



## The record Of The Significance Of Jesus Christ-- Matthew 1:1-17

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### ❖ FOR THE RECORD (1:1)

*Matt. 1:1* A record of the genealogy of Jesus Christ the son of David, the son of Abraham:

- A record of the genealogy—The language of Genesis and valuable genealogies.
  - Very special meaning to a 1<sup>st</sup> century Jewish audience.
  - A deliberate allusion to the authority of Genesis.
    - Just as John in 1:1 does. *In the beginning*.
    - Mark 1:1 “the beginning of the gospel”
    - “Beginnings”
  - Identical expression to Gen 2:4 and 5:1 (*biblos gene’seos*)
    - Close to the same expression (Gen 6:9; 10:1; 11:10, 27)
    - It is a formal introduction into a significant lineage that has spiritual significance.
  - Matthew is indicating that this is a new creation, a new beginning, with all the formality and importance of previous beginnings and genealogies.
- *Jesus*
  - A person’s personal name carried special spiritual significance.
  - Greek—*Iesos*
  - Hebrew: *Yeshua*—“Yahweh saves”
  - Shortened version of *Joshua* (*yehosua*)—“Yahweh is salvation)
- *Christ*
  - *Christos* is a title derived from the Hebrew *Mashiah* (anointed one).
- *Son of David*
  - An important expression in Matthew (9:27; 12:23; 15:22; 20:30-31; 21:9, 15,; 22:42, 45).
    - No one ever debated Jesus as to his lineage.
  - David is referred to 17x.
  - Jesus is the fulfillment of the promise of 2 Sam 7:4-17
  - Here was the mighty warrior and king of Israel. The Great Conqueror.
  - Here is the fulfillment and the rightful heir.
- *Son of Abraham*
  - This is not only the father of all Jews
  - Here is the fount of the blessing to all the world (Gen 12:1-3; 22:18).
  - So here is the fulfillment of the Jewish covenant (Mat 10:6; 15:24) and
  - The fulfillment of hope for the Gentiles (Mat 21:43; 28:18-20).

### ❖ THE STRUCTURE OF THE RECORD (1:2-17)

- The genealogy is arranged in three groups of fourteen
  - Not intended to be comprehensive.
    - The periods of time differ
  - Lukes has many more generations than Matthew
    - It goes back to Adam (universal emphasis)
    - From Abraham to David—close agreement

- After David they diverge, Mat following Solomon and Luk following Nathan, another son of David's.
- Only converge again over Shieltiel & Zerubbabel
- Don't know why. Suggestions range from 1) Luke traces Mary; 2) Luke records actual, while Mat traces back to the throne. Mat using public record and Luke family records.
- *Fathers* could refer to father, grandfather or great-grandfather.
- The Greek (*gennaō-be the father*) can also mean ancestor.
- The last name of the previous begins the first of the next.
- The last name culminates with Jesus
- Three key names: Abraham (2), David (6), and Jesus (16).
- The names are arranged on an acrostic on the name *David*.
- The numerical value of David (in Hebrew) is fourteen: (D = 4, V = 6, D = 4).
  - Very popular in rabbinical circles.
  - Rev 13:17-18
- There have been 3 periods of 14 or 6 periods of 7 before Christ.
- The structure declares that Christ officially is the fulfillment of salvation history.

#### ❖ THE WOMAN OF THE RECORD (1:2-17)

- The standouts in this genealogy are not whom you would expect. The Patriarchs and David are predictable, but the women grab our attention.
- In a male dominated world, women were normally not mentioned in a genealogy. Ignoble and infamous names were especially not highlighted. Matthew intentionally wants us to know that the human side of Jesus came from the great and noble, but fully human lineage of David.
  - In Roman and Jewish worlds, women had no rights; could not inherit property or testify in court. They were more property than they were a person.
  - Might have expected the names of Sarah, Rebekah, Leah and Rachel
- Four Gentile women are purposely placed here:
  - Tamar (v. 3)-an adulteress (Gen 38)
  - Rahab (v. 5)- a prostitute from pagan Jericho (Josh 2:1-7)
  - Ruth (v. 5)- a Moabite woman.
  - Uriah's wife (Bathsheba) (v. 6)- an adulteress seduced by David and her first child was illegitimate and died.
- Tamar is the first conspicuous person.
  - She was the controversial daughter-in-law of Judah. Judah wrongly refused to give her a son, breaking the law of lineage, and then sinfully had relations with Tamar. She disguised herself as a prostitute to lure Judah into fulfilling the known law of lineage.
- Rahab was a prostitute by trade in the city of Jericho.
  - She uniquely *believed* that God was with the nation of Israel under Joshua and hid the spies in her house. Her life was spared when Jericho was destroyed.
- Ruth is the next unexpected name of record.
  - She was a Moabite widow, daughter-in-law of Naomi, who married Boaz as her 2<sup>nd</sup> husband. She faithfully stayed by Naomi's side and righteously hoped that Boaz would fulfill the law of redeemer, similar to the law of lineage.
- Uriah's wife, the next startling name, was Bathsheba.

- The woman King David committed adultery with and then arranged for her husband's murder "in battle." Subsequently, David married her. God judged David for his sin.
- The fifth female standout is Mary, herself.
  - People were aware that there was something strange about Jesus' birth (
  - V. 16 *of whom was born* is feminine, referring to Mary not Joseph.
  - A young virgin woman revered as the Mother of Jesus, but socially controversial because of the divinely initiated but humanly unexpected pregnancy.
- Sinners, Gentiles they may be, but Jesus has them in his blood and will die for them.
  - He came to rescue sinners
- Also, though Tamar's, Rahab's, Ruth's, and Bathsheba's pregnancies were embroiled with intrigue and controversy as was Mary's, these women actually were bravely righteous in the unrighteous conditions of that world.
- A Messiah to everyone
  - The Jewish, religious, moral background
  - The pagan, sinner, from out of town.
  - The male and female.
  - All barriers are gone
- This genealogy gives us great hope that God can take the worst of stories and weave it into a beautiful story of redemption.

#### ❖ THINKING IT THROUGH

- What heroes, famous, wealthy, memorable ancestors to you have?
- Do you have any questionable characters in your family tree?
- Where do you fit?
- Jesus has your blood in Him. Do you have His blood covering you for forgiveness and redemption.
- What hope does this passage give you that God can take the best and worst of stories and weave it into a story of redemption.