Christmas: remember – the King has come!

* Explore today. Turn to Matthew 1 – next few weeks – work our way thru ch 1-2[[1]](#endnote-1)
* See: not like any ordinary king – marvellous – wonderful king – YOU need to worship!

Family tree - 3 sections - 14 names

**1st section: Abraham -> David (v2-6)**

* Why start w Abraham?
  + Founder of Jewish nation.
    - This book – Matthew’s gospel – written to Jewish ppl – to show them that J is their Messiah – their true rightful King[[2]](#endnote-2).
* 1st section of names – (read?) – rise of that nation – Jewish ppl

**2nd section: David -> exile. (v6-11)**

* Fall of a nation.
  + Rather than getting better and better – nation rising to be a model for everyone – show the rest of the world how to live – instead of being the blessing to every other nation…
  + Israel is a failure.
* High point is King David – gold standard – man after God’s own heart.
  + But even he fails pretty catastrophically – see in a moment.
* And list of names after him – slow decline into chaos and obscurity.
  + Nation of Israel effectively ends
    - all important ppl – captured – exile in Babylon.

**3rd section: Exile -> Jesus (v12-16)**

* 400 yrs of not a lot.
  + Nation of Israel = failure.
    - Those who put their hope in the Nation: disappointed.
    - Those who put their hope in the kings – leaders: disappointed.
  + Same today of course – ppl think government will save us
    - United Kingdom – always be united under a King or Queen! No.
    - Great Britain – always be great – and full of Brits. No.
  + Nations rise & fall. /hope in nations.
    - Leaders come - leaders go - /hope in leaders.
* But still 1 hope: Messiah.
  + A better king would one day come – rescue his ppl
    - rule with justice & righteousness
    - /corrupt - /in it for himself
    - /iron fist - love

So where does Jesus the Messiah come from?

**JUDAH (v3)**

* Judah[[3]](#endnote-3) – head of all the clans of Israel.
  + Remember: envious. Bros plot to put their little brother Joseph in a pit & sell him into slavery. Ringleader.
    - First human trafficker.
  + Prob /your family – but divisions – one betrayed another – envy – anger?
* Jesus /ashamed of ppl like Judah.

**TAMAR (v3)**

* Tamar: woman!
  + Jewish family trees /record women. Record male line.
  + Matthew goes out of his way to shoehorn her in.
* One of those stories we skip in SS. Right back to Genesis 38.
  + Tamar – abandoned by her family – desperate – destitute.
    - Ends up seducing Judah, her FiL - sleeps with him – pregnant –> Perez – one of the ancestors of Jesus.
* Jesus has incest in his family history.
  + Wonder if there’s things in your family history – like to forget – family secrets ashamed of?
  + Your history? Terrible regrets – wish you could undo – but can’t.
* Jesus /ashamed of ppl like Tamar.

**RAHAB** **(v5)**

* Joshua 2 – Rahab was a member of the oldest profession in the world – prostitute.
  + Chooses to serve the God of Israel and help his people.
* Rahab: someone with a terrible past – comes to the Lord - and the God of Israel receives her.
  + One of the heroes of faith – alongside Noah, Abraham, Joseph - Hebrews 11[[4]](#endnote-4).
* Not only forgives her – elevates her – pit > royal family! This is what our God is like – Jesus.
* Jesus /ashamed of ppl like Rahab.

**RUTH (v5)**

* Ruth – lovely – book of Ruth.
* Gentile living among Jews – a foreigner
  + Some of you – foreigners living among a different nation.
    - She’s embraced into the family of God – ancestor of J
  + Gives us hope that this King Jesus will be for every tribe and language and people and nation[[5]](#endnote-5).
* Jesus /ashamed of ppl like Ruth.

**DAVID (v6)**

* Greatest King of OT. All the other Kings looked back to him – compared to him. Gold standard – brave warrior; poet, songwriter and musician; loyal friend; upholder of justice; Jesus called the Son of David[[6]](#endnote-6)- Man after God’s own heart[[7]](#endnote-7).
  + And yet he commits probably the most notorious sin recorded in the OT – abuses his power as king[[8]](#endnote-8) – commit adultery & murder to cover up.
    - 7 wives – at least 6 too many. But David believed the lie that one more will satisfy.
    - How often do we do just that? One more download – then I’ll be happy. 1 more holiday. 1 more book. 1 more biscuit. 1 more person to say how they value me. 1 more, 1 more, 1 more.
  + Repented: forgiven.
* Jesus /ashamed of ppl like David.

**MANASSEH (v9)**

* One of worst kings of Judah’s history. 2Chr 33
  + Burned his own children to death as a sacrifice to the Canaanite god Baal. Child sacrifice. And much else besides.
  + Later: sought the LORD – humbled himself – forgiven.
* Many ppl today – sacrifice own children – altar of career – selfishness - abortion.
* Jesus /ashamed of ppl like Manasseh.

**MARY (v16)**

* Mary is great – good family – good upbringing – godly woman – knows the scriptures and loves the Lord.
  + Needs a saviour too: my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour[[9]](#endnote-9).
* Sins of some ppl are obvious – some much less so – some of our sins are hidden carefully away where no-one but us and the Lord know about it.
  + Pride – self-sufficiency – greed – envy – bitterness. All need a saviour – even the clean-living among us. B/c those sins are still more than enough to separate us from a holy God.
* Jesus /ashamed of ppl like Mary.

Maybe right now you’re a bit surprised by the kind of ppl in J’s family.

* Got to ask why?
* Selective – not everyone listed.
  + “father of” – can mean grandfather – ancestor. Do research: big gaps.[[10]](#endnote-10)
  + Could have easily glossed over the “difficult” people. Made J’s family appear pretty good.

**It shows Jesus is the righteous King**

* OT: full of prophecies - Messiah is coming.
  + **Jeremiah 23:5** … the time is coming…when I will raise up a *righteous* *descendant* from King David's line. He will be a King who *rules with wisdom*. He will do what is just and right throughout the land.
  + All the kings of Israel & Judah were pretty rubbish – even the best ones. But there was a perfect king coming who would be *righteous*...
  + All these characters – were failures in various ways. Jesus was different.
    - He was tempted in every way – but without sin[[11]](#endnote-11). Not one!

**Jesus is King for … men & women**

* Women /appreciated in ancient cultures.
* Matthew – right & start – shows us that women – play huge role in J life.
  + Women who regularly demonstrate faith and love and loyalty – some of best encounters w J
  + Jesus elevated the dignity and status of women. As Xn has spread – dignity, value, worth of women in society has increased. This is radical stuff.

**Jesus is King for … all nations & cultures**

* Matthew – writer – clever: trying to show that Jesus is genuinely the Jewish Messiah – that he’s not some sort of fraud[[12]](#endnote-12). He wants to prove that Jesus is related to all those famous people in the OT.
* Also really wants to show: Jesus is for all nations – so he puts some Gentile wives in: Ruth, Rahab.
* King of Jews – King of all nations.
  + Racism has no part in Xn.

**Jesus is King for … heroes and villains**

* If your father was a child molester – or you were conceived out of incest – you probably aren’t going to go round shouting about it. Not your fault – embarrassing – shameful – even today.
  + But for Matthew - these are the credentials of the Messiah!
  + Matthew is reminding us that the Kingdom of God is for *all* people – good and bad.
* With that in mind, is *anyone* beyond redemption? Is anyone excluded from this kingdom because of their sordid past? Has anyone here done worse than them? Worse family background? Done worse or had worse done to them?
  + No-one is too bad to be embraced by this King! No-one!
  + And what of us? What secrets lie in your family history? What secrets in your life? God sees – knows. /put off.
    - Come! Repent and believe the good news!

Do you see what it cost for the King of Kings – pure holy God – to become a man? Enter into our broken world?

* What we remember at Christmastime is not just warm cosy baby – it’s the humiliation of God himself – infinite God making himself nothing – taking the nature of a servant – lowest of the low[[13]](#endnote-13) - entering into the grime of our sin-sick - messed-up world.
  + And dying on a cross – so that people like this – people like us - can be saved – redeemed – welcomed into God’s family.
  + **Hebrews 2[[14]](#endnote-14)** – Jesus shared in their humanity… [he] is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters.
* With his family history of Jesus, Matthew is sending us a very clear message:
  + These are the kinds of people God is interested in – the kinds of people the Jesus came to save: Men and women, good and very very bad, from all people groups, cultures, languages and nations. He is the King of ALL people.

Love: baptisms today – all sorts of ppl: men, women; children and grandmas; solid Xn backgrounds – and those who’ve gone a long way astray…

Resources:

* This sermon is based largely on one I preached back in 2008. Unfortunately at that time I didn’t make a good record of my main source materials. Although this sermon appears very similar to Mark Driscoll’s one here, <http://marshill.com/media/gods-work-our-witness-2012/jesus-welcomes-you-into-his-family> I don’t think it can be as I got there first. Perhaps he read my notes online? Ha! I re-wrote it again in 2018.
* As ever, excellent research from JMac: <http://www.gty.org.uk/resources/sermons/2180/the-gracious-king>
* Preached at: BRBC 1/12/13 AM, WBC 22/12/13 PM, Park 28/12/13 AM, Re-written Park 2/12/18 AM

1. **v1** This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham

   All about Jesus the Messiah

   Other trans: “Jesus Christ”

   Common mistake: Christ = surname. Mason.

   No, X = title. Jesus is “the Christ” (Greek) - “the Messiah” (Hebrew)

   Point: this is the family history of Jesus the Messiah.

   Well what is a Messiah?

   In OT - when a king was crowned – priest dab olive oil on head -> anointing

   Symbol of HS

   God is with this person

   Set apart for a purpose – to rule & govern

   Messiah = “anointed one” - so this is the family history of Jesus, God’s King. [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. Cut for space:

   And Abraham is the start of that process:

   **Genesis 12:2** I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you

   God is saying – take this man Abraham – make a nation out of him – even though he’s nothing special – I’ll take him and his family – form a nation out of them

   **Genesis 12:3** and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.

   Every other nation on earth will be blessed through this guy Abraham. [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. Amazing promises made to Judah – Micah 5:2 is a less obvious example. [↑](#endnote-ref-3)
4. Hebrews 11:31 [↑](#endnote-ref-4)
5. Revelation 7:9 [↑](#endnote-ref-5)
6. Apart from the more obvious references in the gospels (12 in Matthew and 3 in Luke), Paul refers to David as the predecessor of Jesus: **Romans 1:3** regarding his Son, who as to his human nature was a descendant of David. And Jesus, post-ascension still refers to himself with reference to David: **Revelation 22:16** "I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star." [↑](#endnote-ref-6)
7. 1Samuel 13:14 [↑](#endnote-ref-7)
8. One could make a case that David committed rape: he was the king after all – and did Bathsheba really have any choice? However, the Bible doesn’t accuse him of that which could be significant. It’s also just possible that Bathsheba felt this wasn’t such a bad deal: being wife of the king has a certain appeal perhaps? But again, there’s no suggestion of that in the text, so we just don’t know. On balance, today’s experience suggests the former is more likely. [↑](#endnote-ref-8)
9. Luke 1:47 [↑](#endnote-ref-9)
10. For example, Luke records 19 generations from Mary to Zerubbabel; Matthew has only 11. Even given the different family lines, it seems very unlikely that they are complete. [↑](#endnote-ref-10)
11. Hebrews 4:15 [↑](#endnote-ref-11)
12. Of all the things his opponents accused him of, fraud was not one of them. His heritage was watertight. [↑](#endnote-ref-12)
13. Philippians 2:6-7 [↑](#endnote-ref-13)
14. Hebrews 2:14,11 [↑](#endnote-ref-14)