

# Matthew 1:1-17 - Sovereign God, Sovereign Plans, A Heritage, and A Critical Legacy

July 27th 2016

## Q: Why did Matthew begin by recording the genealogy of Christ?

**History** - these weren't made up names but real persons. Christ came into human history to live with us, along side of us. He was born from a real line, from real historic people. He is no myth or legend

**Prophecy** - salvation from the Jews and through the line of David. God's sovereign plan fulfilled proving His faithfulness.

**The Kingly line** - destined to be a king - King of kings and Lord of lords - He was not born of Joseph who had a kingly lineage back to Abraham but was adopted into this line. Adoption in our world can be thought less of but in God's mind it is as powerful as a blood line. (side discussion of lineage in Luke 3 vs Matt 1 - see [CARM.org](http://CARM.org) for resources)

**We can understand the humility of Christ** - He came into the life of humanity and lived amongst us. Other deities are either too exalted to come down to live with humanity or are corrupt. Christ, perfect, holy and exalted does not consider it too much to come down and live amongst His creation. (Phil 2:5-11). Humility is not thinking less of yourself but not thinking of self at all. Jesus had no reason to come down in Himself but came for us. A miracle of grace and mercy

**Q: Really the son of Joseph?** No. Luke 3:23 - "as was supposed." Shows that heritage is as critical as blood "Adopted = legal heir" When we are adopted into the kingdom we become joint heirs with Christ (Rom 8:17). Full inheritance

**Q: Familiar names?** - tell me the stories you remember (many heroic and heinous stories)

**Q: What do they have in common?** - ordinary people - sinful people. God did not choose a perfect line because there was no perfect line and because God uses all people and is faithful to His plan through all situations.

**Q: God chose this to come to pass in this way. What does that teach us?** Not one good nor bad time in history is without purpose. Many of the kings after David were wicked yet God used them in His master plan. God's plan is bigger than the understanding of our own generation or time.

**Q: Why is Zerubbabel the last biblical name we hear before Jesus?** There were 400yrs of silence where no prophet arose after the Jews returned from Babylon and Malachi (last book of the Old Testament) was written. All the names after his, their stories are untold.

**Q: What does this say about God's plans?** The stories of men and women may not have been told down through the ages but they remain critical. It takes thousands of interconnected stories coming down through history to bring about one specific life. Each one of the names mentioned from Zerubbabel through Joseph lived a specific life of value and had children through their specific spouse to bring about Joseph ordained to be the earthly father of Jesus. That's the critical nature of our life in His plan.

**Q: What does this say about God's interest in me and my legacy in this world?** - Where I came from and who I came from is valuable and who God says I am is also critical. I am irreplaceable in God's plan. There is only one me and I live to the greatest of my ability.