

The Family of the King

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Text: Matthew 1:1-17

Series: King of Kings

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Living Hope Bible Church of Roselle, IL

Introduction: Open your Bible to the book of **Matthew**. We are beginning a new series through the book of Matthew. We are in a series entitled: “King of kings!” Today’s message we are talking about “The Family of the King”.

“During the first three centuries of the church, Matthew was the most highly revered and frequently quoted canonical Gospel.”

New Testament scholar D. A. Carson

In fact, in the early church, whenever the words of Jesus in the Gospels were read, the believers would stand at attention, because it was their belief that one should stand when you hear the words of a king!

So with that, let us open to the book of Matthew and read Matthew 1:1 (ESV), “The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.”

What follows is the most important genealogy ever written.

Family History Opening Illustration

Ten years ago, my oldest brother gave me the book of the genealogy of my family. How many of you have done research in your family tree? You can find interesting characters in every family tree.

- DAD’S SIDE (William Black)
 - Growing up, I remember listening to stories from my grandfather, **Charles Cunningham Black**, who everyone called “Scottie” because he was from Scotland, born in 1899. “He was 15 years old when he joined the British Army and fought in World War I. His sister Mary signed the papers for him so that he could get away from his father, who he didn’t get along with. He was caught in a battle and spent 3 months in a prison camp. After the war ended he was sent to Cairo Egypt.”¹ Once his service was ended he opted to go to the United States. He landed at Ellis Island on the 4th of March, 1923. Later he would put on three round exhibition fights for Al Capone, who paid him \$50 a night (a very good wage back then!).
 - Genealogies are fascinating! On my grandmother’s side, I found out that 150 years ago (in 1866), my great grandfather **Henry Becker** moved to 248 North Street, Elgin, Illinois, about 2 miles from where I presently live.²

¹ From werelate.org. http://www.werelate.org/wiki/Person:Charles_Black_%2811%29. Accessed December 8, 2012.

² http://www.werelate.org/wiki/Person:Henry_Becker_%285%29

- Mom’s side (Barbara Hyde-Butt Black)
 - Some of my ancestors were saved in the **Great Awakening under the preaching of John Wesley**. People used to say they that my family [the Butt family] were born with hymnbooks in their hands – “singing instead of crying!”³
 - My mom had a great aunt (through marriage). We all think our Aunts are great! Unfortunately this great aunt was an outlaw. So I’m also related to **Belle Starr**, one of the most famous female outlaw in the Wild West.⁴ In 1941 a famous movie was made about her.
 - As I went back, I found out I’m related to **James Scott, Duke of Monmouth** whose father was **King Charles II of England** (through Lucy Walter – via the VanStone / Butt families⁵)

James Scott, Duke of Monmouth, Usurper of the English Throne

Of course my most famous relative is James Scott, Great Grandson of King James I (King James Bible fame). Duke James Scott of Monmouth (a protestant), actually tried to usurp the throne from his uncle King James II (a Catholic). He was put into the London tower and later beheaded. He was a usurper.

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Herod, Not the Rightful King of Israel

That reminds me of another usurper that lived during the time of Jesus. He usurped the true monarchy of Israel. This usurper was named King Herod. He was not the rightful king of Israel.

This brings us to the book of Matthew to bring out the true evidence that Jesus is the rightful king of Israel. In fact, had the royal line not been usurped by various foreign powers, Joseph, the earthly father of Jesus would have been the rightful heir to the throne!

- King Herod “the Great”...
- In Matthew 2, he is the one who massacres the innocents.
- He tries to deceive the kings from the east (magi).
- He knows there is an ancient prophecy...

Matthew presents the true king. And the first thing he must do is demonstrate that he is the true heir to the throne. In doing this, Matthew inspires us all. He gives us hope. He shows us three things about Jesus’ family...

1. The **Wonder** of Jesus’ family.

³ From werelate.org. http://www.werelate.org/wiki/MySource:Srblac/Hannah_Butt_Taylor_Letter Accessed December 8, 2012.

⁴ http://www.werelate.org/wiki/Person:Alma_Becker_%282%29 . Alma Becker was married to Jack Reed. Jack’s uncle was James C. Reed, whose mother was Myra Maybelle Shirley, AKA Belle Starr.

⁵ http://www.werelate.org/wiki/Person:Charles_II_of_England_%281%29

2. The **Wickedness** of Jesus' family
3. The **Welcome** of Jesus' family.

Let's read about it in Matthew 1:1-17.

Matthew 1:1–17 (ESV), “The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. 2 Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, 3 and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram, 4 and Ram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, 5 and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, 6 and Jesse the father of David the king. And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, 7 and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asaph [Asa], 8 and Asaph [Asa] the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, 9 and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, 10 and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josiah, 11 and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

12 And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, 13 and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, 14 and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, 15 and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, 16 and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ. 17 So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations.”

Each Section is Significant

In the Genealogy we just read, there are three sections of 14, and each section is significant.

- The Patriarchs (vs. 1-6)
- The Kings (vs. 6-11)
- The Ordinary Citizens (vs. 12-17)

The genealogy in the book of Matthew chapter 1 shows us:

- the **culmination** of the kingdom under David
- then the **downfall** of it in the captivity going to Babylon
- but then it shows the **zenith** of the kingdom and the birth of Jesus Christ.

Genealogies Were Important

For the Jews genealogies were important.

- LAND: If you wanted to buy or sell land in Israel, you needed to know your genealogy.

- CENSUS: Every time there was a census, you needed your genealogy. Even the poorest of the poor, like Joseph and Mary, kept meticulous genealogical records, as is seen from Luke 2 and 3 as well as Matthew 1.
- OT WORSHIP: In the Old Testament, under Moses, the tribes would encamp according to their tribe with 3 tribes on each of the four sides of the Tabernacle. The Tabernacle was the footstool of God's throne in the midst of them. He was their captain, their leader. They would fight His wars. And they were carefully aligned. Levi did not have an assigned place in the camp, as that tribe would minister in the Tabernacle to all the other tribes. But Joseph's two sons took Levi's place. So you do not see a place for Levi or Joseph. In their place are Joseph's sons: Manasseh and Ephraim. So genealogy is vital for every Jew.
- PRIESTHOOD: Genealogy was very important as well for the priesthood. You had to prove you were from the tribe of Levi to serve as a priest.
- PAUL'S DAY: Genealogy was very important in general. Even in Paul's day, he would say that he was a "Hebrew of Hebrews, from the tribe of... Benjamin".
- KINGDOM: And of course, genealogy was vital to establish the royal line.

I. The **Wonder** of Jesus' Family

Matthew 1:1 (ESV), "The book of the genealogy of Jesus [the] **Christ**, the son of **David**, the son of **Abraham**."

This genealogy is of the one that is been from of old even from everlasting. Do we have the Almighty God the everlasting father that is the father of eternity. This is his genealogy.

Who is on the throne when Jesus is born? HEROD "The GREAT". He is a usurper. Matthew wants to establish the **wonder** of Jesus' family! Herod has no power to stop...

- God's **Faithful Word**
- Christ's **Eternal Reign**, and
- All the **Prophecies** of the Old Testament

The Wonder of God's Faithful Word

Matthew Presenting the Line of Monarchs

Three sections of 14 generations. Obviously there were many more than 42 generations. Luke himself gives 76 generations. Matthew is being selective. He is not presenting the physical lineage of Joseph, that is in Luke 3.

Joseph, the Rightful Heir to the Throne

Matthew is presenting the line of the monarchy. Had the monarchy been in play at the birth of Jesus, **Joseph** would've been the king of Israel. This is the point Matthew is making. Joseph is the rightful heir to the throne of Israel.

Herod “the Fake”! Only a Usurper!

Herod the Great, who was on the throne of Israel, is really not the true king of Israel. Herod is a FAKE! King Herod was not the rightful king of Israel. He was an **Idumean** usurper from Moab. He tried to paint himself as the true Jewish king. Herod the Great is known for his colossal building projects in Jerusalem and elsewhere, including his **expansion of the Second Temple** in Jerusalem.

GEMATRIA [guh-mey-tree-uh]

Matthew is presenting 3 groups of 14 because he is using an ancient Hebrew method of communicating a truth called: *gematria*.

WHAT IS GEMATRIA?

- ☐ Gematria [guh-mey-tree-uh] is the use of numbers in Hebrew names. Each Hebrew letter corresponds to a number. The name “David” in Hebrew corresponds to the number fourteen (14). That is significant.

Not only is Joseph the rightful heir to the throne, but Jesus is the promised king that would reign forever. He is the fulfillment of all the promises in the Old Testament for an EVERLASTING KINGDOM.

The Wonder of an Christ’s Eternal Reign

Consider the WONDER that God promised an everlasting kingdom to a descendent of David.

Matthew is making a statement about Jesus! This is...

DWD (4+6+4) = 14: DAVID!

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This is the promised David, who whose reign would be for eternity.

The Wonder of Fulfilled Prophecy

There are so many prophecies that Matthew is answering in this genealogy! Matthew is presenting Jesus as the true king of Israel.

Jesus says to Pilate:

- “You say correctly that I am a king. For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world” (John 18:37).

A “Forever” Throne!

- **Psalm 132:11-12**, “The LORD swore to David a sure oath from which he will not turn back: ‘One of the sons of your body I will set on your throne. 12 If your sons keep my covenant and my testimonies that I shall teach them, their sons also forever shall sit on your throne.’”

What was the oath to David?

Messiah's royal line began with David. Through the prophet Nathan, God promises that it would be David's descendants through whom He would bring the great King who would ultimately establish His kingdom – an everlasting kingdom (2 Sam. 7:12–16).

We Call This THE DAVIDIC COVENANT

- **2 Samuel 7:12–16** (ESV), “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.”

The Branch

All throughout the prophet Isaiah we hear about the promised Branch that would come out of the cut down tree of the monarchy. So Matthew is pointing to Jesus as the branch. This is the monarch that would come out of the fallen monarchy.

Isaiah 11:1 (ESV), “There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.”

Genesis 12:3 (ESV), “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.”

Application: If you are in an impossible situation, remember God's Word will never return void. All the promises of God to you are “Yea” and “Amen”! This was true for Jesus. Though he was in an impossible situation, He would surely reign on David's throne forever! Even Herod the Great king could not stop the power of God's Word!

II. The Wickedness of Jesus' Family

So here comes the fulfillment of God's covenant with David.

- “I will establish your throne forever”
- This is why Matthew gives the genealogy first.
- Who does He name? Remember Luke names 76 generations. Matthew only names 42. He is very selective.
- He really names the **not so good**, the **bad**, the **ugly**, and the **humble and lowly**!

Jesus “did not come to call the righteous, but sinners” (Matt. 9:13).

I think we can notice the good right away:

- A. The not so **Good** – weren't really all that good.

1. **David** – committed adultery and murder
 2. **Abraham, Isaac, Jacob** – polygamous, lying, scheming, yet God works with them and grows their faith.
- B. The **Bad** – were worse than we can imagine!
1. **Judah** – Had relations with daughter in law Tamar. Tamar’s first and second husbands died giving her no children. Judah refused to give Tamar a third son, under the law of the kinsman redeemer. Tamar played the prostitute. Prostitutes covered their faces, so Judah did not recognize her. He gave her his staff and ring. Through his lust he almost had her destroyed. Tamar was a widow and was found to be pregnant. Judah, as the HEAD of the tribe, called for her to be BURNED! She brought forth the ring and the staff and said, the guilty party owns these items. They were Judah’s!
 2. **Perez:** Through Judah and Tamar were born twins: **Perez** and Zerah. So Perez is the illegitimate son of Tamar.
- C. The **Ugly** – These were the ones that seemed unredeemable!
1. **Four Old Testament women are named:**
 - a. Two are Gentiles: **Rahab** the Cananite from Jericho (who, according to Jewish tradition, apparently married one of the spies, **Salmon**. The other is **Ruth** the Moabitess.
 - b. Two of the women are Adulteresses: **Tamar** with Judah and **Bathsheba** with David.
 2. **Idolatrous kings are named**
 - a. **Solomon** – began the worship of many pagan deities (though he repented).
 - b. **Rehoboam** – split the kingdom, evil king
 - c. **Abijah** – evil king
 - d. **Joram** – evil king
 - e. **Ahaz** – evil king
 - f. **Manasseh** – evil king (though he repented)
 - g. **Jechoniah** – evil king

Even Good Kings have Flaws and Failures

We see in this list of kings that there is no perfect earthly king of Israel. All of them have their flaws and failures. And some of them are scandalously wicked. Some of them like Manasseh live their lives wickedly and then repent at the very end. Praise God for his glorious grace!

But this thing is for sure, the Old Testament leaves us hungering for a perfect king. What Matthew does is he reveals that perfect king. Here he is! This is the one! This is the one we've all been waiting for! He's here!

- D. The **humble** and **lowly**.
1. After **Shealtiel** and **Zerubbabel** at the return to Jerusalem from captivity, we know almost nothing about the rest of these people. One thing we do know.

They lived in obscurity, and many of them lived in poverty. This is what became of the kingly, messianic line of Jesus the Christ.

What we come to is exactly what Paul said in **1 Corinthians 1:18-31** , “For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 19 For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.” 20 Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? 21 For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. 22 For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, 23 but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, 24 but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 25 For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men. 26 For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. 27 But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; 28 God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, 29 so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. 30 He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom and our righteousness and sanctification and redemption. 31 Therefore, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

Transition: Matthew says: this is the one you've been looking for and longing for! This is the record of the genealogy or the origin of the long awaited king. This is His story.

III. The **Welcome** of Jesus' Family

A marine will enter into a commitment with fellow Marines to help their welfare to an insane point. So Jesus enters in to the human race to help his people been unimaginable point.

I hope we can feel the wonder that Jesus the Lord of glory has come to seek and save those who were lost.

No one can bring a clean thing out of an unclean thing. The only way to change your family history is to hear and receive the welcome of the Lord Jesus Christ

Most people are not interested in their genealogies. Some people are very involved in finding out about their family tree. But if you are a child of God this is your family. The Scripture says that the Gentiles are going to sit down with Abraham Isaac and Jacob in eternity. In the Kingdom!

If Jesus was born only from the line of David and Abraham and people like Boaz and Hezekiah we might say well Jesus humbled himself but what a noble wife had. But Jesus

line is a line that only of descendants of Adam but these are notorious centers. God is in the business of saving us when we are in our worst state.

Out of the names of the women that could've been mentioned Sarah is not mentioned Hannah is not mentioned but instead we have Tamar and Rahab (a Gentile) both who played the prostitute. We have we have Bathsheba, the adulteresses. We have Ruth, the Gentile, the Moabitess.

Ruth though she's a godly woman is a Moabitess she comes from the family lineage of the incestuous relationship between lots and one of his daughters. And so Though Christ is without sin he enters into depraved sinful humanity. The Jews were so proud of their genealogy. They were sons of Abraham and sons of David. Yes that's true but Matthew does something astonishing. He trusted names like Jaymar and the Manasseh. Bathsheba and all of the sordid stories of the scripture.

Jesus Christ the King became man through a depraved genealogy even though He himself was unstained from original sin.

He made himself of no reputation – so low – so that the greatest of sinners could be saved.

When we see all the hurt and pain and brokenness of the genealogy we see that God does not waste his children's pain.

So many times there are things we are completely ashamed in our lives. We would like to hide them. But the failures of these people's lives are on display. And they bring all that much glory to the grace of God. Where sin abounds grace much more abounds.

Ephesians 1:6-8, “to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us...”

He has lavished His grace upon us!

Conclusion: If you come to Christ by faith, you are adding to this genealogy!

Galatians 3:29, “if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s offspring, heirs according to promise.” You are part of the genealogy of Christ! In fact, Peter says, that we are all a “royal priesthood”!

You do not have to be of the physical lineage of the Jews to come to Christ. Jesus says in **Matthew 11:28–29** (ESV), “Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”