

Theme: Matthew's genealogy presents Jesus as the royal Son of David, the promised Seed of Abraham who will bless all nations, and the Savior who redeems a family tree—and a world—marred by startling sin and scandal.

## I. Intro - Our Family Photo Wall

- A. A photo of our family wall with 4 generations.
- B. We have other photos and items from our family tree
- C. We love these & folks often look at them and comment
- D. But it is a surprising way to start a book about Jesus!
- E. What is Matthew teaching us by this genealogy?

## II. A Glorious Family Tree

- A. The book title - The 'Genesis' of Jesus Christ  
A record of the genealogy of Jesus Christ Matthew 1:1
  - 1. This phrase serves as the title for the book
  - 2. This was often done in the ancient world
  - 3. The focus of this book is Jesus the Messiah
  - 4. It already introduces to us the fact that Jesus is not just a wandering rabbi - he is the long-hoped-for Messiah of Israel (more below)
- B. The Son of David  
A record of the genealogy of Jesus Christ **the son of David**, the son of Abraham: Matthew 1:1
  - 1. Jesus is the Son of David, the Messiah
  - 2. David is really key in this family tree
    - a. The whole list is hinged on David and Abraham
    - b. He is the first name after Jesus in v1

- c. The list is given in 3 sections of 14 - why?  
Thus there were **fourteen** generations in all from Abraham to David, **fourteen** from David to the exile to Babylon, and **fourteen** from the exile to the Christ. Matthew 1:17
    - 1. This structures the whole genealogy
    - 2. Matthew even removed generations between David and the exile to get this! (This was a common practice in the ancient world to make a point)
  - d. In ancient languages letters = numbers (examples)
  - e. DWD in Hebrew is 3 consonants that add to 14!
  - f. The whole structure is saying Jesus is the Son of David, the Messiah who was to come!
  - g. This is why in v17 Jesus is simply called "Christ"
3. God had promised David a Son Who would reign forever on the Throne
- When your days are over and you rest with your fathers, **I will raise up your offspring to succeed you**, who will come from your own body, and I will establish his kingdom. <sup>13</sup> **He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.** 2 Samuel 7:12-13
- a. Initially pointed to Solomon who built the Temple
  - b. But Jews came to recognize it went beyond Solomon to One Who would rule "forever"
  - c. This intensified through the prophets  
My servant David will be king over them, and they will all have one shepherd. They will follow my laws and be careful to keep my decrees. Ezekiel 37:24
  - d. Matthew wants us to know Jesus is this "David" Who has come to rule over the people of God.
4. This family tree is drawn to highlight that Jesus is the Messianic Son of David Who was to come to restore the people of God.

### C. The Son of Abraham

A record of the genealogy of Jesus Christ the son of David, **the son of Abraham**: Abraham was the father of Isaac... Matthew 1:1-2

1. Jesus is also the Son and Seed of Abraham.
2. Abraham is key because the people of Israel traced their descent back to him; he is the root from which they sprang.
  - a. This is why Matthew uses a chiasm of Jesus-David-Abraham; Abraham-David-Jesus in this genealogy
  - b. Abraham is first in the list because he is the root from which all of Israel sprang.
3. The Messiah is also the Seed of Abraham.
4. The Seed of Abraham is sent to be a blessing, not just to Israel, but to all the nations!  
all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.  
Genesis 12:3  
  
and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed... Genesis 22:18
  - a. This was often forgotten by Jews in Jesus' day, but the Messiah, the Seed of Abraham, was sent not just to bless Israel but ALL nations.
  - b. Matthew is letting us in on the surprise - Jesus, the Christ, the Son of David and Seed of Abraham, is coming not just to save and redeem Israel, but people from every nation!
  - c. The story that will unfold in Matthew's Gospel is one that shows Gentiles coming to worship Jesus as well - and this begins in the genealogy and Christmas story!
5. Our first Christmas surprise is that the Messiah is not just for Jews, but for any who will look to Jesus!

### III. A Surprising Family Tree

- A. Four surprising members in the tree - women!  
Judah the father of Perez and Zerah, **whose mother was Tamar...** <sup>5</sup> Salmon the father of Boaz, **whose mother was Rahab**, Boaz the father of Obed, **whose mother was Ruth** ... <sup>6</sup> David was the father of Solomon, **whose mother had been Uriah's wife**, Matthew 1:3, 5-6
  1. The inclusion of these women would have been a HUGE surprise to the first readers of Matthew's Gospel, for genealogies only included men, not women!
  2. But Matthew goes out of his way to highlight these women!
  3. This is certainly meant to show that women will be important in the story of Jesus, from His mother Mary to the women who first discover and proclaim the resurrection!
  4. This surprise is a clue that Jesus is coming to make things new, opening the kingdom to those who were often overlooked!
- B. The shocking surprise: the background of these women!
  1. All of these women were associated with Gentiles!
    - a. Tamar was probably a Canaanite, Rahab was from Jericho, Ruth was a Moabite, and Bathsheba was married to Uriah, a Hittite.
    - b. To most Jews of Jesus' day, these women all came from questionable ethnic and religious backgrounds.
  2. Even worse, some of these women were notable for their sinful lives!
    - a. Rahab was a prostitute before Israel destroyed Jericho!

- b. Some also cast shadows over Tamar for deceiving her father-in-law Judah into thinking she was a prostitute - and this produced the men named in the family tree! (Genesis 38 - more on this in a moment)
  - c. Yet Matthew not only includes these women - he highlights them!
  - d. This is yet another surprise - Jesus has come to call sinners into His Kingdom!
  - e. Jesus is coming as the King of Grace unending!
3. These women had also suffered the ravages of sin
- a. Tamar had to deceive Judah because he was wickedly not caring for her according to the customs of the day! Rather than being the guilty sinner, she was suffering because of Judah's sin - which Judah himself admits (Genesis 38:26)!
  - b. Matthew does not even name Bathsheba, but refers to her as Uriah's wife, because she was the victim of David's horrible lust and the murder of her husband.
  - c. Thus, Matthew actually highlights David's sin in the way he writes this part of the genealogy - even the great king had sin from which he needed to be saved!
  - d. In reality, these women are a picture of those whose lives have suffered as much or far more from the sin of others than from their own sin!
4. Thus, Matthew surprisingly includes these women to show that Jesus has come to redeem and restore those whose lives have suffered from the ravages of sin - their own and others!

#### IV. Applying the Word

- A. A word for those who feel their sin is too great
  - 1. You may feel you have failed too much!

- 2. Shame keeps many from approaching God, for they feel that He will reject them unless they clean themselves up first.
- 3. But the surprise of the genealogy of Jesus is that even great sinners are part of His family tree!
- 4. Rahab was a Canaanite prostitute, yet she was spared by the mercy of God when Jericho fell - and Jesus offers to spare you as well!
- 5. Even the great king David sinned in his lust to have Uriah's wife - and yet God in His mercy redeems and restores David and keeps His promise to bring the Messiah from His line! And Jesus has come to spare you as well!
- 6. The reality is we are all sinners in need of redemption!  
 "You come of the Lord Adam and the Lady Eve," said Aslan. "And that is both honour enough to erect the head of the poorest beggar, and shame enough to bow the shoulders of the greatest emperor on earth." - CS Lewis, *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*
- 7. If you feel weighed down by sin, look to Jesus, who came from a long line of sinners to save a long line of sinners!
- 8. If you have wandered away from Jesus and feel ashamed, look to Him, for He willingly receives us, for He is faithful even when we are not!
- 9. If you have hidden your sin, bring it to Jesus today to receive mercy and forgiveness!

B. A word for those who have been hurt by others' sin

1. You may feel as if you have been so damaged by sin, especially the sin of others, that you feel distant from God.
2. For some, it is hard to imagine redemption from all the brokenness experienced in this life
3. But the surprising family tree of Jesus reminds us that God restores those who have been ravaged by human evil and sin!
4. Consider the women highlighted in this family tree
  - a. Tamar was reduced to disgusting herself as a prostitute to seduce her father-in-law, who had left her bereft of hope and support.
  - b. Rahab had been reduced to selling herself to others just to have food to eat.
  - c. Ruth was an outcast widow from a despised people living as an exile in Israel, trying to live off the generosity of strangers.
  - d. Bathsheba was used by David for his own lust, then left a widow, then forced to cover David's sin, and finally left as a grieving mother of a child who died.
  - e. Together, they are a portrait of a world marred by startling sin and scandal, a world groaning under the destructive consequences and reverberations of sin.
5. But none of them were defined by these shattering experiences, but were redeemed by the mercy of God!
6. Not only were they restored to dignity and brought into the people of God - they are in the family tree of Jesus!
7. This is the great mercy and redemptive work of God, which Jesus came to display and offer to us!
8. In fact, Matthew gives us hints that Jesus has come to bring a new world, and that His Advent is the beginning of the new creation! (After Hours)
9. If you feel damaged by sin and distant from God, if you feel that your life has been shattered beyond repair, receive this Christmas surprise - Jesus has come to redeem and restore that which has been broken!
10. Look to Jesus to receive healing, redemption, and restoration today! He will begin to make all things new!

C. The Table of Hope

1. The first Christmas Surprise is one of Hope!
2. Jesus' family tree reveals people we would expect, but also those we would not - and this gives us hope!
3. Jesus has come to redeem and heal all of our brokenness and sin!
4. Come and receive hope, forgiveness, and restoration today!

Surprise Family Tree

Matthew 1:1-17  
November 30, 2025  
Communion  
Romans 15:13

Teaching keywords: Advent and Christmas; biblical characters; redemption; new creation; hope

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13

A record of the genealogy of Jesus Christ the son of David, the son of Abraham:

<sup>2</sup> Abraham was the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, <sup>3</sup>Judah the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar, Perez the father of Hezron, Hezron the father of Ram, <sup>4</sup> Ram the father of Amminadab, Amminadab the father of Nahshon, Nahshon the father of Salmon, <sup>5</sup> Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab, Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth, Obed the father of Jesse, <sup>6</sup> and Jesse the father of King David.

David was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been Uriah's wife, <sup>7</sup> Solomon the father of Rehoboam, Rehoboam the father of Abijah, Abijah the father of Asa, <sup>8</sup> Asa the father of Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat the father of Jehoram, Jehoram the father of Uzziah, <sup>9</sup>Uzziah the father of Jotham, Jotham the father of Ahaz, Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, <sup>10</sup> Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, Manasseh the father of Amon, Amon the father of Josiah, <sup>11</sup> and Josiah the father of Jeconiah and his brothers at the time of the exile to Babylon.

<sup>12</sup> After the exile to Babylon: Jeconiah was the father of Shealtiel, Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, <sup>13</sup> Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, Abiud the father of Eliakim, Eliakim the father of Azor, <sup>14</sup> Azor the father of Zadok, Zadok the father of Akim, Akim the father of Eliud, <sup>15</sup> Eliud the father of Eleazar, Eleazar the father of Matthan, Matthan the father of Jacob, <sup>16</sup>and Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ. <sup>17</sup>Thus there were fourteen generations in all from Abraham to David, fourteen from David to the exile to Babylon, and fourteen from the exile to the Christ. Matthew 1:1-17