



The Origin Of Jesus - Matthew 1:1-17

It's the time of year when we celebrate the second most significant event in the history of mankind

- The birth of God's Son, Jesus the Messiah
- I say second because to me His death, burial and resurrection is the most significant event in human history

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- But in our minds, we have a sanitized version of the birth of Jesus
 - We see angels, stars and wise men
 - We see clean shepherds, Mary with a clean dress with her hair neatly done, peace on her face
 - We see Joseph stress free

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- But in our minds, we have a sanitized version of the birth of Jesus
 - We see a clean stable or cave used to house livestock
 - I wonder if the Bible was a “*scratch and sniff*” book what the smell was really like

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- If this is your image of the birth of Jesus, then you will miss the marvelous work God has done working through sinful man
- A baby in a manger cannot do anything for sinful man

It's the time of year when we celebrate the second most significant event in the history of mankind

- But a King and Lord has the power and authority to bring great grace and change into the lives of lost and struggling people
- To give us back a new life blessed and full of hope

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- So, when Matthew wrote his gospel, he did not start with Jesus in a manger
- He started with Jesus, the King of Kings and Lord of the Covenant between God and man
- And he builds on those themes throughout his book

Matthew 1:1 NIV This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham

- Genealogy - an account of the origin
- Matthew is writing to Jews or those who had strong Jewish backgrounds
- They were used to hearing about God doing miracles, had grown up with those stories
- So, they were not interested in the virgin birth

Matthew 1:1 NIV This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham

- They were not interested in a miracle worker or even a great teacher
- What they wanted to know was, “Who is this Jesus and whom did He come from?”
- How is this Messiah related to Abraham and David, kingship and covenant?

Matthew 1:1 NIV This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham

- Is He the Messiah the Old Testament promised or is He just some new and improved imposter that will come in a flash and leave just as quickly?
- Can we really trust Him and what He said?
- So, Matthew begins telling a story of redemption and grace using the genealogy of Jesus that Jews would understand

Matthew 1:1 NIV This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham

- When Jews listed the genealogy, they were telling a story to be remembered
- The names were mind markers to help remember the story of God's people
- It was not just a remembering of facts, but events and lives

Matthew 1:1 NIV This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham

- Matthew gives Jesus three titles
- **Jesus the Messiah** – He is the redeemer spoken about to Adam and Eve
 - He is the one like Moses that would come after him
 - He is the kinsman redeemer found in Ruth
 - He is the suffering servant in Isaiah

Matthew 1:1 NIV This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham

- You see the title “son of”
- To the Jewish mind this meant that all status, power and authority transferred to the “son of”

Matthew 1:1 NIV This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham

- **Jesus the son of David** – all the Jews knew what this term meant
 - Matthew declared him the rightful heir to the throne of David, the kingdom promised to him by God
 - He was the one declared that His kingdom would be without end
 - This term was spoken of Him while on earth and it infuriated the religious leaders

Matthew 1:1 NIV This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham

- **The son of Abraham** – all Jews knew what this term meant as well
 - Jesus was the sacrifice spoken of by Abraham when called to sacrifice his son, Isaac
 - Jesus is the heir to the covenant between God and Abraham's offspring

Matthew 1:1 NIV This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham

- This Jesus can bring great salvation and change into the hearts of sinful man and give them blessed lives
- This Jesus could bring God down to earth in flesh
- This Jesus is one to be believed, honored, adored, followed and imitated

Then Matthew begins telling the story of grace and salvation for all people as He worked through sinful man

- **Matthew 1:2-3 NIV** 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 Tamara
 - Matthew is telling us there is something special about Judah, not necessarily good, but special

Then Matthew begins telling the story of grace and salvation for all people as He worked through sinful man

- Judah was a corrupt son of Jacob
 - The one who recommended selling Joseph into slavery
 - Moved to Canaan and married a woman from there
 - Participated in the corrupt Canaanite culture

Then Matthew begins telling the story of grace and salvation for all people as He worked through sinful man

- Judah was a corrupt son of Jacob
 - His first two sons were evil, and God took them
 - He also had a promise from God on his life

Then Matthew begins telling the story of grace and salvation for all people as He worked through sinful man

- Judah was a corrupt son of Jacob
 - “The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler’s staff from between his feet, until he comes to whom it belongs and the obedience of the nations is his” (**Genesis 49:10**).

Then Matthew begins telling the story of grace and salvation for all people as He worked through sinful man

- **Matthew 1:2-3 NIV** 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 Tamara
 - Judah said, “She is more righteous than I.”
(**Genesis 38:26**)

Then Matthew begins telling the story of grace and salvation for all people as He worked through sinful man

- **Matthew 1:5a NIV** Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab
- **Joshua 2:1 NIV** Then Joshua son of Nun secretly sent two spies from Shittim. “Go, look over the land,” he said, “especially Jericho.” So they went and entered the house of a prostitute named Rahab and stayed there.

Then Matthew begins telling the story of grace and salvation for all people as He worked through sinful man

- **Matthew 1:5a NIV** Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab
- **Joshua 2:11 NIV** When we heard of it, our hearts melted in fear and everyone's courage failed because of you, for the Lord your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below.

Then Matthew begins telling the story of grace and salvation for all people as He worked through sinful man

- **Matthew 1:5b NIV** Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth
 - Ruth was a young Moabite widow, married into a Jewish family, she had lost everything with the death of her father-in-law and husband

Then Matthew begins telling the story of grace and salvation for all people as He worked through sinful man

- **Matthew 1:5b NIV** Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth
- **Ruth 1:16 NIV** But Ruth replied, “Don’t urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God.”

Then Matthew begins telling the story of grace and salvation for all people as He worked through sinful man

- **Matthew 1:6 NIV** and Jesse the father of King David. David was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been Uriah's wife
 - David was described by God as a “man after my own heart”

Then Matthew begins telling the story of grace and salvation for all people as He worked through sinful man

- **Matthew 1:6 NIV** and Jesse the father of King David. David was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been Uriah's wife
 - But he was also a sinner that let power, pride and lust rule in an event with Bathsheba, the wife of David's trusted servant Uriah

Then Matthew begins telling the story of grace and salvation for all people as He worked through sinful man

- **Matthew 1:6 NIV** and Jesse the father of King David. David was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been Uriah's wife
 - It is curious, her name is not mentioned as the others were
 - David repented, married Bathsheba and Solomon was born to them

Then Matthew begins telling the story of grace and salvation for all people as He worked through sinful man

- **Matthew 1:11 NIV** and Josiah the father of Jeconiah and his brothers at the time of the exile to Babylon
 - God cursed of Jeconiah in **Jeremiah 22**
 - First, the LORD likens the king to a signet ring on God's hand—a ring that God will pull off (**verse 24**)

Then Matthew begins telling the story of grace and salvation for all people as He worked through sinful man

- **Matthew 1:11 NIV** and Josiah the father of Jeconiah and his brothers at the time of the exile to Babylon
 - Then, God pronounces a curse: “Record this man as if childless, a man who will not prosper in his lifetime, for none of his offspring will prosper, none will sit on the throne of David or rule anymore in Judah” **(verse 30)**

Then Matthew begins telling the story of grace and salvation for all people as He worked through sinful man

- **Matthew 1:11 NIV** and Josiah the father of Jeconiah and his brothers at the time of the exile to Babylon
 - **Matthew 1:12 NIV** After the exile to Babylon: Jeconiah was the father of Shealtiel, Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel

Then Matthew begins telling the story of grace and salvation for all people as He worked through sinful man

- **Matthew 1:11 NIV** and Josiah the father of Jeconiah and his brothers at the time of the exile to Babylon
 - Jewish rabbi writings at the time made mention of Jeconiah's repentance and God's grace coming upon him

Then Matthew begins telling the story of grace and salvation for all people as He worked through sinful man

- **Matthew 1:16 NIV** and Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, and Mary was the mother of Jesus who is called the Messiah
 - Notice, Joseph is not listed as the father of Jesus

Then Matthew begins telling the story of grace and salvation for all people as He worked through sinful man

- **Matthew 1:16 NIV** and Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, and Mary was the mother of Jesus who is called the Messiah
- **Isaiah 7:14** Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel.

So what story is Matthew telling?

- The Messiah came from the Jews, but for all mankind
 - Jesus was born, lived and died a Jew
 - **John 4:22 NIV** You Samaritans know very little about the one you worship, while we Jews know all about him, for salvation comes through the Jews.
 - **John 3:16 NIV** For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

So what story is Matthew telling?

- No one is excluded from God's grace when we come under His covenant by faith
 - Be thankful if you had someone of importance in your early years to encourage you to know who God is
 - It would have been easy to set aside Tamar, Rahad and even Ruth

So what story is Matthew telling?

- No one is excluded from God's grace when we come under His covenant by faith
 - They choose to place themselves under the promise of God by faith and God honored that faith with acceptance into His family

So what story is Matthew telling?

- There is no life that God cannot redeem
 - Redeem = gain or regain possession of (something) in exchange for payment
 - It is one thing to have your sin debt forgiven and an entirely different thing to have your life given back to you blessed

So what story is Matthew telling?

- There is no life that God cannot redeem
 - Think of Judah, David, Jeconiah – failures all of them
 - Matthew himself was a hated tax collector for the Roman government

So what story is Matthew telling?

- If God could bring His Redeemer through the sordid events of these sinful lives, then there is nothing He cannot bring you out of
 - The word “impossible” is not in God’s vocabulary

Thoughts

- These people were real people with complex and sometimes messy lives that can't be reduced to stereotypes
- They ground the Christmas story in an authentic earthiness
- They counteract the tendency to see all people used by God as shiny, perfect heroes

Thoughts

- Perhaps the most important thought is Jesus came into the world to save all kinds of people – women, men, pagans and Jews, prostitutes, immigrant widows and queen mothers – and you

Thoughts

- Paul said it this way in **Galatians 3:28-29 NIV** “28 There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.