

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT MBC:

1. Our monthly Prayer Meeting is this Saturday, December 6th at 8:30am in the Multi-Purpose Room. All are welcome to come and pray!
2. All our invited to our annual Christmas Eve service from 5-6pm.
3. Our annual Member's Meeting will be Sunday, December 28th at 6:30pm.
4. To prepare for the preaching of the word on this coming Lord's Day, we would encourage you to meditate on the passage ahead of time. The worship service's sermon will be from Matthew 1:18-25.

WHAT WE BELIEVE: *Of the Way of Salvation* - We believe that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace, through the mediating offices of the Son of God. Jesus Christ, who by the appointment of the Father, freely took upon himself our nature, yet without sin, honored the divine law by his personal obedience, and by his death made a full atonement for our sins. We believe that He was raised from the dead and He is now enthroned in heaven, seated next to the Father, and, uniting in His wonderful person the tender sympathies with divine perfections, He is in every way qualified to be a suitable, compassionate, and an all-sufficient Savior. Eph. 2:5; Matt. 18:11; 1 John 4:10; 1 Cor. 3:5-7; Acts 15:11; John 3:16; 1:1-14; Heb. 4:14; 12:24; Phil. 2:6-7; Heb. 2:9, 14; 2 Cor. 5:21; Isa. 42:21; Phil. 2:8; Gal. 4:4-5; Rom. 3:21; Isa. 53:4-5; Matt. 20:28; Rom. 4:25; 3:21-26; 1 John 4:10; 2:2; 1 Cor. 15:1-3; Heb. 9:13-15; Heb. 1:8, 3; 8:1; Col. 3:1-4; Heb. 7:25; Col. 2:9; Heb. 2:18; 7:26; Psa. 89:19; Psa. 14.

WISDOM: "If Christ had arrived with trumpets and lain in a cradle of gold, his birth would have been a splendid affair. But it would not be a comfort to me. He was rather to lie in the lap of a poor maiden and be thought of little significance in the eyes of the world. Now I can come to him. Now he reveals himself to the miserable in order not to give any impression that he arrives with great power, splendor, wisdom, and aristocratic manners." – Martin Luther

WORD: *"The Promised Messiah"*, Matthew 1:1-17

Suggested questions:

1. Read Matthew 1:1-17. Was there anything that particularly challenged, impacted, or confused you from this Sunday's message?
2. Why is Jesus's ancestry so important? How does it bring hope?
3. Pastor Spencer referred to some of the Messianic Psalms in which David foresees the character and actions of "the Son of David.": Psalm 2, Psalm 22, Psalm 24, Psalm 45, Psalm 72, Psalm 89. Read one of these and discuss what it reveals about the Messiah.

DIGGING DEEPER: Fourteen Generations

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Fourteen Generations

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Jesus' ancestry is traced back through David all the way to Adam in Luke 3:23–38. However, Luke's listing of David's sons is almost entirely different than the one recorded in Matthew 1:1–17. Two different scenarios can explain this discrepancy.

First, Luke may actually be giving us Mary's genealogy without mentioning her name since it was not acceptable back then to include women in such lists. Luke's birth narrative highlights Mary, and Joseph is called Jesus' "supposed" father (3:23). Matthew, on the other hand, gives us Joseph's ancestry.

Or, Matthew could have recorded the throne succession while Luke gives the actual, physical parentage of Jesus. David's throne passed from father to son starting with Solomon (1 Kings 1:28–31). Under levirate marriage laws, a Davidite whose physical forefathers were not heirs to the throne could be adopted into the royal line if the heir by way of natural descent died childless (Deut. 25:5–10). Matthew 1:12, for example, tells us Zerubbabel was Shealtiel's son even though he was Shealtiel's nephew (1 Chron. 3:17–19). Perhaps Shealtiel died without having a son and Zerubbabel was adopted as the royal heir due to a levirate marriage. Maybe the right to David's throne by way of Solomon finally came to Joseph through such marriages even though Jesus' actual physical ancestor was Solomon's brother, Nathan (Luke 3:31).

Matthew 1:17 notes that three sets of fourteen generations separate Abraham and the birth of Jesus Christ — a span of about five hundred years versus the two thousand years that really intervened. It is common for biblical writers to omit names in ancestry lists ("the father of" can refer to a remote ancestor), and the evangelist's focus on "fourteen" is likely intended as an aid for memorization.

Letters were used in place of numerals in the first century, with the Hebrew consonants dalet (d) and waw (w) representing four and six, respectively. David is spelled dwd in Hebrew consonants, which is equivalent to the number fourteen (four plus six plus four). Thus, Matthew's focus on fourteen generations also emphasizes Jesus' kingly role as the Son of David.

We are not yet certain why Matthew's genealogy differs from Luke's, but this ought not cause confusion. Scripture has been proven trustworthy time and again, and differences such as these cannot be contradictions (Heb. 6:18). Thus, our inability to answer every single question about the Bible is nothing to fear. It is not wrong to admit the limitations of our knowledge, for we rest upon and submit to the knowledge of God revealed in His Word.

Matthew 1:1-17

¹The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

²Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, ³and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram, ⁴and Ram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, ⁵and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, ⁶and Jesse the father of David the king.

And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, ⁷and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asaph, ⁸and Asaph the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, ⁹and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, ¹⁰and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josiah, ¹¹and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

¹²And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, ¹³and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, ¹⁴and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, ¹⁵and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, ¹⁶and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ. ¹⁷So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations.