

Matthew Chapter 1

Introduction / Background:

- Written by Matthew / Levi around 50-60 AD
- The name “Matthew” means literally “the gift of Yahweh”
- 400 yrs. between Malachi / 2 Chronicles and Gospel of Matthew. 2 Chron. is the last book chronologically and is the last book of the Jewish scriptures.
- Written primarily to the Jews.
- Matthew presents **Jesus as the Messiah and King** in fulfillment of the O/T prophecies. (**Theme**)
- Key phrase: “**that it might be fulfilled.**”
- Matthew quotes the O/T more than any other N/T book.
- This Gospel is a bridge between the Old Testament and New Testament.
- The genealogy in Matthew presents the “legal” line or royal line to the throne.
- Between the 4 Gospels we see three genealogies, legal, none, blood,& eternal.
- As a tax collector Matthew was accustomed to keeping records and being organized and this Gospel reflects that.
- Matthew was not written chronologically, but topically.
- The book is divided up into 5 main sections and in each section there is a
 - A discourse – body of teaching.
 - A demonstration – how Jesus worked it out practically – application for us.
 - A debate – people questioning, wondering, or talking about, reacting to the lesson.
 1. **Matthew Chapters 1-10** The King revealed, he writes about the Kingdom and the King of the Jews.
 2. **Chapters 11-13** The King resisted, when opposition to Jesus begins to surface.
 3. **Chapters 14-20** The King retreating, where Jesus takes His disciples and pulls them away to give them personal instruction.
 4. **Chapters 21-27** The King rejected, as the people say, “we will not have this man rule over us.”
 5. **Chapter 28** The King resurrected.

V: 1 *“The book...”*

Psalm 40:7 “...Lo, I come in the volume of the book, it is written of Me,”

Hebrews 12:2 “Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith,..”

“generation of Jesus / of the genealogy”.

- Every king has a record of his birth, establishing their right to the throne
- This term is only used these two times, once with Adam and once with Jesus.

Genesis 5:1 “This is the book of the generations of Adam. In the day that God created man, in the likeness of God made He him;”

- One line; Adam’s leads to death (“and he died”), the other, Jesus’ leads to life. (“begot”)

Romans 5:12 “Wherefore, as by one man sin entered the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.”

Romans 5:19 “For as by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.”

- “Royalty” and or social status at that time depended on heredity, your pedigree. The son of so and so, or of the tribe of Benjamin or whatever.
- Jesus’ enemies certainly checked out His “pedigree” in an attempt to use it against Him.

Ezra 2:62 “These sought their register among those that were reckoned by genealogy, but they were not found: therefore they were as polluted, put from the priesthood.”

- Basically the Temple records were the public records. The Temple records were all destroyed in 70 AD, there are no Jews today who can claim with absolute authority that they are actual descendents of Abraham, Isaac, or Jacob –except the One who’s genealogy has been preserved from before that time – Jesus!
- As much as the religious leaders placed great value on lineage and genealogy, so did Jesus. It is important to establish the fact that Jesus is the only One who can rightly claim the title of LORD, Messiah, or Christ.

John 10: 1-2 “¹Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. ²but he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep.”

- Matthew's genealogy goes to where it is needed, to Abraham and David. Luke's genealogy goes all the way back to the beginning. **Luke 3:23-38** Adam to Mary

“Jesus Christ” – “Yeshua Meshiach” - God is salvation – anointed One)

- In the Old Testament they anointed three groups of people.

Prophets, priests, and kings. – Jesus fulfilled all the offices:

- Jesus is “the Prophet” who came to declare the word. (Deut. 18:18)
 - **Jesus is our faithful High Priest.** (Hebrews 2:17)
 - **Jesus is the King of Kings.** (Revelation 17:14, 19:16)
- Abraham puts Jesus in the nation, establishes Him as a Jew.
 - David puts Jesus on the throne, part of the Kingly line.

“the Son of David” - was also a Messianic title: not “a” son of David, but “the” Son of David.

2 Samuel 7: 12-13 ¹²“And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish His kingdom. ¹³He shall build an house for My name, and I will stablish the throne of His kingdom for ever.”

V: 2 *“Abraham”*

Genesis 12:2-3 ²“And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: ³And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.”

Genesis 22:18 “And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because thou hast obeyed My voice.”

Galatians 3:16 “Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He saith not, and to “seeds”, as of many, but as of one, “and to thy seed”, which is Christ.”

V: 3 *“Tamar...”* Typically, a genealogy did not include women because they were not valued in that culture as they are today in Christianity.

- Traditional Jewish prayer: “God I thank you I was not born a gentile, a dog, or a woman.”

Galatians 3:28 “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.”

Genesis 38 describes how Judah marries a Canaanite, has a number of sons, the oldest being named Er. Er was married to Tamar, but he did evil in the sight of the Lord and the Lord killed him.

As was the custom for a widow who had not born children, she would be given to the next brother so that a descendant / child would be raised up in the dead brother’s name. But the next brother refused to play along – and the Lord killed him too.

Judah had another son who was younger and not ready to be married yet. Judah asked Tamar to wait for the proper time and then she would be given to this son to raise up a descendant for Er. Judah never kept his promise, and Tamar knowing what was going on set a trap for Judah, which he fell into which resulted in the Judah fathering a child through his daughter in law by the name of Perez, part of the Messianic line.

The price of a goat, the pledge / collateral: Signet ring, chord, and staff. Played the harlot, bring her out to be burned – Judah acknowledged them and said “She has been more righteous than I.”

V: 5 *Rahab* Harlot in Jericho who hid two Hebrew spies Joshua sent there to determine the strength of the city (**Josh. 2:1**). When the king of Jericho learned of the spies' presence, he sent men to arrest them. Rahab outsmarted the king and hid the men on her roof, sending the arresting officers on a false chase toward the Jordan River.

In return for her help Joshua spared her and her clan when the Hebrews destroyed Jericho (**Josh. 6:17-25**). Matthew names Rahab as Boaz' mother (1:5) in his genealogy of Christ, making her one of the Lord's ancestors. The book of Hebrews also lists Rahab among the heroes of faith.

Hebrews 11:31 “By faith the harlot Rahab did not perish with those who did not believe, when she had received the spies with peace.”

Ruth was a Moabite (**Ruth 1:4**) who eventually ended up as the wife of Boaz, together they had a son by the name of Obed, who in turn had a son by the name of Jesse, the father of King David.

V: 6 *“David”* Path to the throne.

- Bathsheba is not directly named, but is implied in connection to David’s sin.
- The Bible is very frank about it’s heroes, a transparency that we tend to shy away from in today’s culture.
- Bathsheba’s inclusion is a matter of historical fact and integrity.
- Bathsheba, last of 4 gentile women.
- Considering the traditional Jewish prayer: *“God I thank you I was not born a gentile, a dog, or a woman.”* Why was each of these women mentioned in the genealogy?
- The Jews prided themselves in the areas of family responsibility, sexual purity, racial purity, and historical accuracy. Each of the women named in this genealogy seems to strike at their pride.

Tamar	Canaanite	family responsibility	Grace, spiritual leadership.
Rahab	Canaanite	sexual purity	Grace, Holiness to the Lord
Ruth	Moabite	racial purity	Grace, 2 Corinthians 6:14
Bathsheba	Hitite	historical purity	Grace, Truth, Ps. 51:6, Jn. 14:6

“Solomon” This genealogy (Joseph’s) goes through Solomon to the curse upon Jechonias (v:11) as opposed to Luke’s gospel account which records Mary’s genealogy from Nathan avoiding the curse.

V: 7-11 Listing some of the kings we read about in the book of Isaiah.

- Jechonias – curse in **Jeremiah 22:24-30** removes the “Je”, changing the name to “Chonias”, because it was the same prefix as “Jehovah”.

Jeremiah 22:24-30 ²⁴As I live, saith the Lord, though Coniah the son of Jehoiakim king of Judah were the signet upon My right hand, yet would I pluck thee hence. ²⁵And I will give thee into the hand of them that seek thy life, and into the hand of them whose face thou fearest, even into the hand of Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon, and into the hand of the Chaldeans. ²⁶And I will cast thee out, and thy mother that bare thee, into another country, where ye were not born; and there shall ye die. ²⁷But to the land whereunto they desire to return, thither shall they not return. ²⁸Is this man Coniah a despised broken idol? Is he a vessel wherein is no pleasure? Wherefore are they cast out, he and his seed, and are cast into a land which they know not? ²⁹O earth, earth, earth, hear the word of the Lord. ³⁰Thus saith the Lord, write ye this man childless, a man that shall not prosper in his days: for no man of his seed shall prosper, sitting upon the throne of David, and ruling any more in Judah.”

V: 16 From the Jewish standpoint; this is the legal blood-line, which always goes through the father.

- The genealogy listed in the Gospel of Luke is different, it goes from Adam straight through to Mary – who is described indirectly as “Joseph the son in law of Heli.” (**Luke 3:23**)
- Notice that Joseph is listed as the husband of Mary as opposed to the father of Jesus.
- Pointing to, affirming the virgin birth.

V: 17 14 generations is an approximation, some were left out as being insignificant.

- “14” is the number of David.

V: 18 “*birth*” = “*genesis*” (G-1083), nativity, birth, same as “genealogy” is verse 1.

“Betrothed” Espoused, engaged, a bargain had been struck. There was a formal commitment for marriage between the parents of the bride and groom and between the groom and bride themselves. It encompassed all the responsibility of marriage prior to actually being married.

“Child of the Holy Spirit” Emphasizing that Jesus was born of the Holy Spirit, not of man.

Turn to:

Luke 1:26-38 Describing the fact of the virgin birth.

- The virgin birth is an essential doctrine of Christianity.
- The body of Jesus was directly prepared by God, within Mary.

Hebrews 10:5 “Wherefore, when He cometh into the world, He saith, sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body thou prepared for Me.”

2 Corinthians 5:21 “For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.”

Hebrews 7:26 “For such a High Priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens.”

V: 19 Joseph was a just man, and one who feared the Lord.

Genesis 6:9 “These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man...”

- Noah, John the Baptist, Cornelius the centurion, and Jesus were all referred to as “just men” at different times.
- Joseph was both a just man, and a merciful man – Lord help us to be both!
- Putting her away privily as opposed to public ridicule and death as per the law.

Deuteronomy 22:20-21 ²⁰“But if the thing be true, and the tokens / evidences of virginity are not found for the damsel, ²¹then they shall bring out the damsel to the door of her father’s house, and the men of her city shall stone her with stones that she die: because she hath wrought folly in Israel, to play the whore in her father’s house: so shalt thou put away evil from among you.”

V: 20 “... *he thought on these things,*”

James 1:19 “Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath;”

Proverbs 14: 29 “He that is slow to wrath is of great understanding: but he that is hasty of spirit exalteth folly.”

Ecclesiastes 5:2 “Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter any thing before God: for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few.”

- God knows Joseph’s heart and the things that he was thinking, the things that he was struggling with.
- God gave Joseph a word through an angelic messenger, a word of comfort, and a word of knowledge.

Psalms 1:1-3 ¹“Blessed is the man who walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. ²But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doeth he meditate day and night. ³And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.”

“... *for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.*”

- Again emphasizing the virgin birth of Jesus.

V: 21 *“And she shall bring forth a son,...”* – A short term prophecy, they didn’t have the technology to ascertain the gender of a child ahead of time.

“you shall”, a command, it will happen.

“Jesus” is Greek transliteration of Hebrew name “Joshua”

- “Joshua” is a Hebrew name that means literally “Jehovah is salvation”, or “savior”

Purpose: *“for He shall save His people from their sins.”*

John 1:17 *“For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.”*

- Moses represented the law, and could not lead Israel into the promise land. Moses’ successor did lead the people into the promise land, his name was Joshua, or in Greek – Jesus.

Galatians 3:11 *“But no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, the just shall live by faith.”*

Luke 19:10 *“For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”*

V: 22 “fulfilled” = fulfillment of prophecy. (key phrase)

Genesis 3:15 *“And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise your head, and thou shalt bruise His heel.”*

Isaiah 9:6 *“For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder: And His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.”*

Isaiah 53:2 *“For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: He hath no form or comeliness; and when we shall see Him, there is no beauty that we should desire Him.”*

V: 23 Old Testament prophecy quoting **Isaiah 7:14**

- Immanuel is His descriptive name, not his literal name.
- Jesus has a prophetic name by which we will address Him:

Jeremiah 23:5-6 ⁵“Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. ⁶In His days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is the name whereby he shall be called. THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.”

“Jehovah (YHWH) Tsidkenu”

V: 24 Joseph was obedient.

John 14:15 “If you love Me, keep My commandments.”

James 1:22 “But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.”

- Joseph was a doer of God’s word.

V: 25 No physical relationship until after Jesus was born.

- Joseph and Mary did eventually have children together:

Matthew 13:55-56 ⁵⁵“Is not this the carpenter’s son? Is not His mother called Mary? And his brethren, James, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas? ⁵⁶And His sisters, are they not all with us?...”

- Often times, things are attributed to Joseph and Mary by the church through tradition or false teaching that we do not find in the Bible.
- We have only a very few verses about Joseph and Mary in the bible in general.
- Teachings like the “perpetual virginity” of Mary, or the “co-redemptress”.

1 Timothy 2:5 “For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.”

- Again Joseph was obedient, the Child was named Jesus.