

## **Credentials**

Read Matthew 1:1-17.

-Why would Matthew start his gospel with a 'boring' genealogy?

-What does a king of the Jews have to do with us?

-This genealogy establishes that Jesus Christ is the legal heir to David's throne, and therefore qualified and entitled to be the Messiah. We are dealing with a real person of history. Read the following article and discuss: <http://www.gotquestions.org/Jesus-genealogy.html>

## **Central Proposition of the Text:**

-Presenting the literal/legal king, brought through a line of disgrace, a line of disobedience, a line of defeat, as promised.

## **Presenting: The Literal/Legal King (Matthew 1:2-6a)**

-Read: Matt. 1:1.

-Jesus is the only Jew today who can legitimately trace his line back through David. Read the following article and discuss: <https://www.christiancourier.com/articles/1556-importance-of-messianic-genealogy-the>

-Read: Genesis 12:1-3 and 22:18. What does the genealogy here in Matthew mean regarding these promises? (literal/historical/legal fulfillment)

-Read: Isaiah 9:6-7; 11:1-10; Jeremiah 23:5-6; 30:9; 33:14-26; Ezekiel 34:20-24; 37:24-28; Hosea 3:5; Amos 9:11; Zechariah 3:8. What does the genealogy here in Matthew prove regarding these prophecies? (literal/historical/legal fulfillment)

## **Brought through a line of disgrace (Matthew 1:6b-11)**

-Read: Matthew 1:2-6a. What names jump out? Why?

-Read: Genesis 38:13-30, Joshua 2:1-21, Ruth 1:1-4, 15-18 and 4:13-17. Regarding the Moabites (Ruth) read: Genesis 19:30-38.

-What do these three women have in common?

-Why would Matthew go out of his way to include them in Jesus' genealogy?

## **A line of disobedience (Matthew 1:12-16)**

-Read: Matthew 1:6b-1. What is so significant about 6b?

-Read 2 Samuel 11. How does this fit in with the other women in the genealogy thus far?

-Read 2 Samuel 12:15-25. How does God redeem their sin in keeping with the theme of the chapter (12:24)?

### **A line of defeat (Matthew 1:17)**

-Read: Matthew 1:12-16. What was the context of this genealogy continuing (1:12)?

-The author of this gospel was a tax collector, loyal to the Roman occupiers. Read Matthew 9:9-13 and 10:1-3. Matthew sees God's redemptive plan even in times of occupation.

### **As promised**

-Read Matthew 1:17

-Why would Matthew exclude names to make 14?

*-Matthew omits some names, as was customary in genealogies (in this case perhaps following the Greek translation of the Old Testament); creating patterns like three sets of fourteen made lists easier to remember. Some commentators have argued that Matthew uses fourteen generations because the numerical value of David's name in Hebrew letters is 14. (Unlike letters in the English alphabet, Greek and Hebrew letters were also used as numerals; the Jewish practice of counting the numerical values of words and deriving meaning from them came to be called gematria.) Dividing history into eras was common; a later Jewish text, 2 Baruch, divided history into fourteen epochs.<sup>1</sup>*

-If this is true Matthew was keen on reminding us of David- God's promise throughout each set of 14 names.

-Romans 5:20, sums up for us the interpretive theme of this genealogy- bringing us to the main idea of the message:

### **The Line of Christ teaches us that**

**where disgrace increased, grace literally abounded. Where disobedience increased, grace literally abounded more. Where defeat increased, grace literally abounded all the more. Jesus is not only the King of the Jews, He is the King of sinners like you and me.**

Here is the implication:

There is no scandal too great, there is no sin too serious, there is no surrender too absolute. Grace abounds.

1. What does this passage teach me about God?
2. What does this passage teach me about the world?
3. What does this passage teach me about myself? About my own desires and motives?
4. Does this passage require that I take action? If so, what action should I take?

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<sup>1</sup> Craig S. Keener, *The IVP Bible Background Commentary: New Testament* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1993), Mt 1:17.

5. What do I need to confess and/or repent of?
6. What have I learned from this passage that will help me to focus on God and strive for His glory?
7. Are genealogies boring?