

Immanuel - God with us

(Matthew 1 & 2)

Introduction

- As we enter into the 2017 Advent season let us remember what the Lord has done for us through the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ.
- The birth narratives are recorded only in Matthew and Luke gospels with different stories around the birth of our Lord Jesus.
- Discovering the purpose of these birth narrative stories in the gospel will help us to see what is God's message for us today.
- The word of God is always encouraging and building us to trust God and His plan for our lives in spite of all the sins around us.
- In these birth narratives we will meet many characters. God wants to teach us through their lives.
- Some people will rejoice at the birth of our Lord but others will try to destroy the Child.
- People who are very close to the Savior will not see Him. But those who are coming from far away places will be given the privilege to see Him.
- Chapter 1 and 2 form a prelude to the Gospel of Matthew. Like a prelude or overture to a music drama, the principal themes are clearly stated.
- Before the curtain even rises on the life of Jesus the evangelist gives an announcement of what the Gospel is all about: Jesus the Christ, Emmanuel of God, has come in fulfillment of the promises God made to Israel, beginning with Abraham. He comes not only as the royal heir of David but with salvation for the whole world.

I Genesis of Jesus Christ

- God is about to begin a new beginning as in the old of Genesis 2:4 through the life and ministry of our Lord Jesus. So, Matthew signals this using the word "Genesis" in the first verse.
- Matthew begins the gospel using **THREE** titles of the Lord Jesus to emphasize who Jesus is to all who know and understand the Hebrew

Bible (a.k.a. the Old Testament)

- The Christ
- The Son of David
- The Son of Abraham
- The story of Jesus' conception and birth (1:18-25) begins and ends with Jesus Christ's name, as does each of the first two chapters.
- Together these chapters explain who Jesus is, where He comes from, and His relationship with God.
- Our Lord Jesus is the *Messiah* (Hebrew) and *Christ* (Greek) both mean *Anointed One*.
- He is the Son of David based on His human ancestral lineage. So, He is the King. He also fulfills the promise given to king David in 2 Samuel 7:12-13.
- Similar expressions like the "shoot or root of Jesse" (Isaiah 11:1, 10) were associated with expectations of a new, anointed Davidic king (a Messiah) to relieve Israel's suffering.
- Matthew uses "son of David" nine times (1:1, 20; 9:27; 12:23; 15:22; 20:30, 31; 21:9, 15), much more than any other NT book.
- He is the Son of Abraham. It means Our Lord Jesus is the TRUE Israel. In Him God fulfills the promise given to Abraham in Genesis 12:3.
- Matthew is saying that in Jesus Christ the promises given to Abraham and to David had come to fulfillment.
- **V2-17 The genealogy of our Lord Jesus**
 - It lists many of the kings of the Israel and Judah. Both good and bad kings are listed as God uses everything to bring His Son into this world as the Savior.
 - Note the four women who are listed to tell that our God can use anyone who puts his/her trust in Him to carry out His plan.
 - Tamar (v3) disguised herself as a prostitute and conceived her sons by Judah, her father-in-law (Genesis 38)
 - Rahab (v5) was a prostitute of Jericho whose life was

spared on account of her collaboration with Joshua's spies (Joshua 2 & 6).

- Ruth (v5) was a Moabite who were enemies of God's people.
- Bathsheba (v6) was the wife of Uriah - she was shamefully used by king David (2 Samuel 11).
- God didn't hide any skeletons in the genealogy closet of our Lord Jesus. Matthew tells us that we should not have to hide the skeletons in our histories or in our own personal lives.
- This genealogy **illustrates God's wonderful grace**. It shows how our Lord Jesus is connected to the history of the OT people.
- In order to understand Jesus, one has to understand the history of what God did amid God's people, preparing the way, centuries before.
- Paul says in Galatians 4:4-7 **But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship**. Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "*Abba, Father.*" So you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.
- The genealogy **shows that we all come to Jesus in the midst of our own histories**.
- It foreshadows what our Lord Jesus will do to **remove all the barriers** between Jews and Gentile, male and female, and the righteous and the unrighteous.
- Note the **three** division of 14 generations to emphasize that our God fulfills all His promises by sending His one and only Son to save us from our sins.
- The names of the first group come from 1 Chronicles 1-2.
- Those in the second group come from 1 Chronicles 3:10-15 with the omission of three unworthy kings (Joash, Amaziah and

Azariah).

- In the OT we have many genealogies listed (Gen 5,). Note that these lists the record of the death. But in the NT it is the birth of a person is emphasized as if the NT gives new life and new family for those who are in this sinful world through the Lord Jesus Christ.
- V6 - Note the title **KING** is mentioned only for David in the geneology.
- In God's point of view Solomon was conceived in the womb of the Uriah's wife, not David.
- V16 - Note that the genealogy calls Joseph the husband of Mary not the father of Jesus. Thus it does not compromise the virgin birth (v18).
- V17 - No matter whatever the effect of the SIN, our God is still in control of all the people whether in exile or not to accomplish His mission on this earth.

II Miraculous Birth of Jesus Christ

- V18 - Note how this verse starts in various translations. The word "Now" or "But" used to contrast how our Lord's birth was different from all the above 40 generations.
- Everyone has a father. But our Lord Jesus was born of an earthly mother without the need of an earthly father. This is known as the doctrine of the virgin birth.
- Jesus' conception without a human father implies that Jesus is God's Son and the Davidic king of the Jews.
- This is because our Lord Jesus, being eternal God (John 1:1, 14), existed before Mary and Joseph or any of His earthly ancestors.
- The OT prophecies concerning the Messiah
 - Gen 3:15 - He would be born of a woman
 - Gen 22:18 - He would be the seed of Abraham
 - Gen 49:10 - He would be from the tribe of Judah
 - 2 sam 7:12-13 - He would be from the family of David.
- **Joseph**

- In the Luke's gospel the annunciation of the birth of Jesus comes to Mary from the angel Gabriel (Luke 1:26-38).
- The annunciation in Matthew comes to Joseph in a dream. In God's economy Joseph had to be the instrument to protect this unborn Child.
- **Note that Matthew never records the words of Joseph. He is a man of obedience to God's word. He is a man of action and trust.**
- V19 - Joseph is mentioned "just" man. That is, he is a law-abiding man or God-honoring man.
- Joseph was loving person who could not understand the things Mary was going through. But showed compassion towards her.
- He didn't take God's word in His word to condemn Mary. But he may have prayed about her situation.
- God always answers to our doubts if we bring all our petitions to Him.
- V20 - Message of Gospel comes to the confused Joseph through an angel of the Lord. Note how the angel address Joseph as the Son of David to emphasize his lineage.
- Note the **FIVE dreams**:
 - 1:20 - Joseph to take Mary as his wife.
 - 2:12 - Magi was warned not to go back to Herod
 - 2:13 - Joseph was commanded to protect the Child and Mary
 - 2:19 - Joseph was commanded to return back to land of Israel.
 - 2:22 - Joseph was warned to return to Nazareth.
- When God comes to our life, He always comes to us with the message "Don't afraid" since we are living in a fallen world among evil people.
- V21 - God gives the courage and expects us to join in His mission. The angel told what Joseph should do. The meaning for the name is important as it reflects the character and destiny

of the child.

- Joseph can't give any name. He obeyed God. We should introduce Jesus and His salvation instead of any wordly methods like yoga, meditation etc.
- **The purpose of our Lord Jesus mission is to bring salvation from sins. That is, Jesus alone can remove all your sins and make you clean.**
 - **Jesus means Salvation from sins (9:2, 10-13; 20:28).**
- How does He bring this salvation from sins will be disclosed on the cross.
- V22-23 - This is the first of **FIVE OT fulfillment of prophecies**: 1:22; 2:17; 2:23; 3:3; and 4:14
- Note the **THREE** names assigned to God's Son.
 - Jesus means Savior. It comes from the Hebrew name Joshua (Yahweh is salvation).
 - Christ means anointed one. Jesus is His human name; Christ is His official title.
 - Immanuel describes who He is - "God with us."
- Matthew saw in the coming of Jesus the complete fulfillment of Isaiah 7:14 (v22). Jesus would be not merely a man acting for God, but God himself dwelling among His people.
- **God had called Joshua to lead His people into the Promised Land. In a similar way, Jesus was the Savior who would lead people out of sin and into God's kingdom.**
- God with us - This is the promise that God gives to us those who trust in the Lord Jesus.
 - 18:20 - For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.
 - 28:20 - ... surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.
- God has said, "**Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.**" So we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?" Remember your leaders, who

spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. - Hebrews 13:4-8

III Joseph – A portrait of a true disciple (A-Z)

Agile (2:13)	Humble (1:19)	Organized	Vigilant (2:22)
Brave (1:24-25)	Implementer	Patient (2:13)	Worshipper
Caring (2:22)	Joyful	Quiet	X - short for Christian
Dependable (1:24)	Kind (1:19)	Responsible(1:24)	Yielding
Excited (1:24)	Loyal (1:19)	Simple	Zealous for the Lord
Finisher (1:25)	Mature (1:25)	Trustworthy	
Godly (1:19)	Nobel	Uniter	

IV Conclusion

- How do you respond today?
 1. Recognize God's voice and obey Him which alone brings blessings to us.
 2. Carry the Lord Jesus (like Mary & Joseph, the shepherds) to others.
 3. Can God trust you to do His work?