MATTHEW’S CHRISTMAS GENEALOGY

During the month of December, we will study the season for reason- “the birth of Jesus Christ.”

Today’s lesson will study four aspects of Mathew’s Christmas Genealogy of the birth of Jesus Christ.

It will prove that Jesus qualified, by birth to be the Messianic Savior of the world.

(Matt.1:16) “And to Jacob was born Joseph the husband of Mary, by whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ.”

1. Matthew’s Christmas genealogy recorded the birth of Jesus Christ by following the orthodox Jewish outline beginning with Abraham (Matt.1:17).

Matt.1:1 used the Greek words of the Septuagint to introduce the genealogy structure of Jesus Christ (biblos genesis).

In Hebrew, it is called (sepher toledoth) “This is the book of the generations of Adam.” (Gen.5:1)

Luke 3:23-38 follows the genealogy of Jesus Christ from Adam. WHY?

(1 Cor.15:22) “For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all shall be made alive.”

(1 John 3:8) “The one who practices sin is the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, that he might destroy the works of the devil.” (2 Cor.11:3)

2. Matthew’s Christmas genealogy is unique for at least the following four reasons.

• First, he divided it into three sections of 14 generations:
  o (Matt.1:1-6a) Abraham to David  [patriarch period]
  o (Matt.1:6b-11) David to the Babylonian Captivity  [monarchy period]
  o (Matt.1:12-16) Babylonian Captivity to birth of Jesus  [priestly period).

• Second, he added five woman to the genealogy of which three were Gentiles (Tamar, Rahab, and Ruth) and Bathsheba and Mary.

• Third, he left out 7 kings from the list of 20.
  o Joram was the 5th and Uzziah was the 10th
    ❌ (Matt.1:8) 4 missing / 5th cycle to north / about 76 years missing).
  o Josiah was 16th and Jeconiah was 19th
    ❌ (Matt.1:11) 3 missing / 5th to south / about 23 years missing).
  o They all were left out of the OT Book of the Genealogy of Christ.

• Fourth, from the Babylonian Captivity to the birth of Jesus,
  o Matthew included the priestly rulers (Matt.1:12-16).
    ❌ This is because of the curse of Coniah (Jeconiah/ 19th king of Judah) recorded in (Jer.22:24-30) The throne of Judah would not be occupied until Christ at His Second Coming).
3. The Greek syntax of Matthew’s Christmas genealogy stands out in Matt. 1:16.

Matthew made four important syntactical changes in Matt.1:16.

- **First**, he put the definite article with the woman subject rather than the male object as in all the others.
  - “the Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus the one called Christ.”
  - This placed the importance upon the virgin birth (Luke 1:34-35; Isa.7:14).

- **Second**, the relative pronoun (hes / hos) plus (ek ablative) is used only with Mary.
  - The other four women, he used ek plus (tes) [definite article].
    - The first four women were pointing to a coming important event.
    - The fifth woman, Mary, is pointing to the EVENT: “the birth of Jesus Christ.”

- **Third**, 39 times the word born or begat was (gennao / aorist ACTIVE indicative).
  - Then in Matt.1:16, it is changed to (aorist PASSIVE indicative).
    - MARY is receiving the action of miraculous conception by Holy Spirit (Luke 1:34-35).

- **Fourth**, an official prophetic messianic title is given to Jesus in Matt.1:16
  - “Jesus, who is called (ho lego / p.p.ptc) Christ.”
    - This was Matthews conclusion based on the overwhelming evidence of the Jewish biblical records.

4. Matthew’s Christmas genealogy of Christ followed the OT genealogy of Christ which was kept in a book called, “The Book of Generation.”

In the Greek Bible, it was translated, “biblos genesis.” In Hebrew, it was translated, “sepher toledoth” (Gen.5:1 and Matt.1:1). This record was kept in the Jewish Temple in the OT Book of Generation.

Moses made reference to this Book during the golden calf incident of Ex.32:30-35. Moses asked that his name be blotted out of it.

- (Ex.32:32) “please blot me out from Thy book which Thou hast written!” (Ps.69:28; Neh.7:5-6, 64)
  - According to Matthew’s Christmas genealogy, God did blot 7 kings from this Book.

With the first coming of Jesus Christ and His death, burial and resurrection, the Book of Generation became The Lambs Book of Life.

- (Rev.21:27b) “Only whose names are written in the Lambs Book of Life.” (Rev.17:8; 13:8; 3:5)
- (Rev.3:5) “He who overcomes shall thus be clothed in white garments; and I will not erase his name from the Book of Life, and I will confess his name before My Father, and before His angels.”
- (Phil.4:3) “Indeed, true comrade, I ask you also to help these women who have shared my struggle in the cause of the gospel, together with Clements also, and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the Book of Life.”

**QUESTION:** Why is Matthew’s Christmas genealogy important? After reading Matt.16:13-16, answer the question, “who do YOU think the Son of Man is?” Do you agree with Peter?

In today’s lesson, we have studied **four reasons for the season** that commemorates the birth of Jesus Christ.