"THE FAMILY TREE OF ROYALTY"

Matthew 1:1-17

12/11/2016

INTRODUCTION: Verse 1a

***Jesus is King! Jesus is Messiah! His genealogy proves it.**

The genealogy of Christ unveils four features about God.

I. The Faithful PROMISES of God (v. 1)
(God's promises to David & Abraham were fulfilled)

A. His promise to David of an eternal throne

B. His promise to Abraham of a world-wide blessing

II. The Amazing GRACE of God (v. 3, 5, 6)
(God's grace was extended to four outcasts)

A. Tamar (v. 3)

B. Rahab (v. 5)

C. Ruth (v. 5)

D. Bathsheba (v. 6)

III. The Greatest MIRACLE of God (v. 16)
(God's miracle of the virgin birth)

IV. The Unsearchable WISDOM of God (v. 11)
(God's wisdom overcame a cursed lineage)

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The incarnation (infleshment) of Jesus Christ is the most amazing fact of human history (How God could become a Man)

From the standpoint of what He gave up (by coming to earth)
Christ's incarnation (becoming flesh) is the ultimate example of humility!

Christ had:

1) Humble <u>ancestors</u> (lineage)
--Tamar (incest with Judah)
--Rahab (a prostitute)
--Ruth (a Moabite)
Mt. 1:3, 5

2) Humble <u>birth</u>
--swaddling clothes (Lk. 2:7, 12)
Cp. how we are <u>so interested</u> in how we wrap gifts to beautify what is inside, with how God wrapped His gift to us!
"Swaddling clothes" = lit. strips of cloth - Christ was wrapped up like a mummy.
NOTE: This wrapping was part of a <u>sign</u> (v. 12) (a sign is something <u>out of the ordinary).</u>

God's gift was the best gift ever imaginable and yet it wasn't wrapped in special paper! In God`s infinite wisdom He planned that His Son would not be <u>recognized</u> <u>man's way</u>. (by a royal, wealthy family with imperial power and prestige) but that He would be revealed solely by the Holy Spirit (as the Child was to Simeon).

--Manger - a feeding trough for animals in a stall or stable (possibly a <u>cave</u> or an underground barn).

--Bethlehem (Micah 5:2 - "But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.")

From the standpoint of How He came to earth (the virgin birth)

The Book of Matthew:

-Author: Matthew (Levi) - a Jewish tax collector for Rome
--Date: Prior to the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D.

Matthew: to the Jew, presents Christ as King
Mark: to the Roman, presents Christ as a servant
Luke: to the Greek, presents Christ as the Son of Man
John: to the world, presents Christ as the Son of God

Since Matthew's gospel was directed toward the Jew, he cited about 50 direct quotes from the O.T. and an additional 75 allusions to the O.T.

Pilate asked Jesus: "Are you a king then?" Jesus answered, "You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I have come into the world. . ." (Jn. 18:37)

If Jesus is the Messiah, a Jew would ask, "Can you prove it?" Matthew proceeds to do so by outlining in thematic order: the Messiah's lineage, birth, authority, teaching, miracles, sacrifice, resurrection, and second coming.

In Matthew's Gospel, the word "king" occurs 23 times (more than any other Gospel - Note: Luke 11 times).

And the word "Kingdom" occurs 56 times.

Jesus is called the "King of the Jews (2:2; 27:11, 29); the "King of Israel" (27:42); the "great King" (5:35).

Though Jesus was King and lived in the Roman Empire under King Caesar, He made it known that His Kingdom was divinely ruled ("the Kingdom of God" - 5 times) and that His Kingdom--though it would "come" to earth (Mt. 6:10)--was not an earthly, man-made Kingdom but was a Heavenly Kingdom - sent from and established by Heaven ("the Kingdom of Heaven" - **32 times. Note: the phrase "Kingdom of Heaven" does not occur in any other Gospel.).

"If Jesus is to be heralded and proclaimed King, there must be proof that He comes from the recognized royal family" (MacArthur, p. 2)

Matthew gives such proof by immediately beginning His Gospel with the Family Tree, or legal genealogy of Christ.

Luke traces Christ's "racial lineage" whereas Matthew traces His "royal lineage" (MacArthur, p. 3)

V. 1

"Generation" = genealogy

Any king of Israel who would sit on the throne of David had to have a reliable, accurate family tree that traced back to David.

NOTE: Christ was the final King of Israel. He is the only One who could ever be the Messiah! Reason: The Jews would have no way to trace the genealogy of any supposed contemporary Messiah back because their records perished in 70 A.D. when ancient jerusalem was destroyed and burned by Titus and the Roman Army. Jesus is the only one who could ever be traced to David and Abraham.

"Jesus Christ is the last verifiable claimant tot he throne of David, and therefore to the Messianic line" (MacArthur, p. 3)

The Jews' meticulous concern for accurate records of family trees was for several reasons:

1)To determine land ownership (Num. 26:34-35)
2)To qualify for the priesthood - Levi (Ezra 2:61-62)
3)To transfer property (Ruth 3-4)
4)To reign as king on David's throne

"Jesus" = Savior (from Jeshua - the Lord is Salvation)

"Christ" = Anointed One; Messiah

"Christ" = Anointed One. Israel's prophets, priests, and kings were all anointed. And Jesus, being prophet, priest, and king, was anointed as all three (MacArthur)

***Jesus is King! Jesus is Messiah! His genealogy proves it.**

The genealogy of Christ unveils four features about God.

I. The Faithful PROMISES of God (v. 1)
(God's promises to David & Abraham were fulfilled)

A. His promise to David of an eternal throne

God (through Christ) was faithful to fulfill His promise to David - that his throne would be established forever.

SEE:The Davidic Covenant ratified (II Sam. 7:12-17)
The Davidic Covenant confirmed (Ps. 89:1-5, 20-37; Ps. 132:11, 17; Is. 11:1-6)

The angel Gabriel announced to Mary: (Lk. 1:31-33) "And behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end."

The blind men exclaimed: "Thou Son of David have mercy on us!" (Mt. 9:27)

Paul preached: "Of this man's [David's] seed, hath God according to His promise raised unto Israel a Savior, Jesus" (Acts 13:23)

B. His promise to Abraham of a world-wide blessing

God (through Christ) was faithful to fulfill His promise to Abraham - that through his seed all the nations of the earth would be blessed (Gen. 12:1-3).

Gal. 3:8, 16 - "And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the Gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed. . . Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ."

II. The Amazing GRACE of God (v. 3, 5, 6)
(God's grace was extended to four outcasts)

"It is most unusual to find the names of women in Jewish genealogies, since names and inheritances came through the fathers" (Wiersbe, p. 13)

Outside of Mary, the Holy Spirit singled out four women in the genealogy. Four former outcasts.

A. Tamar (v. 3)

Tamar, the Canaanite daughter-in-law of Judah (v. 3) (Gen. 38)

(a woman who committed incest).

Despite prostitution and incest, God's grace fell on Judah, Tamar, and their son Perez, who all joined the Messianic line.

B. Rahab (v. 5)

Rahab, the harlot of Jericho (v. 5) (Josh. 2:1-21; 6:22-25)

(a woman who was a prostitute)

God's grace not only spared her life, but brought her into the Messianic line, as the wife of Salmon and the mother of her godly son Boaz, who was David's great-grandfather (MacArthur, p. 8)

C. Ruth (v. 5)

Ruth the Moabite (v. 5)

(A woman who was a Gentile)

"God's grace not only brought Ruth into the family of Israel, but later, through Boaz, into the royal line. She became the grandmother of Israel's great king David" (MacArthur, p. 8)

D. Bathsheba (v. 6)

Bathsheba, the former wife of Uriah (v. 6)

(a woman who was an adulteress)

"By God's grace, Bathsheba became the wife of David, the mother of Solomon, and an ancestor of the Messiah" (MacArthur, p. 9).

III. The Greatest MIRACLE of God (v. 16)

(God's miracle of the virgin birth)

Notice that the long list of "begets" stop after Joseph. Why? Because Joseph never "begat" Jesus.

"Of whom" = a feminine singular relative pronoun in Greek, referring to Mary.

SEE: Luke 1:30-37

The mystery of mysteries involves how the eternal Creator of the universe, who had all power, all authority, all honor; the One whom "the Heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain" (I Ki. 8:27) . . . how God could be reduced in all of his essence, into a divinely implanted seed which fertilized the human egg of Mary.

The most amazing miracle (more amazing than creation itself, more amazing than the drying up of the Red Sea, more amazing even than the resurrection of the dead) is the incarnation of Christ.

The virgin birth has nothing to do with the origin of Christ or the beginning of his existence. Rather, the virgin birth concerns only His entrance into the human race.

The entrance of Jesus into this life was totally distinct from that of ordinary men. For this reason, the writers of Scripture (under inspiration) carefully avoided using words such as "born" and "conceived" which tend to imply origin of existence.

Note the terms and phrases used in the N.T. to describe Christ's incarnation:

Jn. 6:51 - "came down from heaven" (cp. Mt. 20:28; Jn. 3:13)
I Tim. 1:15 - "came into the world"
Jn. 3:16 - "He gave His only begotten" Jn. 3:17 - "God sent..."
I Jn. 3:5 - "He was manifested to take away our sins"
Phil. 2:7 - "Made himself...took upon Him..."
II Cor. 8:9 - "He became poor"
Heb. 2:9 - "Made a little lower than the angels"
Gal. 4:4 - "God sent forth his son...made of a woman"
Jn. 1:14 - "made flesh and dwelt among us"
Heb. 2:14 - "Himself likewise took part...of flesh and blood"
I Cor. 15:47 - "The Lord from Heaven"
I Tim. 3:16 - "God was manifest in the flesh"

The virgin birth is foretold in the O.T. -

--A symbol (Is. 53:2 - "Root out of a dry ground" - something that springs out of that which is impossible)

--A prophecy (Is. 7:14 - "Behold a virgin shall conceive and bear a Son..." (SEE: Is. 48:16)

Proofs from the Epistles of the virgin birth:

1) Christ assumed a physical body from Mary not Joseph (Gal. 4:4 - "made [physically] of a woman" [not a man]

2) hrist came from heaven into the world (I Tim. 1:15; Heb. 10:5; Rom. 8:3; I Cor. 15:47).

3) Christ was sinless (heb. 4:15; II Cor. 5:21; Heb. 7:26).

Many theologians believe that man's sin nature is passed on through the blood. Genetically, man's blood is determined by the Father. Christ's blood had no connection with an earthly father. We are "in Adam," but Jesus is not "in Adam" - rather, He is the "second Adam" (I Cor. 15:22, 47).

The virgin birth was a one-time, never to be repeated, miracle.

Just as God created Eve without the reproductive elements of man, He supernaturally implanted His Son (in seed form) into the womb of a woman without the reproductive elements of man.

IV. The Unsearchable WISDOM of God (v. 11)

(God's wisdom overcame a cursed lineage)

Jechonias ("Coniah" also called Jehoiachin) was a king who never had a chance to reign. Why? Because a curse had been placed on his life (Jer. 36:30) because of the sin of his father Jehoiakim, who cut up and burned the Word of God (jer. 36:22-26) SEE: Jer. 22:24, 28-30

NOTE: Verse 30 - "For no man of his seed shall prosper, sitting upon the throne of David, and ruling any more in Judah"

The curse was on the physical seed (offspring) of Coniah. None of his offspring was to sit on David's throne.

The point is this: If Joseph were the physical father of Jesus, Jesus would be a descendent of Jeconiah and thus He would never be allowed to sit on David's throne!

The wisdom of God is seen by the fact that: The legal right to David's throne did pass through Joseph, by virtue of Christ's legal relationship to Joseph as his adopted Son. However, the physical blood right to David's throne passed through Nathan's line (Lk. 3:31). Jesus received this by virtue of His birth to Mary.

[NOTE: Matthew's genealogy traces Jesus' legal ancestral line up to Joseph; whereas Dr. Luke's genealogy traces His blood line up to Mary.]

CONCLUSION: **V. 17**

Matthew is saying that each of the 3 time periods included 14 generations, but were not necessarily limited to 14.

Matthew clearly omitted some names from this genealogy (cp. I Chron. 3:10ff).

[NOTE: the word "begot" does no necessarily refer to immediate parentage but merely to direct descent (cp. Robertson). Also, Jewish reckoning did not require every name in order to satisfy a genealogy (Example: the gaps in Ezra 7:1-5)]

Probably, he omitted some names to give a systematic summary of three period of Israel's history, each with fourteen generations. The numeric value of the Hebrew letters for "David" equals fourteen. Matthew probably used this approach as a memory aid to help his readers remember this difficult list (Wiersbe, p. 13)

*The genealogy of Christ is much more than a list of ancient names. It is a beautiful testimony to God's faithful promises, God's amazing grace, God's greatest miracle, and God's unsearchable wisdom!

Everything Spiritual & Eternal that God has to Offer Man comes

to us through His Son:

THE ART COLLECTOR'S SON

Author Unknown

Years ago, there was a very wealthy man who, with his devoted young son, shared a passion for art collecting. Together they traveled around the world, adding only the finest art treasures to their collection. Priceless works by Picasso, Van Gogh, Monet and many others adorned the walls of the family estate.

The widowed, elder man looked on with satisfaction, as his only child became an experienced art collector. The son's trained eye and sharp business mind caused his father to beam with pride as they dealt with art collectors around the world.

As winter approached, war engulfed the nation, and the young man left to serve his country. After only a few short weeks, his father received a telegram. His beloved son was missing in action. The art collector anxiously awaited more news, fearing he would never see his son again. Within days, his fears were confirmed. The young man had died while rushing a fellow soldier to a medic.

Distraught and lonely, the old man faced the upcoming Christmas holidays with anguish and sadness. The joy of the season, a season that he and his son had so looked forward to, would visit his house no longer.

On Christmas morning, a knock on the door awakened the depressed old man. As he walked to the door, the masterpieces of art on the walls only reminded him that his son was not coming home. As he opened the door, a soldier greeted him with a large package in his hand. He introduced himself to the man by saying, "I was a friend of your son. I was the one he was rescuing when he died. May I come in for a few moments? I have something to show you."

As the two began to talk, the soldier talked of the man's son's character and told of how the man's son had rescued many other lives. They then talked about their common interest in art. "I'm an artist," said the soldier, "and I want to give you this."

As the old man opened the package, the paper gave way to reveal a portrait of the man's son. Though the world would never consider it the work of a genius, the painting featured the young man's face in striking detail. Overcome with emotion, the man thanked the solider, promising to hang the picture above the fireplace.

A few hours later, after the soldier had departed, the old man set about his task. True to his word, the painting went above the fireplace, pushing aside thousands of dollars of paintings. And then the man sat in his chair and spent Christmas gazing at the gift he had been given.

During the days and weeks that followed, the man realized that even though his son was no longer with him, the boy's life would live on because of those he had touched. He would soon learn that his son had rescued dozens of wounded soldiers before a bullet stilled his caring heart.

As the stories of his son's gallantry continued to reach him, fatherly pride and satisfaction began to ease the grief. The painting of his son soon became his most

prized possession, far eclipsing any interest in the pieces for which museums around the world clamored. He told his neighbors it was the greatest gift he had ever received.

The following spring, the old man became ill and passed away. The art world was in anticipation! Unmindful of the story of the man's only son, but in his honor, those paintings would be sold at an auction.

According to the will of the old man, all of the art works would be auctioned on Christmas Day, the day he had received his greatest gift.

The day soon arrived and art collectors from around the world gathered to bid on some of the world's most spectacular paintings.

Dreams would be fulfilled this day; greatness would be achieved as many would claim, "I have the greatest collection."

The auction began with a painting that was not on any museum's list. It was the painting of the man's son. The auctioneer asked for an opening bid. The room was silent.

"Who will open the bidding with $100?" he asked. Minutes passed. No one spoke.

From the back of the room came, "Who cares about that painting? It's just a picture of his son."

"Let's forget it and go on to the good stuff." More voices echoed in agreement.

"No, we have to sell this one first," replied the auctioneer. "Now, who will take the son?"

Finally, a friend of the old man spoke, "Will you take ten dollars for the painting? That's all I have. I knew the boy, so I'd like to have it."

"I have ten dollars. Will anyone go higher?" called the auctioneer.

After more silence, the auctioneer said, "Going once, going twice. Gone." The gavel fell.

Cheers filled the room and someone exclaimed, "Now we can get on with it and we can bid on these treasures!"

The auctioneer looked at the audience and announced the auction was over. Stunned disbelief quieted the room.

Someone spoke up and asked, "What do you mean it's over? We didn't come here for a picture of some old guy's son. And what about all of these other paintings? There are millions of dollars of art here! I demand that you explain what's going on here!"

The auctioneer replied, "It's very simple. According to the will of the father, whoever takes the son gets it all."

Just as those art collectors discovered on that Christmas Day, the message is still the same - the love of a Father, a Father whose greatest joy came from His Son, who went away and gave His life rescuing others.

And because of that Father's love, whoever takes the Son, gets it all!