

Lesson 3: Review of Matthew 1 & 2, The Savior King is Born!

Matthew 1: The Genealogy and Birth of Jesus the King

“The record of the genealogy of Jesus Christ the Son of David, the Son of Abraham.” (Mt. 1:1)

To our ears this opening verse to Matthew’s gospel seems harmless. But, in fact Matthew declares in emphatic fashion, news that sent shock waves through Israel. This subject of this verse still shakes the foundations of men and nations today. Matthew declares Jesus to be the *Christ of God, King of an everlasting Kingdom of righteousness and The Blessing to the Nations!*

The Christ! God’s Anointed One! God, the One and Only, making known the glory of God! This Christ who is the exact image of the invisible God! The Christ, the Sovereign Ruler. Matthew declares *The Christ* to be the expected one by proving that this One is the Savior King, who has been given right to rule over and bless the nations! Harry Ironside summarized well this point, “As Son of Abraham, our Lord is the promised Seed in whom all nations of the world shall be blessed (Gen. 12:3; 22:18). As Son of David, He is the King who is to reign in righteousness upon David’s throne [forever] (2 Sam.7:12-13; Isa. 9:6-7).”

Matthew establishes this glorious One, predicted in the Scriptures was fully human. The genealogy gives historic evidence. His humanity is because He our representative. In the Fall, Adam’s sin was counted to us. But in Christ’s joyful and sinless life, His righteous obedience is credited to us by faith!

Jesus’ genealogy may surprise you. Wouldn’t the Savior King boast of a sinless lineage? He could not boast in his lineage. There were murderers, adulterers, Gentiles, a prostitute, liars, and sexually immoral people. Your Christian heritage, if you have one, provides NOTHING for you to boast of before God. But be encouraged, because Jesus was “counted” among sinners, but without sin. He knows the pain of sin, yet was sinless. He is the suitable sinless substitutionary sacrifice offered by God to God on our behalf!

Jesus was fully human but Matthew 1:18-25 reveals Jesus is fully God. Both the human and divine nature is necessarily united in His person. How? Matthew 1:20 tells us that He was conceived of the Holy Spirit. His humanity came through Mary, His deity came through the Holy Spirit. Jesus the God-man! This is called the *hypostatic* union. Only as we grasp the Truth that Jesus is both fully God and fully man can we begin to understand His role as both Savior and Lord. As the God-man he represented us both in His sinless life on our behalf, His sacrificial death on our behalf, and as our righteousness on our behalf!

To review, Matthew calls Him Jesus, which means, “He shall save His people from their sins”; He calls Him the Christ, “God’s Select One Certified to do His Will; and Jesus is called “Immanuel: God with us!”

Will you represent yourself before God when you leave this earth? Or will you trust in Jesus, who alone saves you? Have you such Savior King as Jesus, who is “God with us?” Is Jesus with you today?

Matthew 2: The Savior King is familiar with Suffering

Some of you listening may never have heard what you are about to hear about the Person of Jesus Christ. His image in your mind is of white robes, pale skin, blue eyes; You think of a man that rose above the suffering of people. But, I’m here to tell you that God’s Messiah, Jesus, is portrayed in Scripture as One who is familiar with our suffering. And in Matthew 2 God is pleased to reveal to us, that from infancy Jesus was familiar with pain, suffering, sorrow, and woe.

Chapter 2 begins with the birth of Jesus. Magi came in bringing gifts to honor the infant Jesus. The Magi’s gifts of gold, frankincense and Myrrh were fitting for a King. Each gift was prophetic and emphasized different aspects of Jesus’ person and work as the Savior King. They brought Gold for a King; Frankincense to honor His purity and sinlessness; and myrrh to prepare Him for burial as Savior. For Him to be our Savior He had to become like us in death, yet as our Savior, He would not remain dead!

On the other hand, Herod feigned admiration (2:8) and quickly revealed his wicked and depraved heart and mind (2:13). He pretended a desire to worship this *King* but really desired to destroy him. He hatched a diabolical plan to remove all potential rivals by having every little boy in the vicinity of Bethlehem killed. His jealousy produced intense sorrow throughout the region. (**Quote Mt. 2:18**) Listen, even as a babe, He was acquainted with grieving, sorrowful and the suffering people.

From birth Jesus’ life was marked with danger, suffering, stress and anguish. He was made like us and suffered multiplied stress and pressures yet without sin. Jesus is the Savior of sinners. He is familiar with your suffering and pain. He comes even today to people that are helpless and harried—to people without a shepherd and to become the Shepherd and Overseer of our souls. Do you know Him today as your Savior and Shepherd? Will you, by faith, now bring your deepest pain to Him who not only knows but has experienced the deep pain and anguish you have and may still be experiencing? Read 1 Peter 5:7 and do what it says and you will receive His love and care no matter your pain and anguish!

Questions for Matthew 3-4: John the Baptist, Jesus Baptized, and Jesus Tempted

1. From the notes on page 1, **A)** what impressed and/or helped you? **B)** How has this affected your view of your life in relationship with God?

2. Read Matthew 3:1-6 and Luke 1:5-25 and Luke 1:39-45; 57-66. **A)** Compare the Matthew and Luke texts. Write down 3-4 things found in Luke 1:5-25 that impressed you about the person called John the Baptist. **B)** From Luke 1:39-45 what stands out to you as significant and why? **C)** Luke 1:57-66 ends with the people wondering, "What then is this child going to be?" Luke 1:5-25 tells us. Write down what was to be his special calling and purpose (see also Luke 2:76).

3. Read Matthew 3:1-2, 7-10. **A)** What does Matthew 3:1-2 state is John's message to Israel? **B)** What was he preparing them for by this message? **C)** What reasons can you think of to explain John's hard word to the religious leaders (vv.7-9)? **D)** Repentance basically means to have a change of thinking. By connecting 3:10 with 3:8 what other aspect of repentance is described? **E)** Based on what you wrote in part "D" how does this affect your thinking about your own repentance?

4. Read Matthew 3:3-6, 11-12, 13-17. **A)** By what authority did John preach? What OT Scripture does Matthew say John fulfilled? **B)** For whom did John prepare the way? (See Matthew 11:7-10; Mark 1:7-8) **C)** Jesus was baptized (Matthew 3:13-17). Write down as many events surrounding Jesus' baptism as you can. **D)** Read John 1:29-34 and John 3:27-36. Write down as many new things you learn about Jesus from John's testimony. **E)** From all the reading for today how has your understanding of John and his ministry been clarified?

5. Read Matthew 4. **A)** Jesus was tempted by the devil and passed the test. By this Matthew demonstrates that Jesus is the worthy sacrifice for sin on our behalf (see John 1:29). How did Jesus overcome temptation? How does this help you? **B)** What Scriptures did Jesus quote? (see margin of your Bible)

6. **A)** Matthew 4:12-17 What or Who do you think is the "light" in verses 15-16? **B)** How do those two verses describe the situation in that region? **C)** What did Jesus mean by the words, "...the kingdom of heaven is near"? What was He telling them? **D)** See 4:18-22. Most people aren't called to quit their jobs to follow Christ. That being the case, what spiritual lesson do you learn from this story? **E)** What do the signs in 4:23-25 indicate?