



HICKORY GROVE

BAPTIST CHURCH

The News of His Coming

December 13, 2020

Matthew 1:1-17

Clint Pressley

¹ The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

² Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, ³ and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram, ⁴ and Ram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, ⁵ and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, ⁶ and Jesse the father of David the king.

And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, ⁷ and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asaph, ⁸ and Asaph the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, ⁹ and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, ¹⁰ and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josiah, ¹¹ and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

¹² And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, ¹³ and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, ¹⁴ and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, ¹⁵ and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, ¹⁶

¹⁷ 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.

(Pastor prays)

In the mid-1700s, the first Pressley made his way to Anson County, North Carolina. At that time Anson County reached all the way to the Mississippi River. Soon the Pressley's would settle in the western part of Anson County, which became Mecklenburg and then Union County. They would move into little hamlets like Goose Creek and Fairview, N.C.

Sometimes when the weather is right, I can ride east on Hwy 218 and turn off into a forgotten place called Emmanuel Cemetery and, there with the headstones, I can trace just a whisper of where I came from and read the names of my forebears and remember my roots. I remember that I have an actual history, a genealogy.

That seems to be what the man Matthew is doing, providing something very important for the Jewish reader and something vital for our faith. In the mundane list you have before you, Matthew is not only giving us an Old Testament history lesson, he is showing us the ferocity, the historicity and the reality of Jesus the coming savior. He's teaching us that Jesus didn't just drop out of the sky or magically appear. As Galatians 4 says, he was born of a woman, and that is vital for the Jew. He was born under the law like a conscientious and well-trained reporter.

Matthew is going to give us the news of His coming, and that news is the greatest news you can receive today. We could use some good news, with COVID-19 spiking and the government in disarray and anxieties intensifying; we need the news of the coming Jesus.

So as a Christian, today I want you to feel the joy of the coming One like medicine for your soul. I want you to receive this message and be strengthened in your heart and soul and mind. Dads and moms who are so tired and even worried, settle in around this news and be ministered to. For those of you stuck in some sin or situation, this is the news that will set you free: King Jesus is coming! This is the news of Jesus, who He is, why He's here and what He does!

The News of Jesus is the Only News that Matters

Let's take a look at who Matthew says Jesus is.

Jesus is the new beginning

You see it right there in the first phrase, **1** *The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.*

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ. I want you to pay close attention to that phrase, “the book of the genealogy.” Remember now, it's been 400 years since Malachi put his pen down and God went silent with no clear words, no true authority and no real direction.

You have the whole Old Testament which, of course, is God's word, and in that word is the promise of One coming. But that One had not yet come. Our roots were in Adam and our hopes were somewhere in the “not yet.” And all of that changes with the phrase “the book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ.” If you were to read that phrase in Greek the way Matthew wrote it, it reads *Biblos Genesis*, “the book of the beginning.” Matthew is using that phrase on purpose to take the reader's mind directly back to the book of Genesis. In fact, that very phrase is used in Genesis 2. This is the book of creation. Then Moses uses the phrase again in Genesis Chapter 5 to tell us this is the story of the first Adam.

Do you remember what happened with the first Adam and Eve? Mankind fell into irrecoverable sin and pain and a fallen world and a blighted creation. And since Genesis 5, there has been hurt, pain, sorrow and darkness. And the first thing Matthew says is there is a new beginning. The second Adam will be born like no other, live perfectly and then redeem sinners at the cross. There He will take the punishment for all of the sins of all of these sinners who will ever be saved. His opening words sound the promise of the new creation taking place.

So now, instead of one category, everyone living in the first Adam, there is a new promise, a new hope and a new beginning. Surely this is the news that Paul had in mind in II Corinthians 5: 17 when he said, *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.* Are you living in the sin of being in Adam or the grace of being in Christ? This morning, I'm asking you to come to Jesus. He is the new beginning.

Jesus is the final hope

Go with me again to that first phrase “the book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ.” About 150 times, more than any other gospel writer, Matthew will use the name “Jesus.” But right here in the beginning is the only time he uses the full title “Jesus Christ.” Christ, the anointed One, the

Messiah. Every sacrifice pointed to Him, every type was alluded to in Him, every law is fulfilled in Him, every judge has a shadow of Him, every Psalm sings of Him, every proverb rests in His wisdom and every prophecy points to Him. And now Matthew crowns his gospel with the word "Christ." The one we celebrate and the one who will save us.

It's what Peter said in his first sermon in acts 4: 12. *And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.*" Jesus said of Himself, "I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the father but by me." Here is the bedrock of our hope and our guarantee for tomorrow: that Jesus Christ is there and, by God's grace and the cross of Jesus, you will make it. He is the new beginning. He is the final hope.

Jesus is the coming King

There are three or four colossal figures in the mind of any Jewish man or woman. Moses gave us the law, Abraham the covenant, and David established the Kingdom. And here in verse 1, Matthew introduces Jesus as the son of David, which is important because in II Samuel 7, God promised to establish a king in the line of David for all time. And ever since that day, we have been waiting on the true King and not a pretender to the throne.

If you were to pick up in verse 7 with Solomon and read all the way to verse 16, you would see failure after failure of the kings and rulers of God's people. Until we finally get to Jesus, the real King. Not just the King of Israel, but overall. And He invites you to be a part of His Kingdom, submitting to His rule and believing in His cross. In our world, rulers are sinners with shortcomings and mistakes. Not Jesus. He's the real King who dies on the cross for His subjects. Have you bowed the knee to King Jesus, giving yourself to His lordship, yielding all to His hand? All for His glory. He's the coming King. But let me show you something else.

Jesus is the true promise

Matthew says, "not only the son of David but also the son of Abraham." Here is proof that God has kept His original promise to Abraham in Genesis 12 that all the families of the earth will be blessed . And in this text, Matthew is making the claim that Jesus is the answer and the fulfillment to all the promises and covenants found in the Old Testament. Isn't that what the

great Jew named Paul said in 2 Corinthians 1: 20? *For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our 'Amen' to God for his glory.*

For every promise that's ever been broken and every lie that's ever been told, for every covenant you have entered into and it's been broken or dissolved, Jesus is the true promise who heals, forgives, sustains and never breaks His word. There is security, safety, hope, confidence and forgiveness in Jesus. I'd like to give you one last point.

Jesus is the friend of sinners

Just run your finger down the names of people mentioned in this list. David is an adulterer, Abraham is a polygamist, Isaac lied about his wife, Jacob is a cheater. In verse 10, Manasseh was the most evil king Israel ever had. And J.C. Ryle said, to look at *Rehoboam, Joram, and Jehoniah*, all of them had godly parents but turned out to be wicked men.

Grace doesn't run in families. This shows us the great mercy of Jesus, that if He wasn't ashamed to be named here, then He's not ashamed to call us brothers and sisters. And we didn't even get to the women. We forget how remarkable it is that women are mentioned at all. But look who gets mentioned. In verse 3 there is Tamar. In Genesis 38 we find she was married to two of Judah's sons, both of whom died. She ended up in a relationship with her father-in-law and ends up with the twins mentioned here. Nobody looked good in that story.

In verse 5 there is Rahab. She was a renowned woman of ill repute. The spies going into the promised land hid in her house and nobody thought anything of it because so many men were coming in and out of there. In verse 5, there's Ruth who has Moabite blood. Moabites trace their roots to Genesis 19 and the story of Lot and his daughters who was so sinful that they were banned from the people of God for 10 generations. In verse 6, Bathsheba was not even mentioned by name but as "the wife of Uriah." That relationship with David was such a scandal that her name isn't even mentioned. This reminds us of several really important things about Christianity.

Our religion is one of grace and mercy. Both of these are found in the person of Jesus and at the cross of Golgotha.

This does away with self-righteousness. This does away with “I’m a pretty good person” talk. No, you are a sinner through and through who can only be saved by God's grace through faith in Jesus.

This puts all focus on Jesus. See how Matthew ends the genealogy in verse 16. *and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ. Jesus was born and was called “Christ.”*

There's the gospel. God is holy, we are sinners separated from God. God's goodness and love to us gives us Jesus, born of a woman, fully man. And yet he's also Christ, fully God, who lived perfectly, died on the cross in the place of sinners. God raised Him from the dead and now He calls those who are born in Adam to turn and put their faith in Jesus.

You see, the news of Jesus is the only news that matters.

(Pastor prays)