB (Joshua Ch2 a prostitute)
- V5 – RUTH (Book of Ruth a Moabite)
- V6 – Uriah's wife, BATHSHEBA (2 Samuel Ch11:1-27)
- V16 – MARY (Probably 4 months pregnant, Luke Ch1:36-56)

- **WICKED AND GOOD KINGS**
- V7 Rehoboam (1 Kings Ch14:21-30 wicked king)
- V7 Abijah (1 Kings Ch15:1-7 wicked king)
- V7 Asa (1 Kings Ch15:10-11 good king)
- V8 Jehoshaphat (1 Kings Ch22:41-44 good king)

Over a period of 4000 years, through the fall, the flood, captivity, the plagues, taking the land, Judges, good kings, evil kings, exile, faithful people, unfaithful people, women whose rights were abused by men, GOD remained faithful, and protected the **ROYAL LINE!** Barriers between men and women, Jews and Gentiles and good and bad are broken!

THE REAL REDEEMER!

- The genealogy is designed to make three names stand out, Abraham v2, David v6 and JESUS v16.
- CHRIST V1, V16, V17 – Messiah or Christ became the designation of a figure representing the people of God and bringing in the promised eschatological reign. Matthew purposely links Christ and “son of David” to be clear about what he is claiming for JESUS!
- Son of David Ch9:27, Ch12:23, Ch15:22, Ch20:30-31, Ch21:9, Ch21:15, Ch22:42, Ch22:45 – God swore covenant love to David and promised that one of his immediate descendants would establish the kingdom (Psalm 89:29)
- The genealogy ties together the *promise and the fulfilment of the REDEEMER!*

GOING AWAY WITH!

Matthew provides an accurate “record” for us that traces JESUS' genealogy. Through the individual lives recorded in the genealogy, it reveals that no-one is beyond God's grace. It reveals for us that although human beings need to take full responsibility for their decisions, God's sovereignty provides the “canopy” for those decisions.

Where in the genealogy can you see evidence of God's sovereignty, man's sinfulness and God's scandalous grace? How can the power of the sovereignty of God and His scandalous grace encourage you this week? ***God works to rescue sinners and to use them in His service!***

Jesus is God's Son, all of us will have a scandalous history, God remains faithful, no-one is beyond saving!