

-The Gospel According To-

# **Matthew**

## **Lesson #1 – Chapter 1**

**The Genealogy of Christ – Ch.1:1-17**

**The Birth of Christ – Ch.1:18-25**

### **Introduction:**

From the time of Abraham, the Jewish people were looking for a Messiah. They believed this king would restore what was stolen from humanity through sin and eventually rule and reign over all the earth. His kingdom would be supreme and all would be set right with Him on the throne. The prophet Nathan prophesied over David that there would be a seed (a king) that would come from David's body and through his offspring. According to Scripture, the Lord would establish and set up His kingdom and His throne would be established forever and ever (2 Sam.7:12-16).

Jesus was that King. He would be the only one that had fulfilled *every prophecy* in the Bible about the Messiah.

The problem was He didn't look like the king the Jews had imagined. Jesus came from an ordinary Jewish family. He had no money, or influence really. There was nothing special or attractive about Him. But Jesus made the claim to be King. He proclaimed to be the King of the Jews. Who else could make that claim? Many tried to claim they had divine powers, even magical ones but no one could heal and not one had authority over demonic powers, or over divine creation like Jesus of Nazareth.

Many Jews to this day still have their eyes veiled and cannot see that Jesus is the Messiah they have been waiting for. The Jews of Jesus' day were preoccupied with looking for a majestic king, one that would help them overtake their conquerors, the Romans, and set up a government here on earth. Many Jews today are still preoccupied with looking for a political king when their real Messiah has come, died on a cross for their sins, and returned to heaven to be with the heavenly Father.

In God's eternal plan, He sent the Messiah to earth to die and redeem the sins of mankind. He would return to heaven and set up an eternal Kingdom, where we will rule and reign with Creator God for all eternity! Jesus is the Messiah Scripture has long since mentioned as the answer to mankind's sin problem. It was He sent from above, God's only Son, born in a stable, crucified on a Roman cross, risen on the third day and returned to heaven, sitting at His Father's right hand - it's *this* Jesus that Matthew writes about.

**➔ Don't ever think that there are many ways to the Divine. Jesus is the one qualified mediator, the only qualified sacrifice, and the only qualified Savior.**

**Author: [Erwin Lutzer](#)**

### **Background on the “Book of Matthew”**

This book was written somewhere around A.D. 58-68. The subject of the gospel of Matthew is Jesus Christ and His Kingship. There are two other gospels included in what they call the Synoptic Gospels, which are Mark and Luke (Synoptic means to be seen together).

The Book of Mark was written before the gospel of Matthew. The gospels give an account of Jesus' life and each one is written from a different perspective, although all proclaim the same central message of the gospel: the good news of salvation.

It's been said that Matthew wrote to the Jews, proclaiming Jesus' sovereignty. Mark wrote to the Romans, explaining Jesus' role as a servant, and Luke wrote to the Greeks, announcing Jesus as the Son of Man. Each book pointed to Christ as Messiah, but each author highlighted a different aspect of the person of our Lord.

Matthew the man (also known as Levi, Mark 2:14) was living as a tax-collector in Capernaum and working for the Roman government when Christ called him into the ministry. He probably spent most of his days collecting tolls for Herod Antipas on the roads between Damascus and the cities of Palestine. He was most likely hated by his fellow man because Jews had a great distaste for those that would stoop to work for their conquerors the Romans, take the hard-earned money of the common man, give a quota to the government, and put the rest in their pockets!

We know little of his call, except that Matthew didn't hesitate to follow the One that called him (Matthew 9:9). Matthew, a hated tax collector, was chosen as one of the twelve. Only by the power of God could a well-known “publican” be transformed into an apostle!

Jesus knew what He was doing when He called Matthew. He needed someone who would account for every detail of every prophecy in Scripture that proclaimed Jesus Christ as Messiah. He chose someone good and detailed with a pen. The fishermen had their strengths but writing one of the gospels probably would not have been one of them. They were more of the “earthy”, “outdoor”, kind of guys. Who better to give an account of the life of Christ than a detailed tax man like Matthew, who was accustomed to logging very specific accounts? He left his comfortable cerebral profession and followed Jesus daily, witnessing the troubles of ordinary men and women, seeing Jesus heal the crippled, restore sight to blind eyes, and love the unholy sinner.

Genealogies were extremely important in those days. Today many are discovering their ancestry through online services such as “Ancestry.com”. From the time of Abraham, a person’s lineage was recorded and placed in a secure place in the temple where it could be kept as a record to give an account of one’s heritage. It’s interesting to note that most genealogies were destroyed when the temple was destroyed in A.D.70. No genealogies exist after that which can trace the ancestry of any living Jew. JESUS was the last claimant to the throne of David! Even in this fact He shows Himself superior!

A king’s ancestry (genealogy) was *proof* to any Jew that he had the right to be King. Matthew set out to prove to the Jews that Jesus had *the right* to Israel’s kingship because of His ancestry, just like any other earthly king. That is why he begins his book with the genealogy of Christ, the lineage of the King.

### **Let’s begin:**

Pull out your Bible and open to the first chapter of the Book of Matthew. Leave it there.

*Let’s stop* - it’s always a good idea to stop and ask the Holy Spirit to help us “mine out” biblical principles and practical truths out of His Word. Without the help of Holy Spirit (our helper/teacher), God’s truths could remain hidden from our heart and mind. It’s so easy to read over biblical passages with a carnal mindset and not comprehend what the Lord wanted to speak to you at that moment.

Look at His Word today as your letters from home. Ask the Lord to specifically show *you* something you can apply to your situation today. Take it and move on it!

So let’s ask Him to feed you on His Word this minute:

*“Lord, as we approach the study of the gospels, please make your Word alive through the words your writers penned thousands of years ago. We know You have used each word throughout the ages to bring hope, truth, and wisdom to the seeker. We are seekers today. Holy Spirit, enlighten our eyes and mind to see what You would speak to us today, for today’s walk with You. And through the revelation of Your Word, give us a greater appreciation for who You are!” Amen*

I think it’s pretty funny that the first chapter in the first book of the New Testament begins with a long list of genealogies. I’m sure many seekers and new believers start here in Matthew because it seems like the logical place to start – the first book of the

New Testament. Then they open to chapter one and “bam” they are hit with a long list of genealogies! Wow – the first chapter of Matthew may seem like dry toast to someone who didn’t understand the purpose of these genealogies!

▶ **With that...please read Matthew Ch.1:1-17**

This comes with a warning...you are about to enter a chapter dredged with a whole lot of “begots.” Don’t get discouraged; there is still a lot to “mine out” in here!

I’m asking God to show you something special, something you never noticed before! Your today’s and your tomorrow’s were fashioned for you by the Lord. Your arrival on planet earth was by God’s design.

♥ ***“Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they were all written, the days fashioned for me”***

**Ps. 139:16**

Whether you know it or not, if you have given birth, you have “begot” something! Brad and I “begot” three children, Jennie, Cadey & Ross. All three were purposed by God. The soul formed inside your body was a gift from God, formed by God, an unfolding of big potential. The word “begot” in the original language is the Greek word “gennao”. It’s a verb that means to produce, to effect, or give birth to. Your parents “begot” YOU and God has designed you for His special purposes, which will affect history for many generations. We are about to study Christ’s genealogy and discover how the births of His ancestors “affected” history and cascaded down to affect our lives today. Come on now- don’t groan or yawn as if you were in geometry class! This is good stuff! Not all of God’s word is “whip cream”, we have to eat the broccoli too!

You might be thinking, “I’ve read all that before and I “forgot the begots.” I get it, so I will try and make this an interesting and memorable process for you to go through. Think of it like watching someone else’s home movies...but this one is that of your Savior’s! Remember, as a believer and God’s chosen daughter, your name is now in His book, so think of this as your heritage. We are going to be introduced to some very interesting people Jesus was related to. It’s not as boring if we study with the mindset of how God used each personality to bring glory to Himself, anticipating that the Lord wants to use our lives also (as imperfect as they may be) to bring glory to His name !

In Matthew 1:1, we read “The book of the “genealogies” of Jesus Christ, *the Son of David, and the Son of Abraham*. Another way to say that is “**The book of the generations**” of Jesus Christ.

What is the point of mentioning here that Jesus was the “Son of David and the Son of Abraham”? Matthew is being very purposeful here in his writing. He wants the reader to be very aware that “the Son of David” points to the Davidic lineage of the Messiah. David’s son was promised an everlasting kingdom (2 Sam. 7:13). The term “Son of David” means salvation for Israel. The term “Son of Abraham” takes His royal lineage all the way back to the nation’s beginning, to the Abrahamic covenant God cut with Abraham (this evidence proves Jesus’ right to the throne).

**1. Look up and record the following verses as proof that these promises were given by God and fulfilled in the person of Jesus!**

**Old Testament Promise #1**

1. God speaking to King David through the prophet Nathan (the Davidic covenant):  
2 Samuel 7:16-17

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**Old Testament Promise #2**

B. The prophet Isaiah’s prophecy of the Messiah’s birth:  
Isaiah 9:6-7

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**New Testament Promise #1**

C. The angel Gabriel sent by God to speak to Mary, the mother of Jesus:  
Luke 1:30-33

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**▶ Were these statements correct? Let’s see if these promises were fulfilled as promised in Scripture.**

Look at Matthew Ch.1:1-6. It says, “Abraham begot, begot, begot, and begot...” and so on and so on until we get to Jesse in v.6 when it says, “...who begot David the King.” Unto King David was the promise that David’s son’s kingdom would never end. Well, David’s son was King Solomon, and we know his life eventually came to an end,

so what was God talking about here? He was referring to Jesus Christ Himself- not an earthly son, but the Messiah, who would be born out of this Davidic line. He is the only One who would have an everlasting kingdom!

As we continue to skim through v.7-16, we see in verse 16 that we have "...Jacob who begot Joseph, the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, called the Christ." This is a record of the genealogy of Jesus on Joseph's side. We have already read in Luke chapter 1 that He would inherit the throne of His father David and He would rule over the house of Jacob forever.

Right before your eyes, prophecy promised in the Old Testament was fulfilled in the New Testament! Jesus, the promised Messiah, came through all the "begots" down through King David, from Jacob to Joseph, husband of Mary, mother of Jesus! Proof that Jesus Christ is really who He said He was: King of the Jews!

If you were a Jew, it was considered impressive if you could trace your lineage all the way back to Abraham, the Father of the Nation!

***2. Have you or someone in your family ever taken the time to go back and do a family tree? Some of you might have discovered that you were related to someone famous or very important to our country's history. Some of you might have discovered that you are related to some with pretty shady pasts. All of us have some "cray-cray" in our families! Don't throw anyone under the bus, but if it's appropriate, share with your group how an interesting family member has turned their life around and brought glory to God.***

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In Christ's lineage, there are some "shady" figures, but to God they are all important and highly valued; from the king to the prostitute, God loved them equally and had no problem including them in the ancestry of the Messiah, because each one had a vital role to play in bringing God His highest glory.

*You also have a place and a role in bringing God His highest glory.* You occupy a place in history that no one else does. God chose you to be in this place at this time to reveal Himself to others in your sphere of influence. YOU are very significant! Whatever your past, God will resurrect it and use it for good. God's work is shown at its best when He takes an unregenerate man/woman and turns them into a disciple of Christ! Boom! That's a display of His power!

3. God took care of our sin problem so that we could serve Him. As a believer, you are His servant, and He wants to use your life. Are you being a good steward of the gifts He has given you? Are you living a ‘self-abandoned’ life so that you can fill it with God’s purposes?

If you are in Christ, your sins are forgiven – GONE – you never have to stand before a judge and be accused of any wrongdoing. Your debt was removed by Jesus. You are found “not guilty”. Now go – serve Him faithfully! Fulfill your purpose!

**Read Isaiah 44:21-23**

What has God done with our failures?

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*[B y] Yf i bXYfYg]a UHY  
.....h Ydck Yf cZH Y< c`mGd]f]h  
.....=b Uk ca Ub k \cD]Xc]b[ h Y  
.....k J`cZ; cXf`*

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**See Colossians 1:20-22**

How does God view us now?

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As I think back over my present and past generations’ family members, there are some I’m almost embarrassed about and then I am quick to remember my own failures, and I cringe to think about how uncomfortable it would be if everybody knew every detail about me! I know I have embarrassed others by my past bad behavior.

*Oh, thank you, God, for Your grace on my past decisions! I deserve so much less than what you have allowed me to have.*

We are all full of personality and have our own history of failures! Each one of us is a peculiar person with a past. Do we just love ourselves highly enough to think we might have it more together than the rest of them?

Jesus had many in His family tree that had a dark past. It was very unusual to even list women on any Jewish pedigree, but the gospel writers did so because the good news was for all humanity through the work on the cross, and God used both men and women in His works of glory. Women had no legal rights and were owned by their fathers or husbands. In fact, the Jews had a common prayer that was very familiar to every practicing Jew. It went like this: “God, we thank You that You have not made me a Gentile, a slave or a woman!”

Matthew's genealogy also shows us the work of God's grace in His choosing many former outcasts in society as a part of Christ's lineage. Let's turn to Matthew chapter 1 and read about the first woman mentioned in Jesus' genealogy, one with a "seedy" past.

### **Tamar: (Relative of Jesus Christ)**

**4. According to Matthew 1:3, Tamar was the mother of two twin boys. Their father's name was Judah. Let's look at the history of Judah's life (Tamar's husband) for a moment.**

a. Who was Judah's brother, and what plot was Judah involved in as a younger man? See Genesis 37:23-28.

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We can see that Judah made some awful decisions in his life. He even stooped to sell his own little brother, Joseph, to a band of Ishmaelites. He seemed to care more about money than his little brother's welfare. As we go along, we will be able to see his "pattern" for making bad decisions.

b. As Judah grows older, he departs from his brothers and marries a Canaanite woman. (The Canaanites were an ungodly people that Israel contended with all through Scripture.) God had forbidden Isaac to take a wife from that people group. It was known that God's people were to keep themselves separated from ungodly nations (Gen. 28:1). It was God's way to try and protect them from falling prey to the ungodly ways of those pagan countries.

Judah and Tamar seemed to have no regard for God's ways. They made some grave mistakes which brought much shame and dysfunction to their families.

▶ **Let's go to Genesis Ch.38 for the rest of the story...**  
***Read Genesis Ch.38.***

**First fact:** Tamar was Judah's daughter-in-law.

She was married to Judah's first born son, Er.

Er was such a wicked man; God killed him on the spot!

Gosh! To have the God of mercy kill someone on the spot...wow, this man (Er) must have been bad news.

Now, the story gets a little complicated, so track with me.



c. Who was Judah's Canaanite wife, and how many sons did they have? What were their names? See Gen. 38: 2-7

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d. Judah arranges a marriage for his firstborn son Er (v.6). Judah offers him Tamar to be his wife, and so they marry. Little did Tamar know what she was getting herself into, what sins were a part of her father-in-law's past, and what horrific things would happen in her future! What happened to them after they were married (v.7)?

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e. Er was killed by the Lord because he was "wicked in His sight."

The thought of that sends shivers down my spine. Thank God we live in a time of His grace or I would have been toast long ago! In God's wisdom, He took the life of one man so as to not pollute the lives of many men.

Look through the Strong's definitions for the Hebrew words for "wicked" and "sight." List the definitions that stand out to you or have the most meaning to you this week and why.

חַיִּים יְבִיאֵם לְיָמֵי אֲבֹתָם  
וְיִשְׁמְרוּ אֶת־בְּרִיתִי וְיִשְׁמְרוּ אֶת־בְּרִיתִי  
כִּי אֲבִיחָם לְיָמֵי אֲבֹתָם וְיִשְׁמְרוּ אֶת־בְּרִיתִי

### Wicked

Hebrew Strong's number: #7451 – ra'ra ah

Pronunciation – ra, raw-aw'

Part of speech – adj.

Wicked, evil thoughts and actions, mischievous, malignant, noxious, injurious, hurtful, negative attitude towards God or man.

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### Sight

Hebrew's Strong number: #5869 - ayin

Pronunciation – ah'-yin

Part of speech – noun (figuratively or literally)

An eye – to inflict, as in the sense of something acted upon by an outside force, as an eye is by a bright light. – affliction, displeasure.

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In a sense then, we could say that Er's wickedness so displeased the Lord He could not look upon it any longer with holy eyes. Er had a noxious, ignorant attitude toward God, and as God looked upon his life, it was likened to shining an instant bright light into someone's eyes that had been in total darkness.

Have you ever had someone shine a flashlight into your eyes when you have been in a dark room? It's almost painful! Immediately, we cover our eyes with our hands to avoid the pain of looking at the light. I wonder if that could be a picture of what it is like for a holy God to look down upon our sinful world. Does He squint in horror at the depths of sin as He is able to view every sin committed by every human being in the entire world in one moment in time?

Oh, that hurts my heart, knowing I am partly responsible for the sin of this world that caused Jesus to have to hang on the cross. I have committed sins that I know were impossible for a holy God to look at. I rejoice in the truth that we are at peace with God when our sins are covered by the blood of Jesus (***Romans 5:1-2. Underline this in your Bible!***). Thank you, Lord! Because of Jesus Christ we have ACCESS by faith in to His GRACE (unmerited favor)!

He can now look upon us with pure JOY.

Er, in God's infinite wisdom, wasn't to live another day or take another breath! He was removed from this planet because of his malignant attitude towards God and man. God knew this man's heart would never change. We must trust that God is holy & just in all His decisions. In all His wisdom, He just knew.

Tamar must have had a difficult time living with that wicked man. It doesn't sound like her life was ever easy. That is no justification to what she is about to do.

f. Judah tries to do the right thing by Tamar and commands his second son, Onan to marry Tamar and allow her to bear his children. (This was not odd in that day; it was a common practice to the Jews in order to carry on their family name). Brother Onan didn't want to have an heir that wasn't his, so he disobeyed his father and the Lord (Genesis 38:9). What happened to him because of his disobedience (v.10)?

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Wow...poor Tamar, the one whose dream it was just to be married and have children now has had two husbands die because of their lack of obedience to the Lord! She was twice-widowed with an unfulfilled desire to have her own children.

g. What did Tamar’s father-in-law instruct her to do at this point in her grief-stricken life (v.11)?

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h. Did she obey him? V.11b

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Tamar began to get a little weary of waiting for her desire for children to be fulfilled by the Lord, so she decided to take matters into her own hands. This never has a good result. There are some very significant words in the beginning of v.12. They are **“in the process of time...”** Time is a great indicator of loyalty and faith. After time goes by and our faith wavers, will we still believe the promises God has whispered to our hearts and written in His Word? Will we still count Him faithful when our dreams seem shattered? Even more painful than that, maybe God has completely closed the door to one of your deepest desires. Will we still follow God when His plans don’t fit in with our dreams? That can be extremely challenging! We can be giants in faith in *theory* but not follow through with action.

In those profound moments, **“in the process of time”**, Tamar decided she could **“work it”** with a little planning of her own. She would no longer wait on God.

i. What did Tamar do to follow her dream to conceive children (Genesis 38:13-30)?

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nci f fYUgcb \UgcbW`UMWdhYXz]b`gd]h`cZnci f WUb[ ]b[ `a ccXg`  
7"G"@Yk ]g`*

Tamar made a complete mess of things! Her desire to be a mother came true, but at a huge price. She settled for a *counterfeit* family life. Family dysfunction would now be the foundation of her home. She has twins born from incest by her father-in-law. Gross, I know. Of course, this was not God’s will for their lives! Who knows what God could have done if she would have just waited for Him in that **“process of time”** instead of making something happen in her own carnal flesh.

When we accept a counterfeit plan- something that may be readily available, but not a godly solution- we always suffer in the end.

➔ **“Our greatest risk is over when we simply obey.” – Spurgeon**

j. Are you waiting on God today? Are you on hold in one of those spiritual windows of opportunity where God has an opening to do something huge, but in the **“process of time”** you feel your faith is wavering? Is God being silent? Is He taking too long? Don't do what Tamar did. Do not move ahead of God. Use her as a lesson in impatience. You will never regret waiting on God instead of trying to make things work on your own. What do you do that helps you wait on God?

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God wants us to know that waiting is far from a passive activity in which we do nothing. In fact, Scripture teaches us that *God wants us to actively participate in the work He desires to accomplish.* Waiting strategically can cultivate good fruit in our lives such as patience, perseverance, and endurance. Those are character traits of the wise and mature. It also draws us closer to our Savior and points those who are watching us to the gospel.

**To that end, here are 10 things to do while you wait:**

**30Dgdxg'vj cv'vj g'I qf 'y j q'tcxfg '{ qw'j gct u'f qwt 'et lgu' \*O lec j '9-9-0'**

Vj g'etquu'ku'qwt 'i wctepvgg'vj cv'I qf 'ku'hqt 'wu'cpf 'ku'eqo o kwgf 'vq' i kxg'wu'gxgt { vj kpi 'y g'y qwf 'cumhqt 'kh' y g'mpgy 'gxgt { vj kpi 'j g'mpgy 0'Y g'ecp'dg'eqpvgpv'y kj 'vj cv'cpf 'y ck'r cvkpvw' hqt'j ku'cpuy gtu0'

**40Y cvej 'y kj 'gzrgevce{ 'dwdg'r't gr et gf 'hqt 'wpgzrgevfg 'cpuy gtu' \*Rucm '7-5-0'**

Y j kg'I qf 'j cu'dggp'hc'kj hwi'q'cpuy gt'o cp{ 'qh'o { 'r tc{ gtu.'kw'qlwgp'dggp'kp' hct'f hgtgpv'y c{ u'vj cp'K' y qwf 'j cxg'cpv'ekr cvgf #I qf 'mpqy u'vj cv'vj g'qpn' 'y c{ 'vq'f q'y j cv'j g'cpf 'Kdqj 'f gukt'g'y km'cv'ko gu." kpxqk'g'xct { kpi 'f gi tggu'qh'f kueqo hqt'v'kp'o { 'rhg0'

**50Rw'f qwt 'j qrg'lp'j ku'Y qtf ' \*Rucm '352-7/8-0'**

Y g'ecp'dg'vgo r vgf 'vq'r w'qwt'j qrg'lp'j kpi u'vj cv'o c{ 'f kucr r qkp'v'wu'lp'vj g'gpf 0'Y g'ecp'j qrg'c'f qevqt'y kni' j gcn'wu.'c'gcej gt'y kni'r cuu'wu.'c'ur qwug'y kni'q'xg'wu.'qwt'go r n'j { gt'y kni'gy ctf 'wu.'qt'c'f'k'gpf 'y kni'j grr 'wu0' Dw'k'ku'qpn' 'y j gp'y g'r w'qwt'j qrg'lp'Ej tkw'vj cv'y g'ecp'y ck'y kj 'eqphk'f gpeg'cpf 'mpqy 'y g'y kni'pqv'dg' r w'v'q'uj co g0'

**60Vt wu'lp'vj g'Nqt f . 'pqv'lp'f qwt 'ly p'w'pf gt u'w'cpf kpi ' \*Rt qxgt du'5-7/8-0'**

Y j { 'ku'k'v'q'vgo r v'kpi 'hqt'wu'v'q'f gr gpf 'qp'qwt'qy p'y kuf qo 'tcvj gt'vj cp'vj g'y kuf qo 'qh'qwt'cm'y kug'I qf A' Y j cv'o cngu'wu'vj kpn'vj cv'y g'mpqy 'd'gwgt'vj cp'j g'f qgu'y j cv'ku'dguv'hqt 'wu'U'gcuqpu'qh'y ck'kpi 't'gxgcn' y j gt'g'y g'ctg'r'ne'kpi 'qwt'v'wu0'

**70T gukv'lt gw'kpi . 't ght clp'lt qo 'cpi gt.'dg't'kn'c'pf 'ej qqg'r'cv'kpeg' \*Rucm '59-9/: -0'**

Kau'gcu{ 'v'uc{ 'y g'twv'I qf . 'dw'qwt'tgur qpug'v'f grc{ u. 'ht wut cvkqpu. 'cpf 'f khhew'ukwcvkqpu'g'zr qugu' y j gtg'y g'ctg'cewcm{ 'r mckpi 'qwt'j qr gO'

**80Dg'ut qpi 't'pf 'veng'eqwt ci g'Rucm '49<35/36=53<46<0'**

Kxg'hqwpf 'vj cv'qpg'qh'o { 'dki i guv'dcwgu'lp'rupi 'ugcuqpu'qh'y cklpi 'ku'hi j vki 'hct'cpf 'cm'ku'dwf f lgu'ikng' cpzlgv{ . 'ht ghwpguu. 'cpf 'y qtt{ 0C 'xql'eg'lp'o { 'j gcf 'cumu. "What if this happens? What if God doesn't answer my prayers?" K'ku'vj g'i qur gn'vj cv'j cu'cwi j v'o g'vj cv'gpf wtkpi 'ut'gpi vj 'cpf 'eqwtci g'y kn'p'xgt'dg' hqwpf 'lp'o { ugrh'dw'lp'Ej tkwO'

**90Ugg'k'cu't'p'qr r qt wplw{ 'v'g'zr gt lpeg'I qf au' qf pguu'Rucm '49<35=Nco gpvc'kqpu'5<47<0'**

Y j gp'o { 'h'ewu'ku'qp'o { 'r tqdrgo u'cpf 'y j cv'I qf 'j cu'qt'j cu'p'qv'i kxgp'o g. 'Kco 'r tqpg'v'q'i two drkpi . " eqo r mckpi . 'f kueq'v'pwo gpv. 'dkwgt'p'guu. 'cpf 'ugr'kuj p'guu'0Y j gp'Kf gh'k'p'g'i q'qf p'guu'd{ 'y j cv'dt'kpi u'o g'vj g' o qu'eqo hqt v. 'j cr r l'p'guu. 'cpf 'i tcv'k'ec'v'ap 'in this life. 'vj gp'cp{ vj kpi 'vj cv'vj tgc'v'p'u'vj gug'vj kpi u'y kn'vgo r v' o g'v'q's wgu'k'p'I qf au'rx'g'cpf 'i q'qf p'guu'O'

I qf 'f go qp'ut'cv'gf 'j ku'i q'qf p'guu'y j gp'Ej tkw'cdu'qtd'gf 'vj g'y tcvj 'qh'I qf 'vj cv'y g'f g'ug't'x'gf . 'o c'k'pi 'c'y c{ " hqt'wu'v'q'dg'ug'v'ht'gg'ht'qo 'vj g'r qy gt'qh'uk'p'cpf 'qwt'gp'go { . 'Uc'v'p. 'y j q'ugg'mu'v'q'uv'gn'n'km'cpf 'f g'ut'q{ " qwt' g'vgt'p'cn'l'q{ " cpf 'r g'ceg'0H'qt 'vj q'ug'y j q'j' cxg'g{ gu'v'q'ugg. 'ugcuqpu'qh'y cklpi 'qh'ht'eq'w'p'v'guu'qr r qt wpl'k'gu'v'q' y k'p'guu'I qf 'cv'y q'tn'lp'cpf 'vj tq'wi j 'wu'ht'qwt'g'vgt'p'cn'i q'qf 'cpf 'j ku'i n'qt{ 0

**: 0Y ckw'ht'I qf au'r't'qo kug'lp'w'g'cf 'q'hl' q'lp'i { qwt'ly p'y c{ 'Cevu'3<6<0'**

Uet'kr w't'g'q'ht'u'r n'gp'v{ 'qh'gz'co r n'gu'qh'uc'k'p'w'y j q'i q'v'y g'ct{ 'qh'y cklpi 'hqt'I qf 'cpf 'ej q'ug'v'q'f'q'v'j kpi u' vj gk'y c{ 0K'x'g'i kxgp'y c{ 'v'q'vj cv'vgo r cv'k'ap'cu'y gn'0I qf au'i q'qf p'guu'ku'r tqo kug'f'ht'vj q'ug'y j q'y ckw' r cv'k'p'w'f 'hqt'j ko #P'q'o c'wgt'j qy 'n'qpi 0

**; 0E'q'p'w'p'w'g'uv'g'cf h'cu'w'f 'lp'r't'c{ g't. 'd'g'k'pi 'y c'vej h'w'ly k'j 'vj c'p'm'i k'k'pi 'E'q'm'u'k'c'p'u'6<4<0'**

**320T go go dgt 'vj g'd'ig'u'k'pi u' { g'v'v'q'eqo g'K'ck'c'j '52<3: -0'**

During seasons of waiting, our hearts will be encouraged as we remember that the best is yet to come! One day in eternity, sin will be no more! We will be free from selfish demands and temptations and experience everlasting joy.

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*Set your mind on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.” (Colossians 3:2-4)*

/[ qw'Y kn'P'qv'Dg'Cuj co gf /"

**Susannah Spurgeon, wife of Charles Spurgeon, counseled her own heart with these words ( you may need to read it twice):**

*The Lord has strewn the pages of God's Word with promises of blessedness to those who wait for Him.*

*And remember, His slightest Word stands fast and sure; it can never fail you.*

*So, my soul, see that you have a promise underneath thee, for then your waiting will be resting and a firm foothold for your hope will give you confidence in Him who has said,*

*'They shall not be ashamed that wait for Me.'"*

*(By Linda Green – "The Orchard Evangelical Free Church")*

k. In David's quiet time of waiting upon the Lord, what did He pray (Psalm 19:12-14)?

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Oh Lord! Help us not to move out in error because of our inability to wait on You!

**➔ Hudson Taylor writes this about waiting on God:  
"I have found that there are three stages in every great work of God:  
First it is impossible  
Then it's difficult  
Then it's **DONE!**"**

I may add to that list - then God is glorified!!!

God gets His great work done! He will bend your will to be in alignment with His, if you will allow yourself to be "bendable." The outcome will be what you would have chosen if you knew all that God knows. It will be beyond what you've even prayed for, because we have a Father in heaven that delights in giving His children good gifts. You will not wish to go back or be sad about what you were asked to leave behind. In the end, you will say it was the best.

If you become rigid and obstinate in your own ways, God will give you over to your desires, but beware- they may break you in the future.

There are two more women mentioned in Christ's genealogy that you might recognize with a sordid past:

- Rahab the harlot turned Rahab the Saint, turned daughter of God, believer in miracles (Joshua 6:25)
- Bathsheba – wife of Urriah the Hittite, mistress of King David, mother of the wise King Solomon (2 Sam. 12:24)

*\* If you find yourself in a "broken state," God is attracted to you, if it's coupled with a contrite heart.*

**5. Is there something in your past that, if not for the blood of Jesus, would seem to count you unworthy to be apart of God's royal family?**

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I have many, but the one I am thinking of especially stands out to me. I often think, "If everyone knew, they might never listen to me teach again." However, that thing

is under Christ's blood, and it no longer makes me feel *unworthy*, but very THANKFUL that my Savior paid the penalty for me. I am very thankful that His love for me is just as strong as if that decision *weren't* a part of my past! It's that knowledge that I am forgiven that prompts me not to judge my neighbor when she fails. How can I ever say, "How could they...?" when I have committed the same sin or something just as dark and dishonoring to God? It's mind-blowing to think that, when God looks at you and I, He sees perfection, because He sees Jesus. He's our covering, ya know- kind of like a couch cover or overlay- and He covers all the stains and dirt and gives others something clean and beautiful to look at! I need Jesus as my overlay!

*H\ YfY]gigca Yh]b[ UVci hVfc\_YbbYgg'h Uhh Y@cfX]gUhfUMIX'hc"=h]b\_]h  
UddYUg'hc < ]gVta dUgg]cb UbX'dck Yf"6fc\_YbbYgg]b'ci f`j] Yg]bj ]hYgh Y[ fYUhg'h  
Yj ]XYbW'cZ < ]gdck Yf'hc VYX]gd`UrhX"*

**6. What do the following verses reveal to you about God's perspective on brokenness?**

a. Isaiah 66:1-2 – Who does God's eyes stay fixed upon?

b. Isaiah 57:15 – Who does the High and Lofty One pursue to revive?

c. Psalm 34:18 – God moves when His children are in trouble.

Another version says, "The Lord is near to those who are discouraged, He saves those who have lost all hope."

Is discouragement on your back door step? He is closer to YOU than anyone else!

The chips and the cracks life has battered into your "clay pot" for all to see are all indications of our need for Christ. Our brokenness attracts His power, and as He displays His power through such unworthy vessels, His name gets all the glory! What a beautiful dance is displayed as our carnal imperfection is redeemed into a story that glorifies His great name!

I want to conclude this lesson with the rest of the verses in Matthew that describe the birth of Christ.

◆ **Read Matthew 1:18-25**

We have just read the fulfillment of the prophecy that Isaiah spoke of in Isaiah 9:6-7 and Isaiah 7:14. Mary is going to have the Christ-child, and His name would be Jesus.

Something here is so interesting to me.

**7. Read Matthew 1:18 and write it out.**

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Did you get that? Mary was a virgin, she had never had sexual intimacy with Joseph. The child that was in her womb was conceived by the Holy Spirit! Many of you are thinking, “I knew that Teri...so what?” Well, go back up and read the words carefully in Matthew 1:16.

Jacob “begot” Joseph, the husband of Mary. Remember that the word “begot” means to produce or to give birth. The words that follow are “...*of whom was born Jesus who is called the Christ!*” I see no “begot” after the name Joseph.

My question is this: why is the word “begot” used all through the listing of genealogy with every person born in Matthew chapter 1, but when Scripture referred to the birth of Christ, it just says, “*was born?*”

**May I suggest to you it was because Jesus’ birth was supernatural!!!** God is making a point here. Mary didn’t *produce (beget)* Jesus; she was just the carrier of the Messiah to a lost world! How cool is that! Jesus was conceived through the Holy Spirit (v.20b).

God’s Word is true, down to every two -letter alphabet word, comma, and capitalization. God gives attention to detail! I love that about God and His Word.

In every way– even in the detail of how Scripture is recorded- He reminds us that this Jesus was no ordinary man. He was Israel’s long-awaited Messiah, Jesus Christ – God’s Son.



Whatever you are waiting on God to do, remember He is a God of detail, waiting until each piece is in position for your highest gain and His highest glory!

### 8. Read again and write out Isaiah's fulfilled prophecy in Matthew 1:23.

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Immanuel is translated "God with us." The great hope is that in the name Immanuel, men would recognize the truth of the prophets' words: the Messiah had truly come to God's people. Israel's deliverer had arrived!

#### **Wrapping it up and making it personal!**

Thinking back upon your life...

Fill in these blanks on the tablets of your mind.

Lord, even when I \_\_\_\_\_ You loved me anyway.

Lord, even when I consciously \_\_\_\_\_ You forgave me.

Lord, even when I ignored your warnings and \_\_\_\_\_ You still wanted me to return to You.

Even when I still \_\_\_\_\_ You call me to forsake unrighteousness and commit to walk deeper with You.

Take a moment...get on your knees and thank Him all over again for forgiving you of the INEXCUSABLE. Thank Him that He wants **you** with an everlasting desire for relationship with you. He wants to be your closest companion and your secret-keeper. Allow the Lord to fill you with a renewed awareness and thankfulness that we submit our lives to a loving, merciful God whose love for us in unwavering and ever-flowing, despite our knack for making stupid decisions. Thank Him out loud that you belong to a new family of believers whose Father will never leave them or forsake them, and \*YES!!!\* our names are included in His family tree.

In His family book our names are delightfully written; in a permanent marker, He inscribed your name. Thank Him that in Jesus Christ we have our Messiah, and that He has given us the ability to see that truth so we can belong to the eternal family of Christ.

What a blessing to have all of you as part of my family in Christ! I'm *proud* to be your relative. Have a blessed week, sisters!!!

Teri

