

Sermon outline notes : Jesus through Middle Eastern Eyes Part 11

Matthew 1 vv 1-18 The Genealogy of Jesus

Introduction

We often omit to read these verse as to us they represent a tedious long list of unfamiliar names. But Matthews begins this way and we must ask why does he do this. The answer is that we will not understand fully the story Matthew is about to tell unless we see it in the light of a much longer story which goes back for many centuries but leads up to Jesus.

The Genealogy

- Matthew introduces Jesus as the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham.
- Matthew divides Jewish history into three more or less equal time spans:-
 - Abraham to David.
 - David to the Babylonian Exile.
 - The Exile to Jesus.

Learning from This Genealogy

- (1) Jesus was a 'real Jew'- Genealogies for the Jew are important. Your ancestry was your identity and your status.
- (2) Son of Abraham
 - Abraham in Genesis 12 is given promises by God:-
 - (i) He will have descendants.
 - (ii) Those descendants would be given a land .
 - (iii) Abraham would be the means of blessing for all peoples.
 - The Jews are a particular people but they are a people whose very existence was to bring blessing to the rest of humanity.
 - Jesus, a particular man, with an universal significance. Note that this significance of Jesus emerges in the fact that amongst this long list of Fathers there are four mothers, all of whom are gentiles
- (3) Son of David
 - Jesus was the expected Messiah. Matthew traces Jesus descent through the royal line of Kings descended from David that ruled over Judah. The expectation was that the arrival of the true son of David would coincide with the intervention of God himself to establish his reign.

(c.) **Jesus is the end of the time of preparation.**

- Jesus is the end of time as far as the Old Testament story goes. The preparation is complete—the Messiah has come.

(d.) **Jesus is a new beginning**

- Matthew's gospel opens with the words 'an account of the genesis of Jesus the Messiah'. A Jewish reader would immediately be reminded of Genesis 2v4 ,5v.1.
- Matthew's use of the word 'genesis' is deliberate and we are meant to realise that the arrival of Jesus marks a new beginning– a new creation.

Conclusion

Through the genealogy we see Jesus in the context of Jewish history and yet with the universal significance which was attached to that history through God's promise to Abraham. We see Jesus as the Messianic heir of the line of David. We see him as the end and the beginning. Only when we have such an understanding can we fully appreciate what the gospel writer will tell us.