



# 1 | MATTHEW 1:1-17

## THE FAMILY OF THE KING

*Jesus' came to earth in such a humble way so that all would be welcome in his family.*

### Outline

King Herod the Great

Genealogies Were Important

#### 1. THE WONDER OF JESUS' FAMILY (1:1-6)

The Wonder of God's Faithful Word

*The Humble Family of Abraham*

*The Royal Line of David*

The Wonder of Christ's Eternal Reign

*Gematria*

The Wonder of Fulfilled Prophecy

#### 2. THE WICKED IN JESUS' FAMILY (1:6-11)

The Not So Good

The Bad

The Ugly

The Flaws of the Good Ones

The Humble and Lowly

#### 3. THE WELCOME OF JESUS' FAMILY (1:12-17)

### Call to Worship

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days. —Micah 5:2

### Songs

*King of Kings*

*Good Christian Men Rejoice*

*Lo How a Rose E'er Blooming*

*Come Thou Long Expected Jesus*

*Joy Has Dawned*

### Scripture Reading

### ISAIAH 11:1-2

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

### LUKE 1:26-33

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" <sup>29</sup> But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup> and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**WELCOME:** We are glad you are here! Be sure to grab a Welcome Packet from the Welcome Center if you are visiting with us.

**GIVING:** Proverbs 3:9, Honor the Lord from your wealth and from the first of all your produce.

You can still give over Zelle through your bank with no fees.

Use [secretary@livinghopechurch.net](mailto:secretary@livinghopechurch.net).

We also have a collection box on the Welcome Center

**CHRISTMAS PLAY:** We will be in contact with you about rescheduling the Christmas Play practice and the play itself.

## Introduction

We begin a new series in the book of Matthew called "The King at Christmas." Our title this morning is: "The Family of the King".

During the first three centuries of the church, Matthew was the most highly revered and frequently quoted canonical Gospel. –New Testament scholar D. A. Carson

In fact, in the early church, whenever the words of Jesus in the Gospels were read, the believers would stand at attention, because it was their belief that one should stand when you hear the words of a king! So with that, let us open to the book of Matthew and read.

**Matthew 1:1** | The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

What follows is the most important genealogy ever written.

### FAMILY HISTORY OPENING ILLUSTRATION

Ten years ago, my oldest brother gave me the book of the genealogy of my family. How many of you have done research in your family tree? You can find interesting characters in every family tree.

*Dad's Side (William Black)*

Charles Cunningham Black Slide

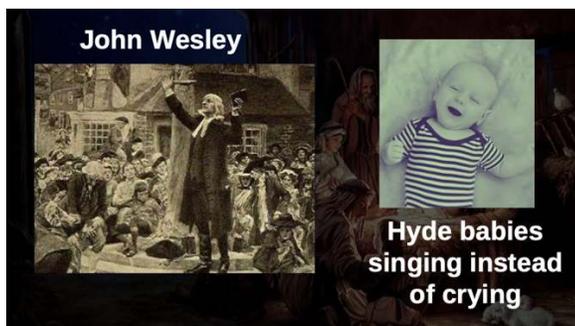


Growing up, I remember listening to stories from my grandfather, Charles Cunningham Black, who everyone called “Scottie” because he was from Scotland, born in 1899. He was 15 years old when he joined the British Army and fought in World War I. His sister Mary signed the papers for him so that he could get away from his father, who he didn’t get along with. In order not to lie, they placed the number “18” on a piece of paper on the ground. He stood over it. They asked him, “Are you above 18?” And he truthfully answered, “Yes, I am.” He was caught in a battle and spent three months in a prison camp. After the war ended, he was sent to Cairo Egypt. Once his service was ended, he opted to go to the United States. He landed at Ellis Island on the 4th of March, 1923. Later he would put on three round exhibition fights for Al Capone, who paid him \$50 a night (a very good wage back then!).



Genealogies are fascinating! On my grandmother’s side, I found out that 150 years ago (in 1866), my great grandfather Henry Becker moved to 248 North Street, Elgin, Illinois, about 2 miles from where I presently live, near the property where the Gail Borden Public Library is now.

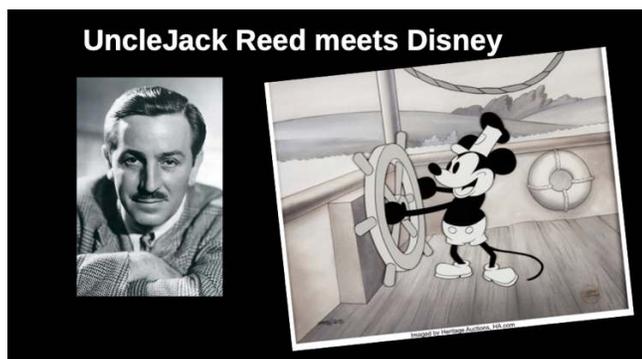
## Mom's Side (Barbara Hyde-Butt Black)



Some of my ancestors were saved in the Great Awakening under the preaching of John Wesley. People used to say they that my family [the Butt and Hyde families] were born with hymnbooks in their hands – “singing instead of crying!”<sup>1</sup>



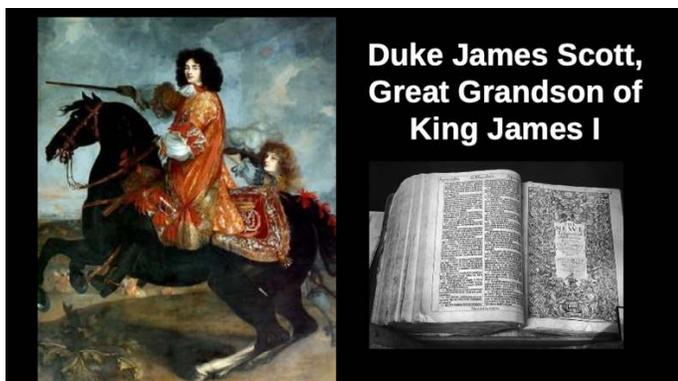
My mom had a great aunt (through marriage). We all think our Aunts are great! Unfortunately, this great aunt was an outlaw. So I'm also related to Belle Starr, one of the most famous female outlaw in the Wild West. In 1941 a famous movie was made about her.



I even had an uncle who had the opportunity to be the real estate agent for the famous Walt Disney. My Uncle Jack turned him down. He said, “Who would ever want to watch a silly little mouse named ‘Steamboat Willey?’” Of course, the mouse’s name was later changed to “Mickey Mouse.”

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<sup>1</sup> Hannah Butt Taylor. Hannah Butt Taylor Letter. (Letter, March 9, 1941). Accessed December 12, 2020. [https://www.werelate.org/wiki/MySource:Srblac/Hannah\\_Butt\\_Taylor\\_Letter](https://www.werelate.org/wiki/MySource:Srblac/Hannah_Butt_Taylor_Letter)



As I went back, I found my most famous relative is Duke James Scott, Great Grandson of King James I (King James Bible fame).<sup>2</sup> James Scott of Monmouth (a protestant), actually tried to usurp the throne from his uncle King James II (a Catholic). He was put into the London tower and later beheaded. I'm sure if we looked deep enough, we'd all have some colorful family history!

### KING HEROD THE GREAT



My relative James Scott reminds me of another usurper that lived during the time of Jesus. He usurped the true monarchy of Israel. This usurper's name was King Herod. He was not the rightful king of Israel. Some claim he was "richer than Augustus Caesar", his friend, at the time.

This brings us to the book of Matthew to bring out the true evidence that Jesus is the rightful king of Israel. In fact, had the royal line not been usurped by various foreign powers, Joseph, the earthly father of Jesus would have been the legal and rightful heir to the throne!

King Herod is called "the Great". He's a fascinating person in history. He's extremely rich. He's the world's master architect and engineer of the ancient world. Historians have said that he's likely richer than Caesar Augustus at the time. The ruins of many of Herod's architectural wonders still stand today.

He's so jealous that in Matthew 2, he is the evil king who massacres the innocents. Herod is the **counterfeit king**. He tries to deceive the wise men from the east (magi). He knows there is an ancient prophecy. The true King is from the line of Abraham, not Esau. Herod is a descendent of Esau, and like Esau, he has sold his birthright for a bowl of porridge (*cf* Obadiah 1). But nothing and no one can stop the true king, the King of kings from being born. He's not arrogant like Herod. He's the humble king. He's not born in a palace but in a manger.

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<sup>2</sup> Through Lucy Walter – via the VanStone / Butt families

And even his family tree is humble. Matthew presents Jesus as the true King, the humble King. The God who becomes man and takes on the likeness of sinful flesh, yet without sin.

**Let's read about this amazing, humble family tree in Matthew 1:1-17.**

**Matthew 1:1-17** | The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. <sup>2</sup>Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, <sup>3</sup>and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram, <sup>4</sup>and Ram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, <sup>5</sup>and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, <sup>6</sup>and Jesse the father of David the king. And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, <sup>7</sup>and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asaph, <sup>8</sup>and Asaph the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, <sup>9</sup>and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, <sup>10</sup>and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josiah, <sup>11</sup>and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon. <sup>12</sup>And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, <sup>13</sup>and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, <sup>14</sup>and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, <sup>15</sup>and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, <sup>16</sup>and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ. <sup>17</sup>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.

Each section is significant. In the genealogy we just read, there are three sections of 14, and each section is significant.

- The Patriarchs** (vs. 1-6)
- The Kings** (vs. 6-11)
- The Ordinary Citizens** (vs. 12-17)

The genealogy in the book of Matthew chapter 1 shows us:

- The culmination of the kingdom under David
- The downfall of it in the captivity going to Babylon
- Finally the zenith of the kingdom and the birth of Jesus Christ.

## GENEALOGIES WERE IMPORTANT

For the Jews genealogies were important.



**LAND:** If you wanted to buy or sell land in Israel, you needed to know your genealogy.

**CENSUS:** Every time there was a census, you needed your genealogy. Even the poorest of the poor, like Joseph and Mary, kept meticulous genealogical records, as is seen from Luke 2 and 3 as well as Matthew 1.

**OT WORSHIP:** In the Old Testament, under Moses, the tribes would encamp according to their tribe with 3 tribes on each of the four sides of the Tabernacle. Your genealogy determined where you camped and eventually, where you lived in Israel.

**PRIESTHOOD:** Genealogy was very important as well for the priesthood. You had to prove you were from the tribe of Levi to serve as a priest.

**KINGDOM OF ISRAEL:** And of course, genealogy was vital to establish the royal line of Israel.

**NEW TESTAMENT TIMES:** Genealogy was very important in general. Even in Paul's day, he would say that he was a "Hebrew of Hebrews, from the tribe of... Benjamin".

As we look at the genealogy of the King of kings, we come to a comforting thought. He could have been welcomed in the great halls of Greece or Rome. He could have come through a family of splendid acclaim. But he comes through so many who are unworthy. Why? Why would Jesus come this way, and then be born in a manger?

**Key Thought:** Jesus' came to earth in such a humble way so that all would be welcome in his family.

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### 1. THE **WONDER** OF JESUS' FAMILY (1:1-6)

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**Matthew 1:1** | The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

The word "**genealogy**" means genesis, and it brings us to the beginning of time. This is the One who is from the beginning. This genealogy is of the one that is been from of old even from everlasting. Here we have the Almighty God, the everlasting father that is the father of eternity. This is his genealogy. Matthew wants to establish the wonder of Jesus' family!

## THE WONDER OF GOD'S FAITHFUL WORD

The New Testament begins with a list of names. It's an odd way to begin. But the list shows readers this isn't a fairytale, but a true story. The New Testament doesn't begin with "once upon a time," but with a family tree that is easily proven.

Not only that, but this list of names is like a promise list. God made promises to the patriarchs. The birth of Jesus Christ was promised for hundreds of years. Adam is not explicitly named, but his story is contained in words "the book of the genealogy," which could also be translated "**the book of Genesis.**" God told Adam and Eve that the Seed of the woman would crush the seed of the serpent (Gen 3:16). God made promises to the family of **Abraham** and to the royal house of **David** that Messiah would come through their lineage.

### *The Humble Family of Abraham*

God made a specific promise to Abraham. God brought Abraham outside his tent and said to him:

"Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." – Genesis 15:5

Later God tells Abraham:

In your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed. – Genesis 22:18

The entire New Testament rests on the promise God made to Abraham, because Abraham was promised a son who would eventually be father to the Messiah. Paul boldly declares:

If you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise. –Galatians 3:29

### *The Royal Line of David*

And then God got more specific. It's not just a family that he's chosen: the family of Abraham. He's chosen specifically a royal line: the house of David. He gives David a covenant, the Davidic covenant: the promise the Messiah will sit on David's throne.

When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. <sup>13</sup> He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.... <sup>16</sup> And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever." –2 Samuel 7:12-13, 16

God came to David and said, "I'm going to put one of your descendants on the throne, and he will reign forever." Don't the promises of God's Word bring you wonderment and awe?

Human promises are flawed, but when God promises something, we can take it to the bank. If he has pledged himself to you, he isn't letting you go, no matter what you do. Israel couldn't out-sin the promises of God—and neither can you. He who saves you will sanctify you. You are part of his family!

**Transition:** God's faithfulness is amazing. But exactly what God promised is amazing too. God promises a King of all kings to rule over us and care for us forever and ever!

### THE WONDER OF CHRIST'S ETERNAL REIGN

Now let's go a little further. Who is this one promised to come through David's royal line? Consider the *wonder* that God promised an everlasting kingdom to a descendent of David. Matthew is presenting the line of monarchs of Israel. There are three sections of 14 generations.

Luke himself gives 76 generations. Matthew gives 42. Why?

Obviously, there were many more than 42 generations. Matthew is being selective. He is not presenting the physical lineage of Joseph, that is in Luke 3.

If there are at least 76 generations, why does Matthew only present 42 (three sections of 14 generations)? Matthew uses an interesting tool to give a mathematical proclamation within the text that Jesus is actually the promised Son of Genesis, the promised Messiah of the Psalms, the one true Son of the Living God. There are three groupings of 14 in the genealogy. What's that all about? You need to know that 14 is the number of David.

#### *Gematria*

Gematria [guh-mey-tree-uh] is the use of numbers in Hebrew names. Each Hebrew letter corresponds to a number. The name "David" in Hebrew corresponds to the number fourteen (14). That is significant. In Hebrew, David consists of three letters and has the numeric value of fourteen (dalet [4] + waw [6] + dalet [4]).

דוד [DWD] (4+6+4) = 14: DAVID

Matthew is presenting 3 groups of 14 because he is using an ancient Hebrew mathematical method of communicating a truth called: gematria.

Jesus is the promised king that would reign forever, the true Messiah from the house of David. He is the fulfillment of all the promises in the Old Testament for an *everlasting kingdom*.

Matthew is making a statement about Jesus! This is...

- DWD (4+6+4) = 14: DAVID!
- DWD (4+6+4) = 14: DAVID!
- DWD (4+6+4) = 14: DAVID!

This is the promised David, who whose reign would be for eternity. This one is the King of kings and Lord of lords!

At the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. –Philippians 2:10-11

Hallelujah! Bow the knee to King Jesus! This is the everlasting King who was promised to sit on the throne of David.

### THE WONDER OF FULFILLED PROPHECY

Let's slow down a little more, because God made these promises on only to Adam and Eve and to Abraham and to David, but he made promises to all the prophets in the Old Testament. There are so many prophecies that Matthew is answering in this genealogy! Matthew is presenting Jesus as the true king of Israel.

Jesus says to Pilate:

You say correctly that I am a king. For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world. –John 18:37

Matthew is giving proof of fulfilled prophecy that Jesus, God's Son, would finally enter the world.

The LORD swore to David a sure oath from which he will not turn back: 'One of the sons of your body I will set on your throne. <sup>12</sup> If your sons keep my covenant and my testimonies that I shall teach them, their sons also forever shall sit on your throne. – Psalm 132:11-12

### *David's Tree Cut Down*

All the kings in the line of David died, until this One is born. The King of all kings is born in Bethlehem, born in a manger. There is only one King that has a forever throne, because he conquers death! Our mighty King Jesus!

This is not a shock at all. Most of the prophets are about how the monarchy of Israel comes to an end. David's family tree is *cut down*. All throughout the prophet Isaiah we hear about the "stump of Jesse". How sad! Israel's royal line is cut down. The tree comes down. But wait! There is a promised Branch that would come out of the cut down tree of the monarchy. So, Matthew is pointing to Jesus as the promised Branch, the shoot or twig that would rise out of the fallen monarchy.

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. – Isaiah 11:1

We could give hundreds more prophecies of Jesus' birth, life, and death. One reason the Bible's Old Testament is so important for us as believers is that it contains prophecy – over 300 predictions – that would be mathematically an infinite impossibility for one man to fulfill, that is unless, it was divinely given and guided. And we can say that Jesus is the divinely given Son of God! Hallelujah!

Just be in awe and wonder that the Son of God who made all things would enter into his own creation and have a genealogy: a family tree. And you, dear saint, are part of that family tree if you follow Jesus.

But let's look at something a bit controversial and interesting now. In every family tree there are always some bad apples. Do you have any bad apples in your family tree? I've mentioned a few in mine! Jesus' has some "bad apples" in his family tree as well.

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## 2. THE WICKED IN JESUS' FAMILY (1:6-11)

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Matthew gives only 42 generations of names. He is selective, but he doesn't clean up the family registry. He names the not so good, the bad, the ugly, as well as the humble and lowly! It's true that...

Jesus "did not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."  
—Matthew 9:13

### THE NOT SO GOOD

I think we can notice the no so good right away. We've already mentioned **David**. He committed adultery and murder. What about **Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob**? They were all polygamous, lying, and scheming, yet God works with each of them and grows their faith. If God can call and love and sanctify such messed up people, there's hope for all of us!

### THE BAD

Now the genealogy gets into the bad. Of course, we are all worse than we can imagine!

Consider **Judah**. He had relations with daughter in law Tamar. Tamar's first and second husbands died giving her no children. Judah refuses to give Tamar a third son, under the law of the kinsman redeemer. Tamar plays the prostitute. Prostitutes covered their faces, so Judah did not recognize her. As payment for her sexual deeds, Judah gives Tamar his staff and ring. Through his lust he had almost destroyed her. Tamar was a widow and was found to be pregnant. Judah, as the *head* of the tribe, called for her to be *burned alive*! She brought forth Judah's ring and the staff and said, the guilty party owns these items. They were Judah's! Can you imagine that God would save such a one as Judah! And that Jesus would be called "The Lion of the tribe of Judah"? God saves sinners.

And what about **Perez**? He's also mentioned in the genealogy. Through Judah and Tamar were born twins: Perez and Zerah. So Perez is the illegitimate son of Tamar. Yes, God can redeem the ugly lives of sinners. How great and wonderful is our Redeemer!

### THE UGLY

These were the ones that seemed unredeemable! Four Old Testament women are named.

Two are Gentiles: **Rahab** the Cananite from Jericho (who, according to Jewish tradition, apparently married one of the spies, Salmon). The other is **Ruth** the Moabitess.

Two of the women are adulteresses: **Tamar** with Judah and **Bathsheba** with David.

You have idolatrous kings who are named: **Solomon** who began the worship of many pagan deities (though he repented). And what about King **Rehoboam** who split the kingdom. You have more idolatrous kings: **Abijah** and **Joram** who were both evil kings. And what about evil **King Ahaz** who “sacrificed his children in the fire to other gods” (2 Chron 28:3). Even Manasseh is named who is portrayed as more evil than anyone before him, yet he repents, and is forgiven.

### THE FLAWS OF THE GOOD ONES

We see in this list of kings that there is no perfect earthly king of Israel. All of them have their flaws and failures. **David** has his adultery. **Solomon**, though so wise, was so “dumb” spiritually during a large part of his reign over Israel. **Hezekiah**, the king of such great faith who defeated an army of Assyrians through a night of prayer, still has his flaws and times of pride and unbelief. We could say the same of Jehoshaphat and Uzziah. Even good king Josiah, though nothing bad is recorded of him, he dies. He brings all the reforms, reinstates the book of the Law, begins to use the Temple again, tears down the high places of idolatry, but at the end he dies. We need a king who is more powerful than death. It’s not long after Josiah’s death that the deportation to Babylon begins. We need a King who can conquer sin, death, and hell!

One thing is for sure, the Old Testament leaves us hungering for a perfect king. What Matthew does is he reveals that perfect king. Here he is! This is the one! This is the one we've all been waiting for! He's finally here!

### THE HUMBLE AND LOWLY

But wait, what’s this? We have a lot of unknown people in Jesus’ genealogy. After **Shealtiel** and **Zerubbabel** at the return to Jerusalem from captivity, we know almost nothing about the rest of these people. One thing we do know. They lived in obscurity, and many of them lived in poverty. This is what became of the kingly, messianic line of Jesus the Christ.

What we come to is exactly what Paul said in 1 Corinthians 1.

For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. <sup>27</sup> But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; <sup>28</sup> God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, <sup>29</sup> so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. –1 Corinthians 1:26-29

Matthew is making a point and it’s our key thought.

**Key Thought:** Jesus’ came to earth in such a humble way so that all would be welcome in his family.

This is the one you've been looking for and longing for! This is the record of the genealogy or the origin of the long-awaited king. This is HIStory, and it can be your story if you know him and love him.

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### 3. THE WELCOME OF JESUS' FAMILY (1:12-17)

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Let's look at the welcome of Jesus' family. He bids you to come to him.

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup> For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." – Matthew 11:28-30

The Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost. – Luke 19:10

A marine will enter into a commitment with fellow Marines to help their welfare to an insane point. So Jesus enters in to the human race to help his people beyond an unimaginable point. I hope we can feel the wonder that Jesus the Lord of glory has come to seek and save those who were lost.

No one can bring a clean thing out of an unclean thing. The only way to change your family history is to hear and receive the welcome of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Most people are not interested in their genealogies. Some people are very involved in finding out about their family tree. But if you are a child of God, then **this is your family**. The Scripture says that the Gentiles are going to sit down with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in eternity. In the Kingdom!

If Jesus was born only from the line of David and Abraham and people like Boaz and Hezekiah we might say well Jesus humbled himself but what a noble lineage he had. But Jesus' line is a line of notorious sinners. God is in the business of saving us when we are in our worst state.

God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. –Romans 5:8

Out of all the names of the women that could've been mentioned **Sarah** is not mentioned. **Hannah** is not mentioned, but instead we have **Tamar** and **Rahab** (a Gentile) both who played the prostitute. We have we have **Bathsheba**, the adulteresses. We have **Ruth**, the Gentile, the Moabitess. In fact all the women named are either known Gentiles, or supposed Gentiles. Remember even Bathsheba had been married to a Hittite, and she was likely a Hittite as well. Can God save Canaanites? You bet he can! Does God have a heart to save Canaanites and even bring them into Jesus' family tree? Yes! Praise God for our compassionate Redeemer!

**Ruth** though she's a godly woman is a Moabitess she comes from the family lineage of the incestuous relationship between lots and one of his daughters. And so though Christ is without sin, he enters into depraved sinful humanity. The Jews were so proud of their genealogy. They were sons of Abraham and sons of David. Yes, that's true but Matthew does something astonishing. He mentions names like **Tamar** and **Manasseh** and **Bathsheba**, which brings to mind all of the sordid stories of the scripture.

Jesus Christ the King became man through a genealogy of sinful human flesh even though our Lord himself was unstained from original sin.

He made himself of no reputation – so low – so that the greatest of sinners could be welcomed into his merciful arms.

When we see all the hurt and pain and brokenness of Jesus' genealogy, we see that God does not waste his children's pain.

So many times, there are things we are completely ashamed in our lives. We would like to hide them. But the failures of these people's lives are on display. And they bring all that much glory to the grace of God.

Where sin abounds grace much more abounds. –Romans 5:20

Let's all be ready to lift our hands in praise to such a merciful and loving God! Let's give him glory!

...to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us." – Ephesians 1:6-8

He has lavished his grace upon us! This is what the birth of Christ is all about. Jesus opens his arms to you, having become one of us, and says, "all sinners who come in faith and repentance, Welcome!"

### **Conclusion**

If you come to Christ by faith, you are adding to this genealogy!

If you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise. –Galatians 3:29

Now I don't know about you, but I'm not terrible proud of a lot of what is in my family tree. So much sin! But in Jesus Christ I'm now brought into a new family. If you love Jesus, this is your family tree. We are part of the family of God forever, and ever and ever and ever. Let's bow our knee and praise our King who gives us a new family tree!