

004 - According to the Scriptures - Matthew 1:1-25 - 2017-09-17

Call to Worship: Revelation 5 (excerpts)

Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David
And I looked, and there stood a Lamb as though it had been slain
And they sang a new song, "You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your
blood!"

Scripture Reading: Genesis 22:1-18

Sermon: "Son of God Part 4: According to the Scriptures" Matthew 1:1-25

Benediction: Matthew 21:9b

INTRODUCTION

1689 Confession, Chapter 8, Paragraph 2

The Son of God, the second person in the Holy Trinity, being very and eternal God, the brightness of the Father's glory, of one substance and equal with him who made the world, who upholds and governs all things he has made, did, when the fullness of time was come, take upon him man's nature, with all the essential properties and common infirmities thereof, yet without sin; being conceived by the Holy Spirit in the womb of the Virgin Mary, the Holy Spirit coming down upon her: and the power of the Most High overshadowing her; and so was made of a woman of the tribe of Judah, of the seed of Abraham and David according to the Scriptures . . .

One of the most prominent features of the scriptures of the New Testament is the repeated reference to the scriptures of the Old Testament. There must have been a conscious effort on the part of the human authors, and design on the part of the Holy Spirit, to communicate very clearly that the subject of the New Testament, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, is the fulfillment of all the laws and historical records and prophecies and poems of the Old Testament.

That being the case in the Word of God, our hearts delight in observing that same thing. We love to consider in general the things the Old Testament says about worshiping God and obeying His commands, but we love even more to consider specifically how the Old Testament scriptures explain our Lord Jesus and point us to Him for forgiveness of sins.

The line in our confession of faith that we come to today points us to three such things. The Son of God is

of the seed of Abraham
of the tribe of Judah, and
of the seed of David,
all according to the Scriptures

TEXT

Matthew 1:1-25

BODY

- I. The Son of God, Having Taken to Himself Man's Nature, Is of the Seed of Abraham (Mt. 1:1-2)
 - A. You see that the first lines of the gospels, and of the New Testament scriptures, are for the purpose of establishing that Jesus Christ is of the seed of Abraham
 1. the promises of God are to Abraham's seed
 2. in order for people to know that Jesus of Nazareth is the Christ, it must be known that He is of the seed of Abraham
 - B. Note the combination of things in Genesis 22, regarding the promise of the seed of Abraham
 1. (Gen 22:18) God speaks the promise "in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed"
 2. (Gen 22:17) see that the promise regarding the seed is one of large numbers and power
 - a) multiply your seed as the stars of heaven and as the sand on the seashore
 - b) your seed shall possess the gate of his enemies
 3. (Gen 22:16) but remember that this amazing episode has been all about the father, Abraham, being willing to sacrifice his own seed in the person of his only son, Isaac
 4. I don't know how well Abraham grasped this. For us, though, knowing what happened later, we see the nature of this promise.
 - a) Your seed will be great, and will have victory over his enemies
 - b) Your seed will bless all nations
 - c) This will be accomplished by the father being willing that the seed be sacrificed
 - C. In the apostle's preaching of the gospel, this played prominently Acts 3:24-26 Yes, and all the prophets, from Samuel and those who follow, as many as have spoken, have also foretold these days. (25) You are sons of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying to Abraham, 'AND IN YOUR SEED ALL THE FAMILIES OF THE EARTH SHALL BE BLESSED.' (26) To you first, God, having raised up His Servant Jesus, sent Him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from your iniquities."
 1. it seems the Jews would interpret the prophecy something like this
 - a) God made covenant with us through Abraham, saying, "in your seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed"
 - b) we are the seed of Abraham
 - c) through our family God will bless all the other families of the earth
 - d) the blessing is that they will enjoy the peace and prosperity of our glorious rule over them
 2. but hear how Peter, himself a Jew, understood the prophecy about the seed of Abraham

- a) God made covenant with us through Abraham, saying, “in your seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed”
- b) Christ is the seed of Abraham
- c) through Him all the families of the earth will be blessed, our family first
- d) the blessing is that He will turn every one from your sins

The Son of God, Having Taken to Himself Man’s Nature, Is of the Seed of Abraham; and

II. The Son of God, Having Taken to Himself Man’s Nature, Is of the Tribe of Judah (Mt. 1:3)

A. God caused Jacob to prophesy, a thousand years in advance, that the kings of Israel would come from the tribe of Judah

Genesis 49:8-10 "Judah, you are he whom your brothers shall praise; Your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies; Your father's children shall bow down before you. (9) Judah is a lion's whelp; From the prey, my son, you have gone up. He bows down, he lies down as a lion; And as a lion, who shall rouse him? (10) The scepter shall not depart from Judah, Nor a lawgiver from between his feet, Until Shiloh comes; And to Him shall be the obedience of the people.

- 1. (Gen 49:8) Judah would have the pre-eminence
 - a) over Israel’s enemies
 - b) over the other tribes

- 2. (Gen 49:9) Judah would be like a lion, in that a lion has the strength and ferocity and sharpness of claw and tooth to kill those it would kill, so that all other beasts fear it

B. This prophecy was realized to a limited degree when God rejected the first king of Israel, Saul, from the tribe of Benjamin, and established the ruling dynasty of Israel in David, who was of the tribe of Judah

- 1. David gained victory over Israel’s enemies
- 2. all the other tribes bowed down to David as their king

C. But this prophecy was realized fully when God sent His own Son, in human flesh, our Lord Jesus Christ, to be the true Lion of Judah.

- 1. hear His power described: *Revelation 5:1-5 And I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals. (2) Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?" (3) And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it. (4) So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it. (5) But one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals."*

- a) no one was able to open the scroll and to loose its seals
- b) but of course the Lion of the tribe of Judah has prevailed to do it!
- 2. but continue listening, to hear the nature of His power: *Revelation 5:6-10*
And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth. (7) Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne. (8) Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. (9) And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, (10) And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth."
 - a) when you look to see the great Lion of the tribe of Judah, what you do you see? (Rev 5:6)
 - (1) He is indeed on the throne, as is right for the tribe of Judah
 - (2) but He is shown not as a lion, but as a Lamb
 - (3) and He is not slaying, but He Himself has been slain!
 - b) the Lion of the tribe of Judah has gained the victory, and rules on the throne; yet not by shedding the blood of His enemies to destroy them, but by shedding His own blood to redeem them to God (Rev 5:9)
 - c) and the Lion of the tribe of Judah does not rule over His brothers so as to make them His slaves, but so as to make them kings with Him (Rev 5:10)

The Son of God, Having Taken to Himself Man's Nature, Is of the Seed of Abraham; and
The Son of God, Having Taken to Himself Man's Nature, Is of the Tribe of Judah

- III. The Son of God, Having Taken to Himself Man's Nature, Is of the Seed of David (Mt. 1:6)
 - A. 2 Samuel 7
 - 1. David wanted to build a house for the Lord, a temple
 - 2. God spoke to David through the prophet Nathan, saying
 - a) 2 Sam 7:5 Would you build a house for me?
 - b) 2 Sam 7:7 Have I ever spoken a word to anyone, saying, "Why have you not build Me a house?"
 - 3. 2 Sam 7:11b-16 Then Nathan said to David, "the LORD tells you that He will make you a house! When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will 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 his Father, and he shall be My son. If he commits iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men and with the blows of the sons of men. (15) But My mercy shall not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I removed from before you. (16) And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever." ' ' "

4. Here will be the nature of the seed of David (a description of the whole dynasty of David, not of just one man of the dynasty; not of Solomon only or of Jesus Christ only)
 - a) He will come from the body of David
 - b) He will build a house for My name
 - c) I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever
 - d) I will be his Father, and he shall be My son
 - e) If he commits iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men
 - f) My mercy shall not depart from him
 - g) Your house and your kingdom shall be established forever
 - h) Your throne shall be established forever
- B. Centuries later, when the destruction of Israel by the King of Assyria was about to happen, followed by the conquest of Judah by the King of Babylon; these destructions were prophesied by Isaiah; but the continuance of the promise to David came by prophecy, also
 1. Isaiah 9:6-7 For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (7) Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.
- C. These being the promises regarding the seed of David, given by God through His prophets, there were things sure to the faithful
 1. there would be a king who would restore the kingdom of David
 2. that king would be the seed of David
- D. The gospels are careful, then, to show that Jesus,
 1. was descended from David, both by His mother and by Joseph, who was legally His father
 2. though He grew up in Nazareth, was born in Bethlehem, where David also was born
 3. was identified by God's angel as the one who would be given the throne of His father David
- E. When the good news, the gospel of Jesus Christ was preached and defended by the apostles, Jesus was preached as the One who fulfilled the OT prophesies regarding the seed of David

1. Acts 13:22-23 And when He had removed him [Saul], He raised up for them David as king, to whom also He gave testimony and said, 'I HAVE FOUND DAVID THE SON OF JESSE, A MAN AFTER MY OWN HEART, WHO WILL DO ALL MY WILL.' (23) From this man's seed, according to the promise, God raised up for Israel a Savior--Jesus
2. 2 Timothy 2:8 Remember that Jesus Christ of the seed of David was raised from the dead according to my gospel:
 - F. With the quality of David, but none of his sin
 - G. "Have mercy on me"

The Son of God, Having Taken to Himself Man's Nature, Is of the Seed of Abraham,
 The Son of God, Having Taken to Himself Man's Nature, Is of the Tribe of Judah,
 The Son of God, Having Taken to Himself Man's Nature, Is of the Seed of David, and

IV. All of This Is According to the Scriptures

- A. The Son of God coming as He did was in fulfillment of what was foretold in the Old Testament scriptures, so that when we believe in Jesus Christ, we are believing not only the New Testament scriptures, but the Old Testament scriptures, also
 1. we who believe in the New Testament scriptures also believe in the Old Testament scriptures
 2. so that we are of one faith with those who believed the OT scriptures before there were NT scriptures
 - a) Moses
 - b) David
 - c) Daniel
 - d) Simeon and Anna in the temple with Jesus when He was a baby
 - e) John the Baptist
 3. however we are NOT of one faith with those who do NOT believe the NT scriptures, but say they believe the OT scriptures
 - a) because they do not actually believe the OT scriptures
 - b) they might read them and know what they say
 - c) but they deny what they mean
 4. we also are not of the same faith with any who might say they believe the NT scriptures, but not the OT scriptures
 - a) because they do not actually believe the NT scriptures
 - b) since the NT scriptures refer so many times to the truth of the OT scriptures
 5. See how the apostles insist on this point:
 - a) Acts 24:14 But this I confess to you, that according to the Way which they call a sect, so I worship the God of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the Law and in the Prophets.

- b) Acts 26:22-23 Therefore, having obtained help from God, to this day I stand, witnessing both to small and great, saying no other things than those which the prophets and Moses said would come-- (23) that the Christ would suffer, that He would be the first to rise from the dead, and would proclaim light to the Jewish people and to the Gentiles."
- B. The Son of God coming as He did was in fulfillment of what was foretold in the Old Testament scriptures, so that when we preach the gospel of Jesus Christ, we preach it not from the New Testament scriptures only, but also from the old
1. Acts 8:32-35 The place in the Scripture which he read was this: "HE WAS LED AS A SHEEP TO THE SLAUGHTER; AND AS A LAMB BEFORE ITS SHEARER IS SILENT, SO HE OPENED NOT HIS MOUTH. (33) IN HIS HUMILIATION HIS JUSTICE WAS TAKEN AWAY, AND WHO WILL DECLARE HIS GENERATION? FOR HIS LIFE IS TAKEN FROM THE EARTH." (34) So the eunuch answered Philip and said, "I ask you, of whom does the prophet say this, of himself or of some other man?" (35) Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him.
 2. When we read of Abraham in the OT, we preach Christ the Seed of Abraham
 3. When we read of David in the OT, we preach Christ the Seed of David
 4. When we read of Judah in the OT, we preach Christ the Lion of Judah

CONCLUSION

The Son of God . . . did . . . take upon him man's nature. . . and . . . was made of a woman of the tribe of Judah, of the seed of Abraham and David according to the Scriptures . . .

1 Corinthians 15:1-4 Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, (2) by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you--unless you believed in vain. (3) For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, (4) and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,

Prelude: Trinity 150 "All My Heart This Night Rejoices"

Camille: Flute

Noah: Trumpet

Anna: Piano

Grace 166 "There Is a Redeemer"

Camille: Flute

Noah: Trumpet

Anna: Piano

Trinity 151 "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

Camille: Piano

Noah: Trumpet

Anna: Clarinet

Trinity 134 "O Christ, Our King, Creator, Lord"

Camille: Sing

Noah: Sing

Anna: Piano

Trinity 268 "Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation"

Camille: Piano

Noah: Trumpet

Anna: Sing