

Series: Matthew

Title: The Generation of Jesus Christ

Text: Matthew 1: 1-17

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Matthew 1: 1: The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. 2: Abraham begat Isaac; and Isaac begat Jacob; and Jacob begat Judas and his brethren; 3: And Judas begat Phares and Zara of Tamar; and Phares begat Esrom; and Esrom begat Aram; 4: And Aram begat Aminadab; and Aminadab begat Naasson; and Naasson begat Salmon; 5: And Salmon begat Booz of Rachab; and Booz begat Obed of Ruth; and Obed begat Jesse; 6: And Jesse begat David the king; and David the king begat Solomon of her *that had been the wife* of Urias; 7: And Solomon begat Roboam; and Roboam begat Abia; and Abia begat Asa; 8: And Asa begat Josaphat; and Josaphat begat Joram; and Joram begat Ozias; 9: And Ozias begat Joatham; and Joatham begat Achaz; and Achaz begat Ezekias; 10: And Ezekias begat Manasses; and Manasses begat Amon; and Amon begat Josias; 11: And Josias begat Jechonias and his brethren, about the time they were carried away to Babylon: 12: And after they were brought to Babylon, Jechonias begat Salathiel; and Salathiel begat Zorobabel; 13: And Zorobabel begat Abiud; and Abiud begat Eliakim; and Eliakim begat Azor; 14: And Azor begat Sadoc; and Sadoc begat Achim; and Achim begat Eliud; 15: And Eliud begat Eleazar; and Eleazar begat Matthan; and Matthan begat Jacob; 16: And Jacob begat Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ. 17: So all the generations from Abraham to David *are* fourteen generations; and from David until the carrying away into Babylon *are* fourteen generations; and from the carrying away into Babylon unto Christ *are* fourteen generations.

Matthew 1: 1: The book of the generation of Jesus Christ...

Only twice in scripture do we find this phrase The first time is *Gen. 5:1: This is the book of the generations of Adam*; the second is here—*Matthew 1: 1: The book of the generation of Jesus Christ*. God made Adam and Christ heads of their people: from Adam all the human race came; from Christ all God's spiritual race come

This is one of those passages we are prone to skip over because isn't it is just a list of names? No.

2 Timothy 3:16: All scripture [is] given by inspiration of God, and [is] profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

Proposition: This genealogy of Christ declares Christ is the promised Messiah, the salvation of his people.

Divisions: 1. The Faithfulness of God 2. Salvation by Grace 3. Christ's Condescension

THE FAITHFULNESS OF GOD

Matthew 1: 2: Abraham begat Isaac; and Isaac begat Jacob; and Jacob begat Judas and his brethren;

Notice, how this genealogy begins with Abraham. Abraham is the father of the faithful. God called Abraham first after the flood and promised him salvation in Christ. And God promised Abraham that Christ was coming through his family tree.

Genesis 12: 1: Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: 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: 3: And 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 be blessed...

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.

We see God's faithfulness because God brought to pass every word. We follow Abraham's genealogy and we see God fulfilling his word faithfully—"Abraham begat Isaac; and Isaac begat Jacob; and Jacob begat Judas and his brethren; And Judas begat Phares...And Jesse begat David the king; and David the king begat Solomon..." Again, as God promised Abraham, God promised that Christ would come through Jesse

Isaiah 11: 1: And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots:...

Then God faithfully fulfilled his covenant promise. Think of the wars. Think of the divisions of men and countries. Israel was even carried captive into Babylon. Yet, God was ruling it all to fulfill his promise to Christ and his promise to Abraham.

Numbers 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?

Isaiah 46: 9:...I am God, and there is none like me. 10: Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times *the things* that are not *yet* done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:...11:...yea, I have spoken *it*, I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed *it*, I will also do it.

Brethren, we have great peace knowing that God is faithful to full every promise. Nothing hinders our sovereign God, “*Faithful [is] he that calleth you, who also will do [it].*” (1 Thes 5:24)

SALVATION BY GRACE

Matthew 1: 2: Abraham begat Isaac; and Isaac begat Jacob; and Jacob begat Judas and his brethren;

Abraham had another son, Ishmael; But Ishmael was of Abraham’s will and works; Isaac was the elect son of God’s promise

Genesis 21: 12:...in Isaac shall thy seed be called.

Romans 9: 6: Not as though the word of God hath taken none effect. For they *are* not all Israel, which are of Israel: 7: Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, *are they* all children: but, In Isaac shall thy seed be called. 8: That is, They which are the children of the flesh, these *are* not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the seed. 9: For this *is* the word of promise, At this time will I come, and Sara shall have a son.

God promised Isaac—so was Christ and so is each elect child. Isaac was born by a miraculous birth—so was Christ and so is each elect child. Salvation is by God’s grace, not by man’s works.

Again, in Jacob we see salvation by grace—“*And Isaac begat Jacob*” Isaac had another son, Esau. But Jacob was God’s chosen.

Romans 9: 10: And not only *this*; but when Rebecca also had conceived by one, *even* by our father Isaac; 11: (For *the children* being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of him that calleth;) 12 It was said unto her, The elder shall serve the younger. 13: As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated.

There was no difference in these two: same father, same mother, both conceived in sin. But before they were born God chose Jacob by free grace and God passed by Esau.

Romans 9: 14: What shall we say then? *Is there* unrighteousness with God? God forbid. 15: For he saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. 16: So then *it is* not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy.

Everything in salvation is by God’s free grace. By grace God chose his people. By grace God redeemed his people. By grace God calls and keeps his people.

John 1:13: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

Salvation is by the grace of our triune God.

1 Peter 1: 2: Elect according to the foreknowledge OF GOD, through Sanctification OF THE SPIRIT, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood OF JESUS CHRIST: grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied

CHRIST’S CONDESCENSION

Matthew 1: 3: And Judas begat Phares and Zara of Thamar;... 5: And Salmon begat Booz of Rachab [Rahab]; and Booz begat Obed of Ruth;... 6:...and David the king begat Solomon of her *that had been the wife* of Urias;

Throughout the rest of the genealogy only fathers and sons are mentioned. But here four women are mentioned. Each of these women, along with the men, were guilty of being great sinners. If you were sovereign would the genealogy of your Son include a sinful incestuous union such as Judah and his daughter-in-law Thamar? What about a sinful harlot such as Boaz born of Rahab the harlot? How about a sinful, Gentile Moabitess like Ruth? Or an adulterous and murderous relationship such as David who committed adultery with Bathsheba and then killed her husband to cover it up? God did. He did it to show us that Christ condescended to save sinners! God included all these sinners to manifest that Christ came to save sinners who could not save ourselves.

Everyone in this genealogy are sinners in heart as bad as those sins we see outwardly. Even after calling his people, we find Noah come out of the ark and in very little time get drunk; Moses got angry smote the rock twice; Peter denied the Lord three times and tried to leave the gospel. They were all sinners!

But that is the only kind of person Christ came to save!

Matthew 2: 16: And when the scribes and Pharisees saw him eat with publicans and sinners, they said unto his disciples, How is it that he eateth and drinketh with publicans and sinners? 17: When Jesus heard it, he saith unto them, They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

Think of the condescension! The Son of God humbled himself and became a servant then died a cursed death to save chosen sinners!

Philippians 2:6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: 7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: 8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

And to think we have trouble forgiving someone who sins against us far less! The most beautiful thing about our Savior is how lowly he came down to suffer to save sinners like us.

Hebrews 2: 10: For it became him, for whom [are] all things, and by whom [are] all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. 11: For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified [are] all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren... 17 Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.

We get in our flesh and become too proud to reconcile with someone who offends us. But when we offended our God infinitely worse, our merciful and faithful high priest came down—made of woman like unto his brethren; he came down—made under the law like unto his brethren; God came down--made sin like unto his brethren; he came down—made a curse like unto his brethren; at last he came down—buried in borrowed tomb. And by his precious blood he washed all his black sheep white as snow.

Isaiah 1: 18: Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

Sinner, come down, come to Christ, God promises this will be so of you. What is keeping you from believing on Christ and confessing him before men? Pride! What is keeping us from having mercy on offending brethren? Pride! God hates pride! But God loves his dear Son! He made himself the least in the kingdom of God to save sinners like you and me. So let us come down! Is any too proud, to good, to identify with us sinners? Christ came down to save his people; now let us come down to be saved by Christ.

AMEN!