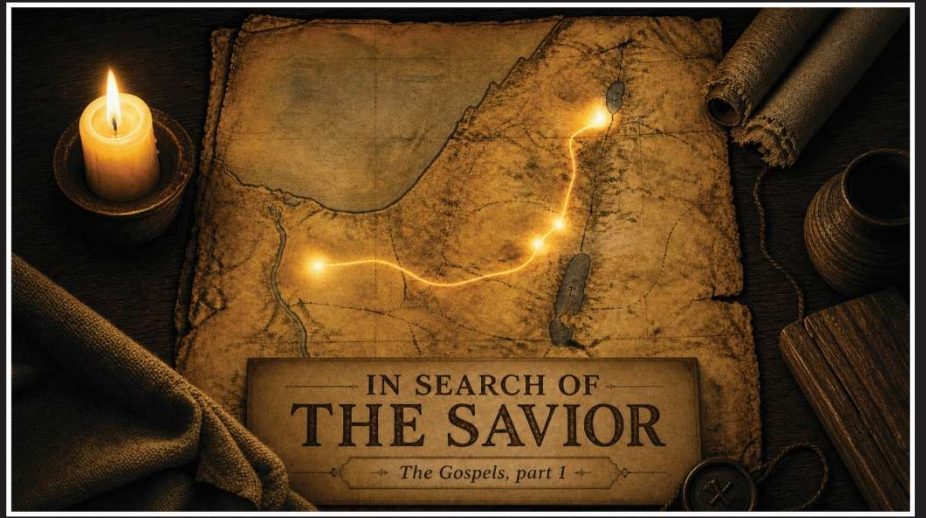




Midweek Study

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Where the Savior Came From

Matthew 1:1-17; Luke 3:23-38

I. THE GENEALOGY THROUGH JOSEPH - *Matthew 1:1-17*

A. This List is a Memory Aid, Not a Complete Record

- Arranged in three groups of 14 generations to aid memory.
- Abraham to David: 14 generations.
- David to the captivity in Babylon: 14 generations.
- The captivity in Babylon to the Christ: 14 generations.

B. The Hint at the Virgin Birth

- Matthew does NOT say Joseph begot Jesus. He says: “*Jacob begot Joseph, the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ*”
- Legally, this is Joseph's line - but Joseph did not beget Jesus.

C. The Purpose of the Genealogy

- Matthew was a Jewish man writing to a Jewish audience.
- His whole point: Jesus is the promised Messiah.
- He came from David - as prophesied.
- He came from Abraham - as prophesied.
- His name is not “Jesus Christ” - His name is Jesus, which means “Jehovah Saves”.
- *Christ* (Greek: *Christos*) = *Messiah* = the Anointed One
- The message of the genealogy: Jesus IS the Christ. He is the promised King. You do not need to look for another.

II. THE GENEALOGY THROUGH MARY – *Luke 3:23-38*

“Luke’s genealogy moves backward, from Jesus to Adam; Matthew’s moves forward, from Abraham to Joseph. Luke’s entire section from Joseph to David differs starkly from that given by Matthew. The two genealogies are easily reconciled if Luke’s is seen as Mary’s genealogy, and Matthew’s version represents

Joseph's. Thus the royal line is passed through Jesus' legal father, and His physical descent from David is established by Mary's lineage."¹

- Luke's genealogy goes back to Adam to show that Jesus is the Savior of the whole world.
- Mary's line (biological) vs. Joseph's line (legal) - both are needed.

III. THE WOMEN IN THE GENEALOGY OF JESUS

Women were not included in first century Jewish genealogies. Matthew included four deliberately. Each of these four women carries a message about the gospel.

1. **TAMAR** - **Genesis 38**; **What Tamar tells us about the gospel**: Jesus Himself said, **"I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance"** (Luke 5:32).
2. **RAHAB** - **Joshua 2**; **Hebrews 11:31**; **What Rahab tells us about the gospel**: **"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God"** (Ephesians 2:8).
3. **RUTH** - **Ruth 1-4**; **What Ruth tells us about the gospel**: The gospel of Jesus Christ comes to sinners on the basis of faith and gives us a new identity, a new destiny, and a new family. She was a Moabite - **"No Moabite will enter the assembly of the Lord"** (see Deuteronomy 23:3).
4. **BATHSHEBA** **"Her who had been the wife of Uriah the Hittite"** (v.6) - **2 Samuel 11-12**; **What Bathsheba tells us about the gospel**: God's mercy comes to those who truly repent. God's mercy does not stay His hand of penalty - you will still suffer because of your sin. **"A righteous man will fall seven times, but he will get back up."** (Proverbs 24:16)

APPLICATIONS FOR TODAY

1. Jesus is the Messiah that was promised. He came from the line of David and Abraham - exactly as prophesied. The Bible is God's inerrant Word. One reason why is because of fulfilled prophecy.
2. Jesus came for sinners - not just respectable sinners, but deep sinners, outsiders, the fallen, and the broken. The stories of the four women are intentionally placed as statements that the Jewish audience would understand.
3. If God showed mercy to Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, and Bathsheba, He can show mercy to you and to me. Since God has extended such mercy to us, we should remember to show mercy and forgiveness to others.

¹ John MacArthur Jr., ed., *The MacArthur Study Bible*, electronic ed. (Nashville, TN: Word Pub., 1997), 1518.