

# **The Gospel According to Matthew**

(Introduction)

Consider if you will, the difference between viewing a picture, and viewing a statue, a picture being flat can only be viewed in one dimension, a Statue on the other hand can be viewed from all sides, revealing all the details of the figure! This is what the four recordings of the Gospel, By Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John are. The details of the Statue of Christ! Each one giving his account of detail to see the God-Man as the Holy Spirit led them to record.

Four different men, Four distinct gospel narratives, yet one complete, inerrant story of the birth, the life, the death, and the resurrection of the sinners substitute, the righteous sacrifice for God's chosen people! Christ Jesus the Lord!

As we saw in our recent study of Mark, Mark presents the side of Christ as Jehovah's Servant, coming to fulfil His Father's will, ready to serve and willing to be sacrificed upon the altar.

Luke, presents Him as the Son of Man, full of human sympathy and tenderness.

John, sets forth the deity of our Savior before us as the Son of God, with the majesty that goes above all our thoughts and imaginations.

Matthew shows us Christ as triumphant King, as the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, the promised Messiah, who has come to save His people from their sins. And what a better way to start with than to present us but with the line He was foretold to be of!

**(Mat 1:1) The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.**

Hawker wrote...

*“The Old Testament begins with the account of the Creation. The New Testament begins with the account of Him, by whom all things were created (Heb 1:1-2) **God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds.***

*The great design of this pedigree concerning Christ after the flesh, is to prove Christ's lineal descent from Abraham. For unless this be proved, the evidence that Christ is the promised seed, would be wanting. **“For to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not to seeds as of many, but as of one, and to thy seed which is Christ”** (Gal 3:16).*

Compare with (Gen 12:3), (Gen 22:18), and (Gen 17-15-21).

*Hence, therefore, the importance of this pedigree is evident. And the correctness of the one here given, is striking...Perhaps it were a thing impossible in any other instance, but in the genealogy of Christ, to find among all the pedigrees of the Jews, from the days of our Lord to this hour, a correct genealogy of any one house, or tribe, or family, even for fourteen generations together. Whereas in this of Christ, we have three times fourteen. What can more decidedly manifest the overruling providence and watchfulness of God!”*

This genealogical record is important because it is an irrefutable proof that Jesus of Nazareth is indeed the Christ of God, the Son of David, the promised Seed of Abraham. The Jews, from the very beginning of their history, kept precise genealogical records. The Scribes and Pharisees studied those records with great care. They constantly raised questions about “endless genealogies” The Apostle Paul address’s that in (1Ti 1:4) **Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather than godly edifying which is in faith.**

If they could have disproved the Lord's genealogy, that alone would have been sufficient grounds for their rejection of Jesus as the Christ; but they could not. Though the Jews argued about many things and constantly accused the Lord Jesus of horribly evil deeds, they not once brought up His ancestry.

Don Fortner wrote: *“to this day, though religious heretics abound who try to undermine our faith in Christ, I know of none who have ever attempted to discredit his genealogy. The reason should be obvious to anyone. It is flawless! Though Luke's record of the genealogy gives additional details and omits others, there is not a single point of disagreement between the two”*.

Next point to consider in this list of names, we are brought to see is that God is faithful to His Word. He always keeps His Word.

**(Rom 15:8) Now I say that Jesus Christ was a minister of the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made unto the fathers.**

He promised long ago that all the nations of the earth would be blessed in the Seed of Abraham (Gen 12:3); and Jesus Christ is Abraham's Seed in whom all nations are blessed (Mat 1:1); (Gal 3:13-16).

God promised that He would raise up One out of the family of David to be the Savior of His people (Isa 11:1) **And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots;** and Jesus Christ is David's great Son and his Lord (Mat 1:1) **The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham;**

Read (Act 2:25-36).

These seventeen verses are a wonderful demonstration to we who believe of the fact that God always keeps His Word, He doe's not change His mind (Mal 3:6) **For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.**

Let this also be a warning to those who refuse to believe, and a blessing of Grace to those who have received the gift of faith, remember this and tremble! Though men imagine that because God does not immediately punish sin He will never punish sin, it is not so. The righteous Lord, because He loves righteousness, will destroy the wicked with His everlasting wrath (Psa 7:11) **God judgeth the righteous, and God is angry with the wicked every day;** (Psa 11:5-7) **The LORD trieth the righteous: but the wicked and him that loveth violence his soul hateth. Upon the wicked he shall rain snares, fire and brimstone, and an horrible tempest: this shall be the portion of their cup. For the righteous LORD loveth righteousness; his countenance doth behold the upright.**

Let every believer remember this and be comforted! Our heavenly Father will be true to all His promises. He is not a man, that He should lie (Num 23:19) **God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?**

**“He abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself”** (2Ti 2:13).

**“God, who cannot lie”** (Tit 1:2), has made some promises to his people; and **“all the promises of God in Christ Jesus are yea and amen”** (2Co 1:20).

God has promised saving grace to all who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ (Act 16:31) **And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house,**

He has promised sufficient grace to His tried saints (2Co 12:9) **My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness,**

He has promised Sustaining grace to those who are tempted (1Co 10:13) **There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it,**

He has promised Strengthening grace to those who are weak (Isa 41:10) **Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness,**

He has promised Restoring grace to those who are fallen (Psa 37:24) **Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD upholdeth him with his hand; (Pro 24:16) For a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again: but the wicked shall fall into mischief,**

He has promised Dying grace at the time appointed (Exo 15:16) **Fear and dread shall fall upon them; by the greatness of thine arm they shall be as still as a stone; till thy people pass over, O LORD, till the people pass over, which thou hast purchased; (Heb 2:15) And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage,**

He has promised Crowning grace to all who enter into heaven's glory (2Ti 1:12) **nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day;**

**(Jas 1:12) Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.**

And what God has promised He will perform.

**(Isa 14:24) The LORD of hosts hath sworn, saying, Surely as I have thought, so shall it come to pass; and as I have purposed, so shall it stand:**

**(Isa 14:27) For the LORD of hosts hath purposed, and who shall disannul it? and his hand is stretched out, and who shall turn it back?**

Read Matt.1:1-17

One more observation we might have in the genealogy of Christ. Four of the five women mentioned were women with a reputations or a blemish you might say, that most would like to hide from their family tree. Our Savior chose to be numbered with transgressors, even in His genealogy. Tamar was guilty of incest. Rahab was a harlot. Ruth was a Moabite, a child of a cursed race. And Bathsheba was the adulteress wife of Uriah.

We know that the Lord Jesus was made “**sin for us, who knew no sin**” (2Co 5:21). He who was made “**in the likeness of sinful flesh**” (Rom 8:3) was also made “**a curse for us**” (Gal 3:13). But here, as the New Testament opens, the Spirit of God seems to say to us that our holy Savior came into this world through such channels of sin and uncleanness as who could ever have imagined. He who was “**holy, harmless, undefiled and separate from sinners**” and “**made higher than the heavens**” as we read in (Heb 7:26) came into the world through a family of sinners.

What humiliation! Truly, He of whom this genealogy speaks is the Friend of sinners! He came into the world to save sinners! Of whom I am chief!