

Matthew 1:1-16—An Introduction to the King

- OT = a story of a nation with 32 kings who abandon the Word and walk in disobedience and disaster, calamity and disintegration happens! Every single time, the question is, “is this the perfect King who will reign forever?” Every time, the answer is, “No!”
- **The Gospel of the Kingdom is GOOD NEWS, not Good Advice**
 - What seems like a snoozer (genealogy) is a reminder that Christianity, and the gospel, is not a fairy tale but actual history. Not primarily about what Jesus TAUGHT TO us but what He DID FOR us!
 - **Angels did not show up and say, “a great new teacher is here,” but, “the Savior is here.”**
 - We already didn’t listen to all the teachers before, this one wouldn’t be different. You don’t help your 5th grader who just failed multiplication tables by putting him in calculus!
 - The good news is that, in Jesus is found rest and freedom!
 - In the genealogy there are 3 sets of 14 generations—that equals 6 sets of 7.
 - Jesus represents the 7th set of 7—7 = completion and perfection!
 - **7 = REST (Gen. 1)....7 = Jubilee/FREEDOM (Lev. 25)—all our striving, all our working, all our slavery to sin....DEALT WITH in Jesus! The battle is WON!**
 - **Matthew 11—come to me and I will give you REST!**
 - The good news of the gospel hinges on Jesus—he has to be a real man; he has to be all of who he is; only religion that HINGES on the person who leads it!
- **God’s Kingdom has ONE King and His Name is Jesus**
 - **1:1—emphasis SQUARELY on Jesus as the new and better David—the King to reign over God’s people.**
 - Matthew and Luke’s Genealogies—**Luke traces the genealogy through literal paternal line; Matthew traces the genealogy through who actually sat on the throne! His concern is with KINGSHIP, RULE, REIGN, ROYALTY!** Luke works from Joseph BACKWARD to David. Matthew works FORWARD from David to Jesus. **Luke = biological. Matthew = Royal.**
 - Matthew’s Point—connecting Jesus’ royal heritage to MARY, not Joseph. The Father begot the son without the help of a human father! Rather, **Matthew is showing that Jesus is the Royal, Divine King, of the line of David, sent of God, to reign and rule in righteousness forever!**
 - **Matthew uses “king” 22 times—most in the NT**
 - **Isaiah 11:1-3a, 10—There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord...In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.**
 - **Jeremiah 23:5-6—“Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell secretly. And this is the name by which he will be called: ‘The Lord is our righteousness.’”**
- **God’s Kingdom has One Priest and His Name is Jesus**
 - The same Gematria (use of 14) that would point Jews to David also points Jews to the priestly line.
 - **14 high priests from Aaron to the formation of Solomon’s Temple**
 - **14 high priests from the Temple to Jaddua (last high priest mentioned in Scripture)**
 - Jesus is a Priest-King—one who both conquers our enemies and accomplishes our redemption!
 - **Hebrews 10:12-14—But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, waiting from that time until his enemies should be**

made a footstool for his feet. For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.

- John the Baptist—this is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.
- **Jeconiah ends the 2nd section**—In Jeremiah 22, he was cursed and none of his sons could ever reign.
 - Isaiah, who calls Jesus the shoot from the stump of Jesse, also calls him the one on whom was laid the punishment for our sin!
 - Jesus, our Priest King, includes the cursed sons in his genealogy! Why? Because, he would hang upon the cross (Gal. 3) as the curse for us, allowing all the cursed sons to the Kingdom!
- **God's Kingdom is for Outsiders**
 - **People would fudge their genealogies** to only include the cool, great people (i.e. Herod)
 - Somebody asks you about your family—you don't usually mention your second cousin Ricky who dropped out of high school, been convicted 10 times and is in prison...you think about some famous person, superstar, etc. That's who you mention!
 - **Gender outsiders**—WOMEN—no status; no power; no independent value
 - **Moral outsiders**—HUGE SIN HERE—Tamar, Rahab, Bathsheba
 - Abraham and David mentioned with Rahab because in Jesus, Kings and Prostitutes sit at the table as equals!
 - **Ethnic outsiders**—GENTILES—all the women are Gentiles; Uriah (Hittite)
 - This book ends with a scope set on the nations! We are the nations!
 - We western Christians need this—EVERYBODY IN THE GENEALOGY WAS BROWN-SKINNED! JESUS WAS BROWN! What is happening in Charlottesville is a tragedy!!
- **God's Kingdom is Worth the Wait**
 - **All these generations represent the pain and angst of waiting!** All Israel, with each new son, wondering, "is this him?" Every generation being failed by its leader. Finally, Jesus comes, born in Bethlehem as Messiah.
 - For us, Jesus' second coming and the eternal inauguration of his full Kingdom is worth the wait! Just as, at the right time, God sent forth Jesus to be born of a virgin, he will AT THE RIGHT TIME, send Jesus back to gather his bride and bring his eternal City!
 - **Jesus, when he came, was being proven as the center of human history! All history to that point had led up to him. When he returns, he will be the center of all eternity!**
 - It didn't look like he was THEN and it doesn't look like his is NOW. What is NOT most important right now is what CNN is covering! What is most important is that God is sovereignly orchestrating ALL things, all Nations, all powers for the purpose of his kingdom in Christ and the salvation of every nation on earth!
 - **Ultimate Hope**—there is coming a day, when our King of righteousness, justice and peace will FINALIZE his kingdom forever! He will put an end to sorrow, sin, evil, injustice and pain! He will be exalted to the highest place and ALL creation, all people, all things will bow before him and confess JESUS IS KING AND LORD!
 - **Matthew 24:14**—And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.
- **Conclusion:**
 - **3 Groups of People in Matthew**
 - **HATERS**—Religious leaders who hate and deny Jesus
 - **OBSERVERS**—Crowds who follow Jesus as long as he gives them what they want but who ultimately walk away
 - **FOLLOWERS**—A very small group of disciples who are actually going to walk with and follow Jesus, learn from him and who will ultimately lose their lives for him.
 - Which group are you?
 - Will you reject Jesus?

- Will you casually observe Jesus?
- Will you unconditionally follow Jesus?