

SERMON GUIDE

The Line of the King

Matthew 1:1-17



12.24.2023

SCRIPTURE:

Matthew 1:1-17

SERMON NOTES:

Today we are looking at a passage that usually skips in your Bible reading. I imagine most of you haven't spent significant time studying genealogies, but they are rich with information, plus they remind us that all of Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching us and training us in righteousness. I believe you'll find that true again today.

Before we start looking at the text, I want to take you from Genesis 1 to the end of the Old Testament. (Summarize Creation, Fall, Establishment of Abrahamic Covenant, Messianic echoes, David's Kingship, Kingdom divides, People stray, Nations Conquer, Prophets declare a coming Redeemer, People long for restoration and redemption from promised King).

But while these things are plainly declared in Scripture, many, like in our own day, missed it. While many awaited the promised One, they missed him when He arrived. Many looked for their own ideas of the Christ. Others were threatened by what the Christ would mean to their own position and standing. Sadly, as John's Gospel tells us in 1:10-11 "He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him." And so the task of announcing and proclaiming that Jesus was the One who was promised and foretold in Scripture came to pass. Those who did receive him and became children of God, inherited the task of telling about him.

This is the setting for which we find ourselves when we open Matthew's Gospel. Matthew, one of Jesus' twelve disciples who walked day-by-day with him, is writing an eyewitness account on the life of Jesus. He is informing the Christians, as well as the non-Christians of his day, about who this God-man really was. Matthew, who is Jewish, is writing with Jewish Christians in mind because he seeks to show how Jesus is the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies and promises. Matthew is not writing to give a generic descriptive biography of Jesus. His aim is evangelistic. He's writing as a man with a purpose. He's writing to convince his readers and us, that Jesus of Nazareth is the Christ, the Son of the Living God, the world's true and rightful King. Why? Because the most important thing in all of our faith is to know and understand who Jesus is. Jesus is described in Hebrews 12:2 as the "author and perfecter of our faith." He is the starting point for study. Jesus says if you have seen him you have seen the Father (John 14:8-11). I remind us of that this morning because we need to be people who know Jesus. We need to know His deeds, His words, His promises, His commands, and more important than all of those things, we need to truly know Him, relationally.

Scripture Exegesis of Matthew 1:1-17

I want us to look at this genealogy through the grid of 3 main points. Through those points, we will see what Matthew is doing as he introduces us to Jesus through this lineage.

I. Jesus is the Promised King & Blessing to the Nations

In order to understand why Matthew wrote this genealogy, we must first understand what it is and what it is not. This isn't a generic list of facts about the ancestors of Jesus. He is not giving us a person by person account of Jesus' descendants. Instead, he is being incredibly intentional about this list of people. Matthew is not claiming to list every person in Jesus' genealogy, in fact, the phrase "the father of" does not require immediate relationship but often means something like "was the ancestor of." We have to remember that the early Jewish Christians reading this would have certainly understood that this was not a person by person list of Jesus' family, and they also would have understood what Matthew was doing by the people listed here, namely, to show that Jesus truly is the Christ and King foretold from the prophets of old.

Now there are two main passages that every good Jew would know. They were aware that their establishment as a nation comes from Abraham. Which is why they focused so much on recognizing that God was the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The forefathers of their nation. It was Jacob's twelve sons that became the twelve tribes of Israel and officially established them as a nation. This establishment of a nation was the work of God for the purposes of blessing the nations.

Genesis 12:1-3 -- 1 Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. 2 And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

So God establishes Israel and they will be a nation with the purpose of blessing all other nations. How? They point them to God. Then God raises up a king that he promises will have an everlasting kingdom. That a descendent from his throne will rule forever. This indeed will be the mechanism by which Israel will bless the nations, because there will come a ruler who will rule the nations.

2 Samuel 7:12-16 -- 12 When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. 13 He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. 14 I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men, 15 but my steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. 16 And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever."

God speaking through the prophet Ezekiel says,

Ezekiel 37:24 -- *My servant David shall be king over them, and they shall all have one shepherd. They shall walk in my rules and be careful to obey my statutes.*

It is important to note that this is a prophetic pointing to Jesus because David has been dead for hundreds of years at this point. Ezekiel is speaking of the awaited descendent of David who will rule as king. So when Matthew begins in verse 1 by declaring that this is the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham, he immediately captures the attention of everyone reading or listening to it be read.

Matthew's chief aim in the genealogy is to show Jesus Messiah is truly of the kingly line of David, heir to the messianic promises, and bringer of divine blessings on all the nations. This purpose in his genealogy dictates what ancestors he is using in showing Jesus' lineage. So when we begin to look at the names mentioned we are reminded of his kingly ancestry. We see that Jesus descended from Judah. Judah is the one who received the promise from his father Jacob that his lineage would be the rulers of the nation (Genesis 49:10). Jesus comes from the line of Judah. We also see that Jesus descended from David and then Matthew lists out all the kings from which Jesus descended, beginning with David going all the way down to Jechoniah. Matthew is showing here that Jesus is connected to the royal line. He is in the family of kings, fulfilling the promise from God to David that his kingdom would never end.

Lastly, if the reader has not picked up what Matthew is trying to make crystal clear, that Jesus is the Christ and King, the promised ruler from the line of David. Matthew then describes to the reader in verse 17 that this genealogy is broken down in 3 sets of 14 generations. Why does this matter? Ancient Hebrew used their letters not only as an alphabet for words, but each number represented a numerical value too. So every word had numerical value as well. The name of David in Hebrew is "דָּוִד." The numerical value of the first and third letter "ד" (dalet) is 4. The middle letter "ו" (vav) has a numerical value of 6. David's three letters (in English, DWD, in Hebrew Dalet Vav Dalet) equals 14. By this symbolism Matthew points out that the promised "son of David," the Messiah, has come. Jesus Christ is the Lord and King. He is the long awaited Messiah, son of David, son of Abraham.

If any questions remained as to Christ being the King from David's line and the fulfillment of the Abrahamic promise, Matthew shows us at the end of the book, in Matthew 28, Jesus giving the disciples the Great Commission, telling them that "all power and authority" had been given to him - he was king, and to go and "make disciples of all nations" - the promise to Abraham fulfilled.

II. The Sovereign Plan of God Played Out In Time

The genealogy of Jesus here described by Matthew sheds light on the sovereign wisdom of God over His universe and those in it. It's very important we understand that if Jesus is the Word who was with God and was God from the beginning (He is eternal), then the plan of God to bring forth Christ has always been. This plan was not thought out on a whim or carelessly, but rather, God the Father, from all of eternity, knew how He was going to execute His marvelous plan, and His Son, Jesus, was fully

submitted to it and aligned to His will. Having said that, God's plan was to always bring Jesus into Earth through this group of people we have listed here. We know this because prophecy confirms that God had foreknew His plan and prophetic utterances were the opportunity for humans to glance at the plan. Having said that, this begins to shine light on the sovereign wisdom of God and how despite circumstances that appear bleak and marred by sin, they are not outside of the grand design of God to bring forth His plan.

4 Examples from the Genealogy that show the Sovereign Wisdom of God:

1. The story of Judah and Tamar (Genesis 38)

- Tamar was married to Judah's first two sons, but they die, Judah promises a third
- Judah doesn't give the third son to her, she disguises herself as prostitute to seduce him
- Tamar becomes pregnant by Judah and he's clueless the prostitute was Tamar
- Word gets out Tamar is pregnant, Judah wants her killed, she reveals its his, twins
- Jesus descends from the first born of the twins, Perez

2. The story of Rahab (Joshua 2)

- Israelites were preparing to invade Jericho, part of the promised land
- Israelites send spies into the city and they met Rahab the prostitute who hides them
- She protects them when people come looking for them, and she fears their God
- Jericho is destroyed by the Israelites and Rahab and her family are spared
- Jesus descended from this Gentile prostitute

3. The story of David & Bathsheba (2 Samuel 11)

- David gets Bathsheba, the wife of one of his most loyal soldiers, pregnant
- He has the soldier killed, God punishes David by taking the child's life
- David marries Bathsheba and they have another child, Solomon
- Solomon becomes king after David, Jesus descends from Solomon

4. The story of Hezekiah & Manasseh (2 Kings 20-21:1)

- Hezekiah was one of the few good kings of Judah, becomes deathly ill
- Isaiah the prophet tells Hezekiah that he will die, Hezekiah prays for life
- God grants Hezekiah 15 more years of life, he has a son, Manasseh
- Manasseh becomes king, though wicked, Jesus descends from him

Oh how marvelous is the sovereign wisdom of God! How could we not trust the one who by the power of his word created all we see, whose plan is being executed with precision. He is all-knowing and wise, though we do not see how all the dots connect we must learn that true worship happens when we recognize that we do not know everything and why it happens, but our Sovereign Master has a plan, it will be good.

We see that through the stories of these people the fact that God can use deceivers and people with a past. We realize that even a Gentile prostitute can enter the kingdom of God and be used for His purposes. In fact, Matthew's mentioning of Gentiles in this lineage goes to show that God had already been preparing the way of Israel becoming a blessing to the nations. We see a broken situation in David and Bathsheba redeemed, showing that no sin has to define your life forever. And we see that

God wants us to learn to ask for things in prayer, even the things that He has already planned to give us. We are taught submission and dependence on Him. Oh how great and sovereign is the wisdom of God. All the wisdom of men is foolishness in comparison.

III. The Marvelous Reality of Adoption

Our last idea to look at this passage through is the idea of adoption. It's interesting that we often disconnect the adoption of children and the doctrine of adoption, where God has adopted us into the family. This entire lineage of Jesus hinges on one thing, Joseph, the husband of Mary. You realize that Joseph is not the "biological father" of Jesus. Jesus was born of a virgin woman from the seed of God. He was not born as we were. He had no earthly man supply the seed for his birth. However, Jesus' entire connection to the line of David comes through Joseph (verse 16). Now this can also be placed into what we just previously discussed under God's Sovereign Wisdom, for this was no accident. No, this is absolutely critical for us to understand. Jesus' adoption into the family of Joseph is critical to connect him to the earthly line of David. He is the eternal Son of God, Joseph does not make him that, but it was God's providential plan that the Messiah would come from the kings of David through adoption. This is a marvelous thing! This is not to be scoffed at or made to feel less than. Jesus was truly the son of Joseph through adoption, which made him a true heir of David and Abraham. If this is not so, then friends, neither are we true heirs of the kingdom. For our inheritance in the kingdom of God is based on our adoption into the family of God also. You see, without our adoption that comes through faith in Christ, we would not be connected to the family of God and would not share in the promises of God.

We are grafted into the family of God through the saving work of Jesus Christ. Listen to Paul's opening words to the church of Ephesus about this spectacular event:

Ephesians 1:3-6 -- 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, 4 even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love 5 he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, 6 to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.

Oh what unsearchable grace, that we should be called sons and daughters of God, we who are from rebellious blood and corrupted seed, are able to call ourselves heirs of the king. To what do we have such a privilege? Is it of our own greatness and worth? By no means! It is all to the praise of his glorious grace with which he has blessed us. We were once orphans, children of wrath by nature, but we have become children of God through Christ. This is why John said at the beginning of his gospel:

John 1:12-13 -- 12 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

Jesus was adopted by Joseph, bringing him into the lineage of kings, we too are adopted. And just as Jesus was rightfully an heir to the throne through his adoption, so are we rightfully heirs of the king through our adoption. We are not step children, we have full rights as children of the king, through Jesus Christ.

Jesus is the promised son of David, son of Abraham. With that, comes all the fulfillment of the promises of God. Forgiveness of sins only comes through Him. Reconciliation to the Father only comes through Him. Eternal life only comes through Him.

Friends, if you have not come to a place where you have realized your sin has cut you off from the presence and blessing of God, and that you are hopeless to reconcile it on your own, then I'm pleading, drop your pride and bow your life to this King who laid down his life and took the penalty for sinners. Cry out to Him and find forgiveness.

For believers gathered here, do not boast today of your greatness. Boast today in the greatness of Christ. Do not grow complacent in your position as child of God. Rejoice daily that you were rescued from the tyranny of Satan. Rejoice daily that you are no longer a wanderer looking for a family to call home. You have found that in Christ. Cleave to him. Stick to His side. Remember from where you have come, from what you have been rescued from, and follow Him.

For those who are wandering, admit you're not where you should be today. Remember that God does not cast aside those whom He has rescued. He does not send us back to the orphanage. He will not leave us or disown us as His children. But He is calling you back home today. His Spirit will not let up on you. You belong to Him. You have been bought at a price, and He will not settle to be made second in your life. Turn from your sin. And walk in the grace that He alone can supply.

Oh friends, what a great God we have! Our Redeemer came to save and rescue us. Jesus is King! He is the Son of David, the Son of Abraham.

LOOK BACK

- How was your week? What is one thing you're grateful for and one thing that challenged you?
- How did you GROW in obedience to Christ over the last week?
- Where did you GO to share the gospel or have a spiritual conversation with someone?

BUILD UP

- **REVIEW:**

- Read Matthew 1:1-17 and then have someone else in the group read it again, preferably from a different version.
- What big takeaways did you have from the teaching?
- Additional Scripture:
 - Genesis 3:15
 - Genesis 17:6
 - 2 Samuel 7:16
 - 2 Corinthians 4:4
 - John 8:44
 - John 12:40
 - John 12:40
 - John 1:29
 - Luke 13:10-17
 - John 11:45-53
 - Galatians 4:4-5
 - Ephesians 2:13,18
 - Revelation 5:10

- **REFLECT:**

- Why did Matthew write this genealogy?
- Why didn't the Jews recognize Jesus as the promised King?
- Why is it important that Matthew listed four women in this genealogy? Discuss what you know about Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, and Bathsheba.
- How do we see God's grace and sovereignty play out through this genealogy?
- Matthew's genealogy records the line of Jesus back to Abraham. Luke's genealogy records His lineage back to Adam. However, Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit so there was an interruption in the physical lineage of Jesus. How does Jesus stay connected to this line through Joseph and what does that mean for those who are in Christ?

- **RESPOND:**

- Do you recognize Jesus as King? How is that reflected in your life?
- How does understanding the lineage of Jesus give us confidence and hope?

- **MEDITATE:**

- Galatians 4:4-5 -- *4 But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.*

- **MEMORIZE:**

- Ephesians 2:13 -- *But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.*

SEND OUT

- **GROW:** How will you abide in Christ this week and grow in your love and understanding of Him?

- **GO:** Who in your sphere of influence needs to hear this story or the gospel?

- **PRAYER:**

- Pray over any request from your group members.
- Student Pastor - **Larry Davis**
- Ministry - **Student Ministry**
- **Pray for our long-term families on the field:**
 - The Wilsons
 - The Grays
 - The Starks
- **Pray for our mid-term sent ones on the field:**
 - Kaesi
- **Pray for the lost - Unreached People Group (UPG):** Kaman in Myanmar (Burma)



- **Population in country:** 5,100
- **Global population:** 5,100
- **Christian Adherent:** 0.00%
- **Evangelical:** 0.00%

- **Primary Religion:** Islam
- **Primary Language:** Rakhine
- **Summary:** The Kaman are a minority Muslim people in Myanmar. The government has recognized them as one of the country's 135 ethnic groups. When violence broke out in 2012 between the Rohingya and Buddhists, the Kaman received the same ill treatment as other Muslim groups. Many families have migrated to Yangon to avoid violence, but they were also ill-treated there; the government seized their homeland for small compensation and transplanted them to the city without providing homes or employment.
- **Prayer Focus:** Pray that the Church would gain entry to minister within Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps and stand alongside the Kaman. Pray that God's Spirit would use their difficult situations to bring about a people movement to Christ.
- Want to keep up with other Unreached People Groups? Download the Unreached of the Day App <https://joshuaproject.net/pray/unreachedoftheday/app>