

CALLED THROUGH HERITAGE

Bible Background – MATTHEW 1:1-17; HEBREWS 1

Printed Text – MATTHEW 1:1-6, 16-17; HEBREW 1:1-5

The Ancestors of Jesus the Messiah

¹ This is a record of the ancestors of Jesus the Messiah, a descendant of David and of Abraham:

² Abraham was the father of Isaac. Isaac was the father of Jacob. Jacob was the father of Judah and his brothers.

³ Judah was the father of Perez and Zerah (whose mother was Tamar). Perez was the father of Hezron. Hezron was the father of Ram.

⁴ Ram was the father of Amminadab. Amminadab was the father of Nahshon. Nahshon was the father of Salmon.

⁵ Salmon was the father of Boaz (whose mother was Rahab). Boaz was the father of Obed (whose mother was Ruth). Obed was the father of Jesse.

⁶ Jesse was the father of King David. David was the father of Solomon (whose mother was Bathsheba, the widow of Uriah).

¹⁶ Jacob was the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary. Mary gave birth to Jesus, who is called the Messiah.

¹⁷ All those listed above include fourteen generations from Abraham to David, fourteen from David to the Babylonian exile, and fourteen from the Babylonian exile to the Messiah.

Lesson Introduction

God has an all-encompassing plan to bring salvation to humankind. That plan is Jesus, God's definitive word to humanity. In this lesson we will seek to understand the significance of Jesus' earthly heritage,

Jesus Christ Is God's Son

¹ Long ago God spoke many times and in many ways to our ancestors through the prophets.

² And now in these final days, he has spoken to us through his Son. God promised everything to the Son as an inheritance, and through the Son he created the universe.

³ The Son radiates God's own glory and expresses the very character of God, and he sustains everything by the mighty power of his command. When he had cleansed us from our sins, he sat down in the place of honor at the right hand of the majestic God in heaven.

⁴ This shows that the Son is far greater than the angels, just as the name God gave him is greater than their names.

The Son Is Greater Than the Angels

⁵ For God never said to any angel what he said to Jesus: "You are my Son. Today I have become your Father." God also said, "I will be his Father, and he will be my Son."

-----New Living Translation

December 6, 2020 – Study Guide 1

His heavenly origins and their significance to God's plan to redeem us and to restore our relationship with God.

Background: The Gospels are about the birth, life, death, and resurrection of our Savior. The Old Testament in its entirety lays the groundwork for the birth of the Messiah. It is a bridge connecting the humanness of Jesus—the son of Mary and step-son of Joseph—to the supernatural Christ the King, the Son of God. Delving into the human genealogy of Christ far surpasses the mystery of uncovering our family ancestry. As we search name by name—from Abraham, to Boaz, to Solomon—we realize that all the pieces fit together and give us a perfect picture of Christ. The original readers of the Letter to the Hebrews faced a dilemma. As Jews, they practiced Judaism all their lives. When the apostles and other Christian believers presented the Good News of salvation to them, many turned to Christ as Lord and Savior. However, some were beginning to wonder how an unknown son of a carpenter from an obscure village called Nazareth could be greater than their forefathers and prophets like Moses. These harried believers needed to be reminded of the essential truth of their new faith. The writer of Hebrews demonstrated that Jesus Christ is superior to all others because He was born of God.

-----*Precepts for Living*, the UMI Annual Commentary 2020-2021, p. 169

Jesus' diverse Ancestry

Matthew 1:1-6: Matthew begins by stating that Jesus was the son of Abraham and the son of David. As a son of Abraham, He is heir to the Abrahamic covenant through which all mankind would be blessed (Gen 12:3). And as the son of David, He is of the lineage of the promised Eternal King (Psalm 98:3-4). This King and global blessing is Jesus Christ (Gr. *Christos*, Heb. *mashiyach* [Messiah]).

Along with the patriarchs in Jesus' ancestry, Matthew also includes four women who were gentiles and who also entered into the lineage through somewhat scandalous circumstances. Tamar posed as a prostitute to deceive her father-in-law so that she could have children, resulting in her sons, Perez and Zerah (Gen. 38:1-7). Rahab was called a prostitute and later became the mother of Boaz. She was also called one of the heroes of faith (Hebrews 11:31). Her son, Boaz married Ruth the Moabite (Book of Ruth). Bathsheba was the widow of a Hittite who David caused to be killed in battle to cover up his and Bathsheba's sinful union (2 Samuel 11:3, 15). All these women were a part of God's plan for the salvation of the world. Their lives are also lessons about the inclusion of all nations in the Gospel and of God's grace.

◆ *In what ways has God redeemed the negative parts of your family history and made them into something beautiful? How has your family included those who were not born into the family?*

Jesus' Place in History

Matthew 1:16-17: Matthew gives affirmation to the Jewish lineage of Jesus through His earthly ancestry. Through Joseph, Jesus' earthly father, the man who reared Him, Matthew established Jesus' firm place in Jewish history. In Joseph's ancestry was Abraham, the Father of the Faith and King David, the king of the Promise. He also referenced the number of generations. Fourteen generations from Abraham to David; fourteen generations from David to the Babylonian exile and fourteen generations from the return to Jerusalem to the Christ. The number fourteen is significant as it equals two sevens—

December 6, 2020 – Study Guide 1

the number of completion. Three sets of fourteen generations before the Messiah appears is significant because three is the number showing divinity and completion.

◆ *Matthew's genealogy emphasizes the Jewishness of Jesus. How would you present your genealogy to emphasize your ethnicity? Are you able to trace the genealogy of your faith through those who led you to salvation?*

Jesus' True Heritage

Hebrews 1:1-5: But remember. Joseph is Jesus' stepfather, but reared him so that He "grew in wisdom and in stature" (Luke 2:52, NLT). Even though Matthew explains Jesus' humanness through His earthly father's genealogy, the writer of Hebrews emphasizes Jesus' divinity through His Heavenly Father. It is confirmed that in the past, God spoke to His people in a variety of ways through various prophets. But now, He speaks through Jesus, the "reflection of God's glory" and the "image of His person." Jesus is the Redeemer and through Him, the atonement of sin was once and for all made at Calvary.

Jesus is above the angels by birthright. His name is above every name and must be honored and worshiped by angels, humans and demons (Philippians 2:9-11). Jesus' relationship to God is stated very clearly: He is the Son and God is His Father. No angel can claim that relationship. Only Christ enjoys this unique relationship with the Father who God declared as "my Son". And Since Jesus is the Son of God, He can pass an eternal inheritance to those who follow Him. Jesus' followers become joint heirs with Him.

◆ *What would our faith mean if Jesus were not divine?*

Conclusion

What a marvelous plan God has revealed for the salvation of humankind. He created a people through Abraham; established a nation through David; and through Jesus, has made all people a part of both. Many of us are not clear about our own heritage, but we can claim this amazing spiritual heritage through Jesus Christ. Jesus is the finale of God's work of bringing salvation to the world through one sinful family line. Jesus is God's final and decisive word for humanity. He is also our perfect example of rising above the family drama that can hold you back from fulfilling God's plan for your life.

Sources:

Banks, M. (Ed.). (2020). Love For One Another. *Precepts for Living*, 23(Fall Quarter), 165-176. The Urban Ministries, Inc. Annual Commentary 2020-2021.
Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright © 1996, 2004, 2015 by Tyndale House Foundation, Carol Stream, Illinois.

This Sunday is the second Sunday of the Advent Season – Peace (or Prophecy)



The season of Advent lasts for four Sundays leading up to Christmas. At that time, the new Christian year begins with the twelve-day celebration of Christmastide, which lasts from Christmas Eve until Epiphany on January 6. Advent begins on Sunday that falls between November 27th and December 3rd each year) **Advent 2020 begins on Sunday, November 29th, and ends on Thursday, December 24.**

The Advent Wreath consists of four Advent candles with the white Christ Candle in the center. One candle is lit each Sunday before Christmas and the Christ Candle is lit on Christmas Day—First Hope, then Peace, Joy and Love.

Advent Week 2 - Prayer for Peace

Lord, in a season when every heart should be happy and light, many of us are struggling with the heaviness of life—burdens that steal the joy right out of our stockings. Tragedy arrives as innocent victims suffer, and an inner voice whispers, “Be afraid!” We need your peace, Jesus. We confess that our hearts are too often filled with wonder of a different kind: wondering when the bills will be paid, when the terror will stop, when rest will come.

Will it ever? Is the message still true? In a world where worry, not peace, prevails, stir up that good news again. This Advent, make it real in our hearts. Never have we needed Your joy and peace more than now. Thank You for the gift of Jesus, our Immanuel, the Word made flesh. We not only need Your peace and joy; Lord, we crave it. You’ve promised rest for the weary, victory for the battle-scarred, peace for the anxious, and acceptance for the broken hearted—not just at Advent, but every day of every year.

Your name is still called “Wonderful,” “Counselor,” “The Mighty God,” “The Everlasting Father,” and “The Prince of Peace.” We know that peace on earth can only come when hearts find peace with You. You are still our Joy. You are still our Peace. You are no longer a babe in the manger. You are Lord of lords and King of kings. And we still celebrate You as Lord—this Christmas and always.

~Edited from Rebecca Barlow Jordan's "[A Prayer for Peace & Joy at Christmas](#)"

December 6, 2020 – Study Guide 1

Lesson for Next Week – December 13, 2020 – Study Guide 2

CALLED BEFORE BIRTH

Bible Background ♦ MATTHEW 1:18-25

Printed Text ♦ MATTHEW 1:18-25

Devotional Reading ♦ ISAIAH 42:1-9

Daily Bible Readings

MONDAY

Sign of God's Presence
(Isaiah 7:10-15)

TUESDAY

Called a Light of the Nations
(Isaiah 42:1-9)

WEDNESDAY

Called to Mission Before Birth
(Isaiah 49:1-7)

THURSDAY

Birth of Jesus Foretold to Mary
(Luke 1:26-38)

FRIDAY

Simeon Foretells Jesus' Ministry
(Luke 2:34-38)

SATURDAY

Mary, in the Lineage of Ruth
(Ruth 4:9-17)

SUNDAY

Miracle of the Holy Spirit Conception
(Matthew 1:18-25)