

What's In A Name? Reflections on the Genealogy of Jesus

Matthew 1:1-17 ▪ December 4, 2022 ▪ Brad Manley

The coming of Jesus is about the _____ of people.

The coming of Jesus is about the _____ of the plan of God.

¹ 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, ⁸ and Asaph 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. (ESV)

Honest
CHRISTMAS

Personal Reflection or Group Discussion Questions

Open: How far back can you trace your family tree?

Read: Matthew 1:1-17

1. When you encounter genealogies in the Bible, what do you think about as you read them? What do you find significant or remarkable in Jesus' genealogy?
2. Matthew begins his book with the genealogy of Jesus. Why might he have begun there? If you had been telling the story of Jesus, where would you have likely begun?
3. Are there individuals in your family lineage from whom you are proud to be descended? Of all the ancestors of Jesus, which ones do you think are among the most important? Why?
4. Five times in Jesus' genealogy Matthew makes reference to David (vv. 1, 6, 17). Read also the following references to David in Matthew: 12:23; 21:9,15; 22:41-46. Why do you think Matthew mentions David so often in connection with Jesus and His teaching? How might 2 Samuel 7:12-16 be important in this regard?
5. As you read the genealogy in Matthew, whose names are you surprised to see included in the list? Given certain people Matthew chose to mention, what do you think his list teaches us about God? How do you see the words of Paul in 1 Corinthians 1:26-31 illustrated in the genealogy of Jesus?
6. Each person named in this list had a life characterized by both joy and sorrow, delight and pain. How could it have helped each person to know their story was part of a larger story that God was writing? How does it affect you to know that your life is part of a larger story?

Apply: In the larger story that God is writing through this world, what would you like to be said about your role in this story? Are there things you need to change or do to help make this happen?

Pray: Ask God to help us see our lives as part of a larger story He is writing—and to use us to help make His name known in a world that is increasingly rejecting Him.