

**Refuge City Church — Sunday, December 10**  
**Christmas Series: “Above Every Name”**  
**The Gospel of Matthew — “Family Name” (Matthew 1:1-17)**

***Introduction***

- Preaching vs. Teaching... today is ‘teaching’.
- **QUOTE:** “The Gospels are the most important part of Holy Scripture because all that preceded them led up to them, and all that follows emerges from them. If the revelation of the Gospels were to be removed, the Old Testament would be an enigma, and the remainder of the New Testament would never have been written. These two parts of the Bible, comprising sixty-two of its sixty-six Books, derive their value from the four which we call the Gospels.” [W. Graham Scroggie]
- **Author**
  - Matthew [“faithful; “gift of God”]
  - **Matthew 9:9**, “[Jesus] saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, ‘Follow me.’ And he rose and followed him.” [one of the original disciples]
    - While the other gospel writers refer to him by name only, Matthew refers to himself by name and title, “tax collector”.
    - How one refers to themselves says a lot.
      - If Matthew was an arrogant individual, he probably would not have used a title that would cause others to hate & ostracize him.
      - **Example:** Paul writes, “...Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.” [1 Timothy 1:15]
- **Date**
  - The first mention of the gospel outside of the Bible was found in the writings of Ignatius [110-115 A.D.]
  - Given the internal references to Jerusalem, the Sadducees, and other references mentioning “to this day” [the field purchased with Judas’ blood money, and the Pharisees cover up of Jesus’ resurrection], give us clues that he most likely wrote prior to the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D.
- **Purpose**
  - Whereas Mark presented Jesus as the ‘suffering servant’, Matthew presents Jesus as King.
    - Throughout the book, we see the progression of a promised king, a rejected king, and a returning king.
- **QUOTE:** “If a Bible reader were to jump from Malachi into Mark, or Acts, or Romans, he would be bewildered. Matthew’s Gospel is the bridge that leads us out of the Old Testament and into the New Testament.” [Warren Wiersbe]

**“What’s in a name?” [verses 1-2]**

- My chosen name = Cameron [how I was named; its true meaning: “Crooked Nose”]

“The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.”

- Why present the genealogy of Jesus?
  - In the 1st century, the new Christian church had claimed Jesus to be the promised Messiah.
    - The Jewish people had been waiting and expected a promised king, from the line of David, to save them from the Roman Empire.
    - **Isaiah 9:6-7**, “For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the *government* shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his *government* and of peace there will be no end, on the *throne of David* and over his *kingdom*, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore...”
    - When Jesus came on the scene and claimed to be the Messiah, and God in the flesh, the Jewish elite had Him crucified for this blasphemous claim.
  - So to present Jesus as the anointed one, Matthew proves the claim that Jesus came from the line of David, God’s chosen king.
  - Not only to prove His authority as King, Matthew presents Jesus’ line back to Abraham, the “founding father” of the Jewish people.
- As the son of David, Jesus is the promised king.
- As the son of Abraham, Jesus is eternal provision and salvation.
  - **Genesis 17:6**, “I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and kings shall come from you.”
  - But if we know the story of Abraham and his wife Sarah, she was barren and could not give birth... but God had other plans.
- In the identity of Jesus, He is a King [sovereign ruler over all creation], and Savior to His people.
  - Consider His name: **Jesus** [Yahweh is salvation] **Christ** [anointed one/Messiah; kingly title]
    - He has always been = He is divine [John 1:3, “All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.”]
    - **Luke 2:4**, “And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David.”
    - **Matthew 2:2**, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”
    - **John 18:37**, “Then Pilate said to him, ‘So you are a king?’ Jesus answered, ‘You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world...’”
  - The divine appointment to be King would not be hindered.
- Two different genealogies??
  - *Matthew 1*: Jesus’ heritage presented from Abraham to Jesus, via Jesus’ legal earthly father, Joseph.
  - *Luke 3*: Jesus’ heritage presented from Jesus to Adam, via Jesus’ mother, Mary.
    - **Luke 3:23**, “Jesus, when he began his ministry, was about thirty years of age, being the son (as was supposed) of Joseph, the son of Heli [Eli].”; *Eli is believed to be Mary’s father.*
  - Both Joseph and Mary have legal and royal lineage back to King David.

- Therefore, Jesus is a blood relative of King David through Mary's line, and a legal descendant of David through Joseph.
- **Interesting to note:** King Jeconiah [vs. 12]
  - **Jeremiah 22:30-23:1, 5**, "Thus says the Lord: "Write this man down as childless, a man who shall not succeed in his days, for none of his offspring shall succeed in sitting on the throne of David and ruling again in Judah... "Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture!" declares the Lord... "Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land."
  - Through the line of Joseph, this declaration would not permit Jesus to reign. Yet through the blood line of Mary [via Nathan, another son of David], Jesus' claim to the throne holds secure!
- So the right king, the righteous King would come to declare salvation to all people.
  - Yet, that same king would be rejected because of His uncommon birth.
  - He would not be received as the people's true king, because they expected a political warrior.
  - Because of His family name, he wouldn't be accepted.
    - **Matthew 13:54-58**, "[Jesus in Nazareth] "Where did this man get this wisdom and these mighty works? Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not his mother called Mary? And are not his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Judas? And are not all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all these things?" And they took offense at him. But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his hometown and in his own household." And he did not do many mighty works there, because of their unbelief."
- The rulers of the day [Pharisees, Sadducees, Herod, Pilate, etc.], both Jew and Roman, recoiled at His teaching and authority.
  - Because they could not find fault in Him, so they decided to destroy what they could not explain.
- Some would remember and recognize the lineage of the Messiah would come from the line of David.
  - **John 7:40-42**, "When they heard these words, some of the people said, 'This really is the Prophet.' Others said, 'This is the Christ.' But some said, 'Is the Christ to come from Galilee? Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the offspring of David, and comes from Bethlehem, the village where David was?'"

### ***"Genealogy of the Gospel"***

- I. Prophetically & Historically, Jesus has claim to the throne.
  - The promised one would be born of a woman... **Genesis 3:15**, "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."
  - The promised one would bring salvation to all nations, Jew & Gentile... **Genesis 22:18**, [to Abraham] "and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed..."
  - The promised king would rule over Israel forever... **Genesis 49:10**, "The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until tribute comes to him; and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples."

- The promised king would come from the line of David... **2 Samuel 7:12-13**, “When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.”
- 2. Regardless of what man may do, God’s plan & promises will be fulfilled [ie. Saul, Jechoniah, etc.].
- 3. Lineage marked by sin, disgrace, lies, outcasts, and a few ‘good eggs’ would come the promised Messiah; King of kings, Prince of peace, God of grace.
  - **Verses 2-6:** We see the beauty of God’s grace, through the mention of 4 women.
    - *Tamar* [Genesis 38]: The promised wife to Judah’s first born son, disguised herself as a prostitute and slept with her father-in-law.
    - *Rahab* [Joshua 2]: a prostitute from Jericho; a Gentile outsider.
    - *Ruth*: An outsider married into the family of God.
    - *Bathsheba*: stained by the sin of adultery she committed with David.
    - Not to mention the sin, polygamy, murder, lies, and treachery of the others mentioned in this family list.

### **Conclusion**

- But by His grace, all are welcome into the family of God, regardless of family, history, past or present sin... this is the beauty of the Gospel!

**Abraham** [promised nations] — **David** [chosen king] — **Babylonian captivity** [disobedience/sin] — **Jesus** [perfect King who reigns forever]

**Creation** — **Covenant Promises** [man made in the image of God; perfect/righteous] — **Sin** [banishment; yet provision & protection] — **Jesus** [salvation/redemption]

- Whether its through a genealogy or God’s creation there is a common thread of the gospel of grace.
- All of it leading to Jesus, our perfect Prophet, Priest, and King.
  - All of it divinely ordained to give us the greatest gift we could ever receive... salvation in Jesus’ name!
  - Regardless of your family name(s), your past/heritage, you are welcome in the family of God.
  - **Acts 4:10-12**, “let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”