

## Teach -In No. 1 Introduction to Matthew's Gospel

The Gospel of Matthew is his account of what he saw and recorded. Matthew was also called Levi; it was customary to have two names then as it is often the case today. He was a tax gatherer and therefore not a very popular person, especially amongst the Jews. But then neither was Jesus very popular; which is one of the reasons why they crucified Him. Matthew died a martyr in Ethiopia. Being a disciple then can be a very risky business!

We shall start at the genealogies, that is; the bloodline from the forefathers. We often take for granted the things we read or hear, for instance, King Herod was not the King of Israel, he was the Governor of Judea, appointed by the Roman Emperor. The Romans had ruled in Israel for the four hundred years prior to the announcement of the birth of Christ.

No man of the house of David had been allowed to sit upon the throne for six hundred years. The man that had the throne rights was Joseph, the Carpenter who became the husband of Mary. Joseph could not have been Jesus' father according to the flesh, because God's word barred the way.

### **Jeremiah 22 v 30**

*"Thus says the Lord, 'Write this man down childless, a man who will not prosper in his days; for no man of his descendants will prosper sitting on the throne of David or ruling again in Judah.'"*

The next chapter of Jeremiah speaks of the coming of the Messiah, the King yet to be born.

### **Jeremiah 23 v 5-6**

*"Behold, the days are coming," declares the Lord, "When I will raise up for David a righteous Branch; and He will reign as king and act wisely and do justice and righteousness in the land. "In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely; and this is His name by which He will be called, 'The Lord our righteousness.'"*

There had been a curse on this royal line all that time, Joseph was in the Royal line and therefore God could not break His word. If Christ had merely been Josephs' son He could not have sat on David's throne.

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Now we have to look at another genealogy, the one in Luke 3; this is Mary's line going right back to Adam.

### **Luke 3 v 23-38**

*When He began His ministry, Jesus Himself was about thirty years of age, being, as was supposed, the son of Joseph, the son of Eli, the son of Matthat, the son of Levi, the son of Melchi, the son of Jannai, the son of Joseph, the son of Mattathias, the son of Amos, the son of Nahum, the son of Hesli, the son of Naggai, the son of Maath, the son of Mattathias, the son of Semein, the son of Josech, the son of Joda, the son of Joanan, the son of Rhesa, the son of Zerubbabel, the son of Shealtiel, the son of Neri, the son of Melchi, the son of Addi, the son of Cosam, the son of Elmadam, the son of Er, the son of Joshua, the son of Eliezer, the son of Jorim, the son of Matthat, the son of Levi, the son of Simeon, the son of Judah, the son of Joseph, the son of Jonam, the son of Eliakim, the son of Melea, the son of Menna, the son of Mattatha, the son of Nathan, the son of David, the son of Jesse, the son of Obed, the son of Boaz, the son of Salmon, the son of Nahshon, the son of Amminadab, the son of Admin, the son of Ram, the son of Hezron, the son of Perez, the son of Judah, the son of Jacob, the son of Isaac, the son of Abraham, the son of Terah, the son of Nahor, the son of Serug, the son of Reu, the son of Peleg, the son of Heber, the son of Shelah, the son of Cainan, the son of Arphaxad, the son of Shem, the son of Noah, the son of Lamech, the son of Methuselah, the son of Enoch, the son of Jared, the son of Mahalaleel, the son of Cainan, the son of Enosh, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God.*

This may strike you as uninteresting reading, but just see the importance of these verses; Mary's line goes back to Adam through David and Nathan, hear what was communicated to Mary.

### **Luke 1 30-33**

*The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end."*

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The principle that God is able to do anything that is in line, in harmony with His purposes remains true. There had to be a supernatural birth that happened outside of the natural way of things. Matthew traces Jesus back to Abraham, showing His Jewish heritage. Luke traces Jesus back to Adam, showing us His humanity; that He belonged to the Human race. Matthew demonstrates the Royal line of Jesus and Luke that He is at true Son, born in a manger. This pattern goes right through these two Gospels.

### **Matthew 1 v 23**

*"Behold, the virgin shall be with child and shall bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which translated means, "God with us."*

### **Matthew 2 v 6**

*'And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the leaders of Judah; for out of you shall come forth a Ruler who will shepherd My people Israel.'*

### **Matthew 3 v 3**

*For this is the one referred to by Isaiah the prophet when he said, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness, 'Make ready the way of the Lord, Make His paths straight!'"*

Why are these genealogies so interesting? Mainly because they show that nothing in the Word of God is wasted. They also demonstrate to us the keys to the whole life of Jesus; they show us that He was not just another man, another Prophet. No, He was descended from a Royal family and that there was a King's blood in His veins. If He were not a King He could not claim rulership in our lives. If He were not a man how could He know our sorrows?

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