




**God and
Your Kinfolks!
Matthew 1:17**

- ▶ Genealogy is the study of a person's ancestors, showing their family tree
- ▶ Everyone of us has a family tree of ancestors
- ▶ Think about this: Take away one husband or wife somewhere down the line, and you would not exist as you are
- ▶ Now, imagine if you were trying to ensure that a child would be born generations upon generations into the future! This brings us to the text for today

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- ▶ Matthew begins his gospel by looking at the genealogy of Jesus
 - ▶ For Jewish people, their genealogy was very important. It told them who their people were, what tribe they represented and whether they were 100% Jewish or not (Samaritans were mixed)
 - ▶ To people who were “Royalty,” it was even more important, so that if they were related, they could make claim to the lineage of the throne
 - ▶ That’s why the genealogy of Jesus is important: It proves that He is the man that was to be the King of the Kingdom of God. Matthew basically says, “check it out!”
 - ▶ Matthew’s gospel says that the lineage of Jesus, son of Joseph, is the only living legal heir to the throne of Israel. Jesus of Nazareth is the King of the Jews and the Kingdom of Heaven for those who would choose Him
 - ▶ Looking at Jesus’ genealogy provides information that should make a difference in your life


#1 God Will Go Through Incredible Lengths to Keep His Promise to Save Us

There Are Two Things That We Need

- ▶ We need to be saved from the grip of Satan that has been with us since the Garden of Eden when Adam and Eve disobeyed God
- ▶ The world needs a King to come back and win the world from Satan

When Adam and Eve sinned in the garden, God made a promise then that He would send a savior to be a sacrifice for us, Genesis 3:15; Hebrews 2:14; 1John 3:8

That Savior would be like the son of Abraham, when God asked Abraham to sacrifice his son. That was tough to do, but Abraham passed the test and was just about sacrifice his son when God provided for him a ram to substitute instead

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- ▶ Through Jesus, God gave the whole world a substitute. Instead of having to die for our own sins, God sent His son to do that
 - ▶ That's why Matthew makes it clear in his "kinfolks genealogy" of Jesus, that Jesus is the Son of Abraham, the promised sacrifice. This is how God gave Abraham a sacrifice that would bless all nations
 - ▶ But the world is "messed up," and God will not be satisfied until it is reclaimed for His glory
 - ▶ God had promised David, a man after His own heart (and in his Royal lineage), that one of his descendants would be on His throne forever, Acts 2:29-33
 - ▶ Therefore, Jesus has earthly royal lineage and sits on the throne of Heaven

Observations


It would seem impossible to have one person be both the son of Abraham and also the son of David—a promised sacrifice on one hand, and a promised king on the other

But when you start with Abraham, go through Isaac and Jacob, all the way through David and Solomon and on to Matthan and Jacob, the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, the mother of Jesus, who is called the Messiah: the king who came to save the world, how incredible through kinfolks is that!

#2 God Will Deal With Incredible Circumstances to Save His People


God Worked Through Trying Circumstances With Jesus' Kinfolks to Save His People

- ▶ Abraham went from Babylon to Egypt, escaping death several times and was childless for years
- ▶ His son was almost sacrificed on a mountain
- ▶ Jacob was nearly killed by his own brother, from whom he stole his birthright
- ▶ Judah's family nearly died in a famine in Egypt, had it not been for his brother whom he thought he left for dead but was sold into slavery (Jesus was to come from Judah's tribe)

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- ▶ Then the nation of Israel (Jacob) lived as slaves in Egypt
 - ▶ The nation escaped from Egypt and crossed the Red Sea but wandered in the desert for 40 years, but God allowed the nation to survive so that the next generation could enter the promised land of Canaan
 - ▶ Once they entered the promised land, they had to fight for themselves, because the territory was already occupied. When they obeyed God, they did well, and when they didn't, they suffered.
 - ▶ Yet God kept working with His people, and the lineage of Abraham continued on, God not allowing it to end

- ▶ By the time we get to Jesse, David, and Solomon; God's nation, the Israelites, had become great but spiritually corrupt from the leadership on down, Isaiah 9:16
- ▶ It would have been understandable if God had given up on His people and started all over. But God kept working with this lineage, knowing that He had promised that a Savior of these kinfolds, would come from this line (Exodus 32)
- ▶ From Solomon to Jehoichin God was patient, sending prophet after prophet to warn, beg, and even threaten His people to turn back to Him
- ▶ So, rather than allowing His people to be totally destroyed, He finally allows them to be taken into exile

- ▶ Meanwhile, as God's people remained in exile, the powerful nations would come and go. The Babylonians were defeated by the Persians
- ▶ The Persians allowed God's kinfolk to go back to the promised land; but the Persians were defeated by the Greeks and the Greeks spread their nation around the world, but they were defeated by the Romans
- ▶ And in the midst of this upheaval, God is still working with His people. A man named Jacob produced a son, who marries a girl named Mary, who gave birth to a boy named Jesus, who is called the Messiah.
- ▶ So God, through rebellion, wandering, warfare, slavery, and Godlessness of His kinfolks kept the line through Jesus unbroken, so that Jesus could be born to be a sacrifice for you and me

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- ▶ We all get to a point where circumstances become too difficult for us to carry on and we quit (projects too fouled up, too much energy wasted, too many tearful nights, as a fighter you've taken too many licks).
 - ▶ But not God. He kept going through all of the circumstances to make sure that there was an unbroken line from Abraham to Jesus
 - ▶ Through wars, famines, betrayals, slavery, exile, and sins, God is going to make sure that Jesus comes for you and me
 - ▶ When you look at the stories behind the names of Jesus' kinfolk, seeing Him work exhaustively in your favor, you inevitably come to the conclusion that He must love you and me very much, John 3:16

#3 God Will Work Through Ridiculous People to Accomplish His Will

- ▶ When you look at Jesus' kinfolk, the people in the line from Abraham to Jesus, a lot of these people that God was trying to use had "skeletons in their closets!"
- ▶ Abraham twice said that his wife was his sister, to avoid having to fight for her
- ▶ Jacob was a cheater and swindler, who lied to his father, cheated his brother, and tried to rip off his father-in-law
- ▶ Judah sold his own brother into slavery and slept with his daughter in law, thinking she was a prostitute

- ▶ **Rahab was a prostitute**
- ▶ **David committed adultery, and then had the husband killed**
- ▶ **Solomon was a polygamist and allowed his wives to worship false Gods for political strategy**
- ▶ **Many subsequent kings were wicked examples to God's people. One, named Manasseh, even sacrificed his own son to a false God (today's news is not new)**
- ▶ **The point is: many of Jesus' kinfolks were very human, some with weaknesses and skeletons more than others, and yet God used all of these sinful people to bring a Savior to the world. Why?**

His Kinfolks Were Like You and Me and Our Kinfolks!

- ▶ When you read about Jesus' ancestry, you see a general cross section of humanity—some did great things, some did some despicable things, and most did both
- ▶ You know what? We are like Jesus' kinfolks—some generally good, some bad, most are in between

Matthew's Genealogy Therefore, Does More Than Prove to Skeptical Jews, Christ's Descendancy From Abraham to David

- ▶ It shows a God willing to go through nearly incredible lengths to keep a promise
- ▶ It shows a God willing to work through nearly impossible circumstances to bring a Savior
- ▶ It shows a God willing to work through the weaknesses of ridiculous kinfolks (nearly impossible people) like you and me to save you and me
- ▶ Therefore, considering God's troubles through time and space to work to get you a Savior, **WHAT WILL YOU DO?**

Be Spiritually Kin To Christ!

*“And if ye be Christ’s then are ye
Abraham’s seed, and heirs according
to the promise.”*

Galatians 3:29

Accept His Invitation to Become a Member of His Body, the Church

Hear the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Believe the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Repent of Sins

Acts 17:30

Confess Christ

Matthew 10:32

Be Baptized

Acts 2:38