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**APOSTOLIC VERSE BY VERSE BIBLE STUDY**

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**THE GENEOLOGY OF JESUS CHRIST**

**MATTHEW 1**

The Gospel of St. Matthew was written by Matthew. The key word in Matthew is "fulfilled", as we have been looking at the prophecies being fulfilled. Matthew was, also, called Levi. Matthew was one of the twelve apostles and was a Roman tax collector. Matthew was hated by the publicans, and they criticized Jesus for eating with him at his house. When Jesus called him, he left the tax tables and followed Jesus.

***Matthew 9:9-13 (KJV)   
9  And as Jesus passed forth from thence, he saw a man, named Matthew, sitting at the receipt of custom: and he saith unto him, Follow me. And he arose, and followed him.   
10  And it came to pass, as Jesus sat at meat in the house, behold, many publicans and sinners came and sat down with him and his disciples.   
11  And when the Pharisees saw it, they said unto his disciples, Why eateth your Master with publicans and sinners?   
12  But when Jesus heard that, he said unto them, They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick.   
13  But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.***

The calling of Matthew is a clear indication of the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ. In the first chapter of Matthew, we see the complete genealogy of Jesus Christ. In Matthew, we see Jesus as the promised Messiah. The Lion of the tribe of Judah. If we were to think of a theme for this book, we would say its purpose would be to show Jesus as a fulfillment of that promised Messiah (His Kingship). "Gospel" means good news, and certainly this book of Matthew is a book of good news.

***Matthew 1:1 "The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham."***

The genealogy of Jesus Christ begins with Abraham, because he is the father of all believers as we read in

***Galatians 3:29 "And if ye [be] Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."***

By tracing Jesus’ ancestry back to King David, through the line of Davidic Kings, Matthew connects Jesus with His royal heritage. The genealogy here is that of Joseph, Jesus’ legal father, whereas the genealogy of Luke 3:23-38 is that of Mary, Jesus’ actual parent, showing His bloodline back to David. Matthew’s purpose is to show that the messianic promises made to David’s line are fulfilled in Jesus Christ. He is also the fulfilment of the covenant promises to Abraham. Remember, all believers in the Lord Jesus Christ make up spiritual Israel, the (spiritual) descendants of Abraham, because of their faith. We read in the 17th chapter of Genesis that these spiritual descendants of Abraham would be so many, they will be impossible to number. Physical Israel is just one nation. This is speaking of spiritual Israel (all believers in Christ). This covenant was based on Abraham's faith and on the faith of his spiritual descendants. Abram, which means “High Father” name was changed to Abraham, which means “Father of a Multitude.”

***Genesis 12:1-3 (KJV)   
1  Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee:   
2  And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:   
3  And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.***

***Genesis 13:14-16 (KJV)   
14  And the LORD said unto Abram, after that Lot was separated from him, Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward:   
15  For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever.   
16  And I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth: so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, then shall thy seed also be numbered.***

***Genesis 17:5-9 (KJV)   
5  Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham; for a father of many nations have I made thee.   
6  And I will make thee exceeding fruitful, and I will make nations of thee, and kings shall come out of thee.   
7  And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee.   
8  And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.   
9  And God said unto Abraham, Thou shalt keep my covenant therefore, thou, and thy seed after thee in their generations.***

***Genesis 22:15-18 (KJV)   
15  And the angel of the LORD called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time,   
16  And said, By myself have I sworn, saith the LORD, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son:   
17  That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies;   
18  And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.***

***1 Kings 2:4 (KJV)   
4  That the LORD may continue his word which he spake concerning me, saying, If thy children take heed to their way, to walk before me in truth with all their heart and with all their soul, there shall not fail thee (said he) a man on the throne of Israel.***

***Matthew 1:2 "Abraham begat Isaac; and Isaac begat Jacob; and Jacob begat Judas and his brethren;"***

This genealogy starts with the three Old Testament patriarchs, whom the blessings were passed down through. "Isaac" means laughter. Jacob's name was changed to Israel. "Jacob" meant trickster, and God changed his name to "Israel", which means having power with God. This Israel was the father of the twelve tribes of Israel. This Judas was the same as "Judah" (God be praised). Jesus is shown as being the Lion of the tribe of Judah. This first gospel (Matthew) shows Jesus as a Lion (the first of the 4 faces of the beast in Revelation). Since Matthew is writing primarily to Hebrew Jewish readers, he begins by emphasizing Jesus’ Hebrew Jewish parentage.

***Revelation 4:6-8 (KJV)   
6  And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind.   
7  And the first beast was like a lion, and the second beast like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast was like a flying eagle.   
8  And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.***

***Matthew 1:3 "And Judas begat Phares and Zara of Thamar; and Phares begat Esrom; and Esrom begat Aram;"***

***Matthew 1:4 "And Aram begat Aminadab; and Aminadab begat Naasson; and Naasson begat Salmon;"***

***Matthew 1:5 "And Salmon begat Booz of Rachab; and Booz begat Obed of Ruth; and Obed begat Jesse;"***

***Matthew 1:6 "And Jesse begat David the king; and David the king begat Solomon of her [that had been the wife] of Urias;"***

Judas is the Greek form of Judah. The promise of Jacob demonstrates that leadership would come from Judah (Genesis 49:3-12). We also need to recognize that Jesus was descended in the flesh from Booz (Boaz, a wealthy Jew) and Ruth (a poor Moabite Gentile). This actually makes Jesus both Jew and Gentile. We also need to acknowledge that in Matthew’s genealogy, contrary to Jewish custom, he included five women, four of whom have very interesting backgrounds.

1. Thamar (Tamar, the mother of two illegitimate sons from her father in law Judah; Genesis 38:27)
2. Rachab (Rahab, the harlot of Jericho, Joshua 2:1)
3. Ruth (a descendent of the incestuous relationship between Lot and his daughter; Genesis 19:30-38)
4. Wife of Urias (Bathsheba, infamous for her adulterous relationship with King David; 2 Samuel 12:24)

This all indicates the Jesus had a little of “all of us” (the Good, Bad, and Ugly) in Him, therefore qualifying His to be our Kinsman redeemer.

***Acts 17:26 (KJV)   
26  And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation;***

"David" (the beloved of God) was in the ancestry of Jesus. God promised David that his ancestor would come and rule. A very strange thing is that Jesus, through the flesh, was a descendent of David, but in the Spirit was David's God. David called Him Lord. We, also, see in the verse above, just how forgiving God really is. David had Uriah killed so he (David) could have Bathsheba, Uriah's wife. David's and Bathsheba's first child died, but God blessed them later with Solomon. God's people are not perfect, just forgiven. This was the beginning of Jesus the Christ, the specially Anointed One of God. All others, who came, were leading up to the Messiah.

***Matthew 1:7 "And Solomon begat Roboam; and Roboam begat Abia; and Abia begat Asa;" Matthew 1:8 "And Asa begat Josaphat; and Josaphat begat Joram; and Joram begat Ozias;"***

***Matthew 1:9 "And Ozias begat Joatham; and Joatham begat Achaz; and Achaz begat Ezekias;"***

***Matthew 1:10 "And Ezekias begat Manasses; and Manasses begat Amon; and Amon begat Josias;"***

***Matthew 1:11 "And Josias begat Jechonias and his brethren, about the time they were carried away to Babylon:"***

***Matthew 1:12 "And after they were brought to Babylon, Jechonias begat Salathiel; and Salathiel begat Zorobabel;"***

***Matthew 1:13 "And Zorobabel begat Abiud; and Abiud begat Eliakim; and Eliakim begat Azor;"***

***Matthew 1:14 "And Azor begat Sadoc; and Sadoc begat Achim; and Achim begat Eliud;"***

***Matthew 1:15 "And Eliud begat Eleazar; and Eleazar begat Matthan; and Matthan begat Jacob;"***

***Matthew 1:16 "And Jacob begat Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ."***

***Matthew 1:17 "So all the generations from Abraham to David [are] fourteen generations; and from David until the carrying away into Babylon [are] fourteen generations; and from the carrying away into Babylon unto Christ [are] fourteen generations."***

Please take notice of the difference in the spelling of the names here and in the Old Testament. Most of this is caused because of the difference in the Greek and Hebrew languages. This, too, is a large statement. Jesus took on the form of flesh, so that He might be tempted in all ways as we are. "Jesus" means Saviour. "Christ" means the Anointed One. It should be also noted that Matthew omits three generations (Ahaziah, Joash, and Amaziah). He them omits Jehoiakim after Josiah. Scriptures do not mention why. However, some scholars believe it was to shorten the list to 3 groups of 14 for a total 42 generations. I mention this because many believe and teach that Jesus came down through “forty and two generations”. However, this is not correct for two primary reasons.

1. Biblical genealogy lists more than 42 generations
2. Jesus did not have one drop of human blood!

***Matthew 1:18 "Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost."***

In this verse, we see that Mary was promised to Joseph. Mary and Joseph had not slept together. Her pregnancy was of the Holy Ghost. The Holy Ghost's Spirit had hovered over Mary, and she had conceived. Matthew 1:19 tells us so much about Joseph,

***Matthew 1:19 "Then Joseph her husband, being a just [man], and not willing to make her a publick example, was minded to put her away privily.***

***Matthew 1:20 "But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost."***

***Matthew 1:21 "And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins."***

You see in these Scriptures that Jesus is the Son of God. He had no earthly father. Joseph was not Jesus' father. God was His Father. Mary furnished the flesh, and God furnished the Spirit. Even in the name that was chosen for the Son of God to use on this earth, there is a message. "Jesus" means Saviour. All of this explanation, here, of the birth of Jesus is startling to us, but can you imagine how startled, or surprised, Joseph was when an angel told him that Mary was carrying Messiah. His people had been looking for Messiah all of Joseph's life. Messiah was to actually live in his home.

***Matthew 1:22 "Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying,"***

***Matthew 1:23 "Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us."***

God took on the form of flesh and dwelt among us. Jesus was, is, and always will be, God the Word, who became the Son housed in a body for His stay on the earth. A virgin having a child is beyond the comprehension of worldly people even today, and many have decided that Jesus was not, in fact, born of a virgin. How foolish it is not to believe that Jesus was, in fact, born of a virgin. A God, so great that He could speak a world into existence, can certainly cause a virgin to have a child. Abraham's wife, Sarah, thought it was impossible to have a child after she was 90 years old, but she did. You see, with man it is an impossibility, but with God all things are possible.

***Matthew 1:24 "Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife:"***

***Matthew 1:25 "And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS."***

In these verses, we see several things:

1. That God does truly speak to some people in dreams.
2. Not all dreams are from God.
3. When a dream is God speaking to you, there will be no doubt.
4. Joseph heeded God's message in marrying Mary.
5. Joseph's restraint from living with Mary until the Christ child was born.
6. This took great discipline on his part.
7. His following instructions in naming the baby JESUS as the angel had instructed him.

**QUESTIONS**

1. Who wrote the Gospel of Matthew?
2. What is the key word in Matthew?
3. What was another name for Matthew?
4. Who do most people believe he worked for collecting taxes?
5. What did he do when Jesus called him?
6. "Gospel" means what?
7. In Matthew, we see Jesus as what?
8. In Matthew, which beast do we see from Revelation 4:7?
9. What is the theme of Matthew?
10. To whom were the promises of blessings given?
11. What does Abraham mean?
12. For how long was the covenant with Abraham?
13. In Galatians 3:29, who are the spiritual descendents of Abraham?
14. Who were the three Old Testament patriarchs?
15. Ruth was a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ woman?
16. What does David mean?
17. Even though Jesus was physically a descendent of David, what was He to David?
18. Why did Jesus take on the form of flesh?
19. What does "Jesus" mean?
20. What does "Christ" mean?
21. How many generations from Abraham to David?
22. How many generations from David to the carrying away into Babylon?
23. From carrying away into Babylon, how many generations to Christ?
24. What kind of man does verse 19 call Joseph?
25. What had Joseph planned to do with Mary before the angel appeared to him?
26. In verse 20, who appeared to Joseph?
27. How did he appear to Joseph?
28. Who did the angel call Joseph?
29. What instructions did the angel give Joseph on naming the child?
30. Who was Jesus' Father?
31. What did Mary furnish?
32. What does "Emmanuel" mean?
33. What causes worldly people to deny the virgin birth?
34. Why did Sarah believe she could not have a child?
35. Does God ever speak in dreams?