

# The Gospel of Matthew

Title: The Divine Savior

Text: Matthew 1:1-17

**Introduction:** Let's consider the reason Matthew lays out the genealogy of Jesus. His audience is primarily Jewish people. The Old Testament promises the coming of the righteous Servant of the Lord. The word "Messiah" represents the Hebrew word for anointed. Cf. Isaiah 42:1-9, in the Messianic Psalm 110:4 "The Lord has sworn and will not change His mind, You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek." Isaiah 55:3-5 "Incline your ear and come to Me. Listen, that you may live; And I will make an everlasting covenant with you, According to the faithful mercies shown to David. <sup>4</sup> Behold, I have made him a witness to the peoples, A leader and commander for the peoples. <sup>5</sup> Behold, you will call a nation you do not know, And a nation which knows you not will run to you, Because of the Lord your God, even the Holy One of Israel; For He has glorified you." Furthermore, the **central theme** of the Old Testament is the **promise** of a coming King who **will rule forevermore**.

The most familiar passage is **Isaiah 53** which tells of His death. He would be **despised, forsaken, stricken, pierced** and **crushed** for us. Isaiah 9:6-7 "For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup> There will be no end to the increase of *His* government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will accomplish this."

**Application:** The plan of a Savior was **not a reaction to man's sin, but a planned and purposed event of God**. He sent His Son to die, and planned the sacrifice of Christ long before we were ever born.

**Point 1** - A little about Matthew, he was a tax collector, a publican as is commonly known. He was not liked. They were viewed as traitors and extortioners, because whatever they collected above what was required by the Romans they kept as profit. Matthew 9:10 "Then it happened that as Jesus was reclining at the table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were dining with Jesus and His disciples." Matthew 18:17 "If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector." Matthew was also called Levi.

We know little about Matthew before he was called by Jesus. It's doubtful he was religious, because he would have not been allowed or accepted at the Temple or by any Jewish

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leaders. Matthew presents Jesus in the gospel as sovereign. Mark presents Jesus as a servant. John presents Jesus as the Son of God. The same Jesus is both a sovereign God and a servant man. The first 17 verses of Matthew present the chronological history of Jesus proving His lineage was planned, going back to Abraham and through the lineage of King David. John also opens his gospel by affirming Jesus was in the beginning “**In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God**” (John 1:1). The gospel of Matthew is centered on Jesus’ Kingship.

**Point 2** - Grace, vs. 16 in choosing Mary to have Jesus be born. **First**, we note that the Scripture is clear to show that **Jesus came from no earthly blood line on the male side**. The “**husband of Mary**” indicates that Joseph is not the **biological** father of Jesus.

Mary was an **ordinary woman**, a **sinner** who **needed** a **Savior**. She was likely more morally righteous than many people of her time, but she was **not sinless**. Listen to Mary’s song in Luke 1:46-48 “**And Mary said: My soul exalts the Lord, <sup>47</sup> And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior. <sup>48</sup> For He has had regard for the humble state of His bonds slave; For behold, from this time on all generations will count me blessed.**” The notion of her being a **co-redeemer** or **co-mediator** is **unscriptural**. Nimrod, the grandson of Ham was the founder of the Tower of Babel. And thus it is where we get Babylon. Revelation 17:5 “**And on her forehead a name was written, a mystery, ‘BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH’**”. When Babaylon was destroyed at the time the pagan high priest fled to Pergamum (Pergamos) which is where **Satan’s seat is** in **Revelation 2:13a** “**I know where you dwell, where Satan’s throne is...**” and it is here where many of the **pagan ideas worked** their way into the **church**.

These pagan systems **infected Israel** centuries before Christ. The Bible knows nothing of Mary’s grace except that which she received from the Lord. She was the **recipient** of **grace**, **not** the **giver** of **grace**. God choses a sinful woman the unequalled privilege of giving birth to the Messiah.

**Point 3** - Vs. 1, 17 the tainted history of those in the family. David and Abraham were both sinners, yet by **grace** they were **ancestors** of the **Messiah**, the Christ.

- David and his sin, and his son Absalom who attempted an armed rebellion
- Abraham and his lying out of fear
- Solomon

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Yet out of all of these, God chose a royal line for the Messiah. Furthermore, through the lineage of these men, Judah, Jacob, and at times were unfaithful and weak, yet the promise of God remained.

**Point 4** - Vs. 3-6, the work of grace through outcasts.

- Tamar, the Canaanite daughter-in-law of Judah, she disguised herself as a prostitute and from that line they were joined in the Messianic line
- Rahab, who was also a prostitute, but by profession, but she lied to the King of Jericho and spared the life of the messengers. God also spared her life and later the wife of Salmon and the mother of Boaz.
- The Moabite, Ruth, who was in the line of the ungodly incestuous relations of Lot's daughters. Although she was a Moabite, a former pagan with no right to marry an Israelite, but God's grace brought her in the family of Israel and through Boaz, into the royal line. She became the grandmother of David.
- Bathsheba, she's not mentioned in the genealogy by name, but simply as the wife of David. What continued as the Messianic line through this was the birth of Solomon.

**Conclusion:** The genealogy of Jesus is more than just a list of ancient names, it's a beautiful testimony of God's grace, Matthew 9:13 "But go and learn what this means: 'I desire compassion, and not sacrifice,' for I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners."