

“Messianic Credentials”

(Sunday Morning, December 06, 2020)

Introduction: *“The Coming of the Messiah”*

This coming King will have the power to *“bruise Satan’s head”* (Gen. 3:15), take back man’s dominion that was lost through sin, and establish at last a kingdom on earth that will extend into eternity. From Him the *“scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler’s staff from between his feet”* (Gen. 49:10).

The words of the Lord spoken to David through the prophet Nathan had to refer to someone other than David himself; *“And your house and your kingdom shall endure before Me forever; your throne shall be established forever”* (II Samuel 7:16). David’s kingdom was shattered and divided as soon as his successor, Solomon, died and, as yet, has never been reestablished.

The Gospels’ presentation of Jesus...

- *Matthew* ... as sovereign - to the Jews
- *Mark* ... extreme opposite role as a servant - to the Romans
- *Luke* ... the *“son of Man”* - to the Gentiles
- *John* ... the *“son of God”* - to the Church

The same Jesus is shown to be both **sovereign** God and **servant** Man.

I. His Ancestry (vss. 1-17)

As discussed earlier, one of Matthew’s major purposes in this gospel, and the primary purpose of chapters 1 & 2, is to establish Jesus’ right to Israel’s kingship. To any honest observer of scripture, and certainly to Jews who knew and believed their own Scriptures, these two chapters vindicate Jesus’ claim before Pilate: *“You say correctly that I am a king. For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world.”* (John 18:37)

- **Matthew's** genealogy presents a descending line, from Abraham through David, through Joseph, to Jesus, who is called Christ.
- **Luke's** genealogy presents an ascending line, starting from Jesus and going back through David, Abraham and even to Adam, the son of God (Luke 3:23-38).

“no man of his descendants will prosper, sitting on the throne of David or ruling again in Judah.” (Jeremiah 22:30)

“And to Jacob was born Joseph the husband of Mary, by whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ.” (1:16)

“For this cause therefore the Jews were seeking all the more to kill Him, because He not only was breaking the Sabbath, but also was calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God.” (John 5:18)

The literary grouping is used by Matthew also to emphasize the three major periods of Israel's national history: 1) *theocracy* (patriarchs), 2) *monarchy*, and 3) *hierarchy*.

v. 16 - And Jacob begat Joseph, the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ”

II. *His Advent (vss. 18-23)*

After establishing Jesus' *human lineage* from David, Matthew proceeds to show His *divine lineage*. That is the purpose of verses 18-25, which reveal five distinct truths about the virgin birth of Christ. We see the virgin birth conceived, confronted, clarified, connected, and consummated. This is critical because the cults and false religions in the world always err in their understanding of the person of the Lord Jesus Christ; being 100% Man and 100% God.

1) *The Virgin Birth Conceived (vs. 18; NASB)*

“Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follow, when His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she found to be with child by the Holy Spirit.”

2) *The Virgin Birth Confronted (vss. 19-20; NASB)*

“And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man, and not wanting to disgrace her, desired to put her away secretly. But what he had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream saying, ‘Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for that which has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.’”

3) *The Virgin Birth Clarified (vs. 21)*

“And she will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for it is He who will save His people from their sins.”

And to reinforce the truth of Jesus’ divine conception, the angel tells Joseph that she will bear a Son. Joseph would act as Jesus’ earthly father, but he would only be a step-father. Luke’s genealogy of Jesus through Mary’s line accurately says, *“Now Jesus Himself began His ministry at about thirty years of age, being (as was supposed) the son of Joseph” ... , (3:23)*

4) *The Virgin Birth Connected (vss. 22-23)*

“Now all this took place that what was spoken by the Lord through the Prophet might be fulfilled, saying, ‘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’.

5) *The Virgin Birth Consummated (vss. 24-25)*

And Joseph arose from his sleep, and did as the angel of the Lord commanded him, and took her as his wife, and kept her a virgin until she gave birth to a Son; and he called His name Jesus."

And so the genealogy concludes. Five women are included, mostly poor, mostly misfits, widows, unimportant, unknown, sinful women who changed the course of history by their simple, obedient lives.

"For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him." (II Corinthians 5:21; NKJV)