

Son of David, Son of Abraham

Matthew 1:1

Introduction

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This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham:

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

I. Setting the Stage (Storyline Overview)

Creation (Genesis 1 & 2)

God created the heavens and the earth.

God created Adam and Eve in the image of God. This image was to be reflected in their relationships with others and in their active on earth. God commissioned Adam and Eve to “be fruitful and multiply,” filling the earth and subduing it, which included working in and expanding the Garden of Eden. In that sense, God established Adam and Eve as His representatives on earth. The goal of Adam and Eve’s effort was to see the Garden of Eden extended through out all the earth.

T.S. – But something happened that disrupted this goal... What was it?

Fall (Genesis 3)

Adam and Eve sinned against God. God responded by pronouncing curses upon the serpent, Eve and Adam. Because of their sin, Adam and Eve would be cut off from God’s personal presence in the Garden of Eden and subject to sin and death. The history that follows this scene is rather grim. Sin spreads throughout the entire world and to subsequent generations. We see this with Cain and Able (Genesis 4), the Flood (Genesis 6), and Babel (Genesis 11).

T.S. – So what happened? Is humanity doomed?

Redemption

Old Testament – If we are not careful, we can miss glimpses of redemption in the middle of chaos (Think “Offspring”). God promised to defeat Satan (Genesis 3:15). God mercifully preserved a people for purpose through judgment (Genesis 6:8, 9:9). God promised to bring blessings upon all nations through Abraham’s offspring despite the curse of sin (Genesis 12:1-3, 18:18, 22:18, 26:4).

T.S. - This is where the genealogy in Matthew demonstrates its importance for us...

II. Son of David, Son of Abraham

Matthew begins his gospel with a very important title for Jesus. Many times, we think of Jesus as having the last name of “Christ,” but that is not the case. The word “Christ” is a title that means, “Messiah” or “Anointed One.”

Matthew follows this title with a further description about Jesus. First, the Son of David, which is royal title. We will look at this in greater depth in the weeks to come. For now, let’s look at the second title, the Son of Abraham. Do you remember the promise that God made to Abraham in Genesis 12? The LORD told Moses, “Through Your Offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.” Given God’s promise to Abraham, there is an expectation that someone will come from Abraham that will bring blessings to all the nations of the earth. Matthew is saying that Jesus is that descendant of Abraham. He is the offspring that will bring blessings to all nations. The apostle Paul makes this clear in **Galatians 3:7-18**, where he writes,

⁷ Understand, then, that those who have faith are children of Abraham. ⁸ Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: “All nations will be blessed through you.” ⁹ So those who rely on faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.

¹⁰ For all who rely on the works of the law are under a curse, as it is written: “Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law.” ¹¹ Clearly no one who relies on the law is justified before God, because “the righteous will live by faith.” ¹² The law is not based on faith; on the contrary, it says, “The person who does these things will live by them.”

¹³ Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a pole.” ¹⁴ He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.

¹⁵ Brothers and sisters, let me take an example from everyday life. Just as no one can set aside or add to a human covenant that has been duly established, so it is in this case. ¹⁶ The promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. Scripture does not say “and to seeds,” meaning many people, but “and to your seed,” meaning one person, who is Christ. ¹⁷ What I mean is this: The law, introduced 430 years later, does not set aside the covenant previously established by God and thus do away with the promise. ¹⁸ For if the inheritance depends on the law, then it no longer depends on the promise; but God in his grace gave it to Abraham through a promise.

Jesus Christ is the One who brings the blessing of God to all people who receive Him by faith. As the Son of Abraham, the Promised Seed, all people who trust in Jesus receive the blessing of God. God is faithful to His promise. No one is excluded from receiving these blessings if they place their hope in Jesus Christ.

Conclusion

Matthew 1:1 presents the fulfillment of the promises of God through the Son of God. It is a demonstration of the faithfulness of God. Our God is trustworthy.