



WEEKLY SERMON

Volume No. 2022 Issue No. 46
December 18, 2022

Sunday December 18, 2022

Pastor David Miklas

Message: "Christmas-2022"

Phone: 717-625-2992

E-mail: pastormiklas@aol.com

Text: Matthew 1:1-17

As we approach the Christmas season, one of the most fantastic passages on the "Cradle, Cross and the Crown" of the Lord Jesus is found in Philippians 2:5-11,

"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: (6) Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: (7) But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: (8) And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. (9) Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: (10) That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; (11) And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

Notice again verse 9, **"Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:..."** Before Christ was born the angel told Joseph exactly what to call Him in Matthew 1:21, **"And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins."** Notice some things about this lovely Name.

1. It is an **EASY** Name. It is pronounced almost the same in every language.
2. It is a **BEAUTIFUL** Name. There are many wonderful names and titles ascribed to Christ throughout the Bible. But the sweetest name of all to every believer is Jesus.

**"Jesus" - O how sweet the name, "Jesus" - every day the same,
"Jesus" - let all saints proclaim its worthy praise forever.**

3. It is a **COMFORTING** Name, for it means, **"Jehovah Saves."** It is the only name under heaven whereby we can, we must, be saved.
4. It is a **MIGHTY** Name. At the Name the demons tremble. Someday every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that "Jesus is Lord."
5. It is an **ENDURING** Name. Born in obscurity 2000 years ago, dying like a criminal at the age of only 33; He has the most well-known name in the world.

The hymn "That Beautiful Name" written by Jean Perry and published in 1916 has found a place in the affections of Christian people everywhere.

**I know of a Name, a beautiful Name,
that angels brought down to earth;
They whispered it low, one night long ago,
to a maiden of lowly birth.**

**I know of a Name, a beautiful Name,
that unto a Babe was given;
The stars glittered bright throughout that glad night,**

and angels praised God in heaven.

The One of that Name my Savior became,
my Savior of Calvary;
My sins nailed Him there; my burdens He bare;
He suffered all this for me.

I love that blest Name, that wonderful Name,
made higher than all in heaven;
'Twas whispered, I know, in my heart long ago,
To Jesus my life I've given.

That beautiful Name, that beautiful Name, from sin has power to free us!
That beautiful Name, that wonderful Name, that matchless Name is Jesus.

Question: “Does The Virgin Birth of Christ make a difference?” In Luke 1:30-35 we read,

“And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. (31) And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. (32) He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: (33) And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end. (34) Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? (35) And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.”

Someone wrote: “The God who brought forth a motherless woman (Eve) from the body of a man (Adam), brought forth a fatherless man (Jesus Christ), from the body of a woman (Mary). There are those who say that it makes no difference whether or not Jesus Christ was Virgin Born. But it makes a profound difference whose Son He is. Only a divine birth could provide divine sonship, and only divine sonship could provide a divine Saviour, and only a divine Saviour could achieve and provide salvation for sinful man.”

We wish you from our home to your home a very **MERRY CHRISTMAS** and a blessed Christ-centered **NEW YEAR** in the Lord during 2023.

Yours because of the **Cradle**, the **Cross**, and the **Crown** of Jesus,

Pastor David Miklas

"The Genealogy of Jesus Christ"

INTRODUCTION: From many vantage points the seriousness of Christmas cannot and should not be overlooked.

FOR many people who revel in "**Christmas Cheer**" this can be an extremely depressing time of the year. They can't handle Christmas emotionally.

FOR others it is an extremely busy time of the year with all the buying of gifts, some 15 billion just in the toy business alone. Some will be purchasing right on up to the zero hour.

FOR the children, unquestionably, it is the most important and exciting time of the year.

It gives them the opportunity to tell you what they want, and woe unto you, if you don't get whatever it is.

Thank goodness, with small children, gifts are inexpensive compared to what they can cost as children get older.

Gifts definitely get more expensive as some of you well know, and others of you will soon find out.

However, from the standpoint of believers, apart from **EASTER** when we gather together to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ, the most joyous and happy time of the year ought to be the **CHRISTMAS** season when we celebrate our Saviour's birth.

There is so much to preach on, it's often difficult for me to sort out, apart from the leading of the Holy Spirit, just what it is that should be emphasized in my messages at Christmas.

Emphasis could be placed on His names - Christ, Jesus, Messiah, Wonderful, Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, or the Prince of Peace, the Son of God, or the Son of Man.

Emphasis could be placed upon the Virgin Birth, or the fulfilled prophecies of His first coming.

I could even preach on the people surrounding our Lord's birth - Mary, Joseph, the Angels, the shepherds, or the Wisemen.

However, setting all those important topics aside, let's look at something a little unusual. I am referring to the genealogy of Jesus Christ, found in the first 17 verses of the 1st chapter of Matthew.

Perhaps you are thinking, "Pastor, you have got to be kidding me. Why preach on this section of scripture? Not only does it seem uninteresting, I can't even pronounce the names listed there, and if I could, I wouldn't know who these people are anyway." In some ways, I would have to agree with you, but remember "**all scripture is significant and all scripture was written for our profit.**"

When the genealogy of Jesus Christ is read, it is not filled with the **OUTSTANDING** citizens of the day. It is filled with the lives of many that have been **TAINTED** with sin.

It is interesting to note that in Matthew's account of Jesus' genealogy four women are mentioned. This is especially interesting because normally the Jews never, ever mentioned the names of women in a genealogy.

Not only are these four women mentioned, but these four women were some of the most NOTORIOUS women found in the Old Testament, because their lives were TAINTED with sin.

In **verse 3** we read, "And Judah begot Perez and Zerah of **TAMAR**..." The first woman

mentioned is **TAMAR** whose sordid story is told in Genesis 38.

In **verse 5** we read, "**And Salmon begot Boaz of RAHAB...**" The second woman mentioned is **RAHAB**. Whenever you hear about her in the Bible, her profession is always attached to her name, "**Rahab the HARLOT.**"

In **verse 5** we read of the third woman, "**and Boaz begot Obed of RUTH...**" Now there is an Old Testament book dedicated to **RUTH**, and even though she was not an immoral woman, she did have a curse that was upon her race, because she was a Moabite.

In **verse 6** we read, "**and David, the king, begot Solomon of her that had been the wife of Uriah.**" Uriah, we recall, was the man that David had killed in battle. Why? Because David, the King, was involved in a love affair with Uriah's wife. Her name was **BATHSHABA**.

There we have the four women - **Tamar**, **Rahab**, **Ruth** and **Bathshaba**, Maybe you are saying:

"Why did God have these women incorporated in the earthly family of the Lord Jesus Christ? Why these women, why not several of the godly women mentioned in the Old Testament?"

Please go back to verse 3 where **TAMAR** is mentioned. Her bleak life story is found in Genesis 38:

Upon the death of this woman's husband, she decided to go to another city and disguise herself as a prostitute, seeking to seduce men unto herself. Along came her own father-in-law, and he not knowing it was her, he allowed her to seduce him into sexual relations with her. Tamar later slipped back, un-noticed to her home. Then after being discovered pregnant, they wanted to take and stone her, where upon she revealed the father of the child was her father-in-law, Judah.

Like we said, Genesis 38 is a chapter of immorality and shame, and yet **TAMAR** is listed in the line of the Son of God.

Again in verse 6 we read, "**...and David, the king, begot Solomon of her that had been the wife of Uriah.**" Now the bleak chapter that speaks of this affair between David and **Bathsheba** is found in II Samuel 11:

Remember David, the King, spotted Bathsheba bathing, lusted after her, brought her into his home, and became involved in an adulterous relationship with her. Upon learning she was pregnant; David came up with a plot to kill Bathsheba's husband. Uriah the husband, being a soldier, was ordered into the fore-front of battle and was killed. The child was born, but it soon died.

Here again is a chapter of shame of immorality, and yet this woman is listed in the genealogy of Jesus Christ, having later given birth to Solomon, the king, from whom Joseph would come.

In between **TAMAR** of Genesis 38 and **BATHSHEBA**, the mistress of David, of II Samuel 11, **RAHAB** the harlot is found in Joshua 2. She too is included in the genealogy of Jesus Christ.

Now lest we be too hard on the women, we had better pause and consider the lives of some of the men recorded in this same passage of Matthew 1.

In **verse 2** the great patriarch **ABRAHAM** is mentioned. He might have been called, "**a friend of God.**" However, he wasn't sinless, because he lied about his wife being his sister, not once but twice!

In **verse 2** **JACOB** is also listed. The bleak chapter in his life is found in Genesis 27. Recall

how he lied to his aged and blind father, Isaac, by telling him that he was his brother, **ESAU**. As a result Isaac poured out all his blessing upon the "**schemer Jacob**."

In **verses 6-7** these lying men and immoral women lead to even deeper sin by **SOLOMON**. Here we have the wisest and richest man that ever lived, and yet when we turn to I Kings 11 we find the bleak chapter in Solomon's life. Holding your place in Matthew 1 please turn with me to I Kings and notice verses 1-8,

"But king Solomon loved many strange women, together with the daughter of Pharaoh, women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Zidonians, and Hittites; (2) Of the nations concerning which the LORD said unto the children of Israel, Ye shall not go in to them, neither shall they come in unto you: for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods: Solomon clave unto these in love. (3) And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines: and his wives turned away his heart. (4) For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God, as was the heart of David his father. (5) For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Zidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites. (6) And Solomon did evil in the sight of the LORD, and went not fully after the LORD, as did David his father. (7) Then did Solomon build an high place for Chemosh, the abomination of Moab, in the hill that is before Jerusalem, and for Molech, the abomination of the children of Ammon. (8) And likewise did he for all his strange wives, which burnt incense and sacrificed unto their gods. (9) And the LORD was angry with Solomon, because his heart was turned from the LORD God of Israel, which had appeared unto him twice, (10) And had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods: but he kept not that which the LORD commanded. (11) Wherefore the LORD said unto Solomon, Forasmuch as this is done of thee, and thou hast not kept my covenant and my statutes, which I have commanded thee, I will surely rend the kingdom from thee, and will give it to thy servant."

In these verses we find Solomon forsaking God, disobeying the revealed will of God, and involved in evil practices. Yet in Matthew 1 we find his name linked to the birth of Jesus Christ.

Now returning to Matthew 1 **verse 11** a very interesting man is mentioned by the name of **JECHONIAS**. Again holding your place in Matthew 1 and turning to Jeremiah 22:24-30 we read,

"As I live, saith the LORD, though Coniah the son of Jehoiakim king of Judah were the signet upon my right hand, yet would I pluck thee thence; (25) And I will give thee into the hand of them that seek thy life, and into the hand of them whose face thou fearest, even into the hand of Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon, and into the hand of the Chaldeans. (26) And I will cast thee out, and thy mother that bare thee, into another country, where ye were not born; and there shall ye die. (27) But to the land whereunto they desire to return, thither shall they not return. (28) Is this man Coniah a despised broken idol? is he a vessel wherein is no pleasure? wherefore are they cast out, he and his seed, and are cast into a land which they know not? (29) O earth, earth, earth, hear the word of the LORD. (30) Thus saith the LORD, Write ye this man childless, a man that shall not prosper in his days: for no man of his seed shall prosper, sitting upon the throne of David, and ruling any more in Judah."

You'll notice in this passage this man who is called **CONIAH**, has a curse pronounced upon him and his entire family line. Here it is predicted that none of his seed should sit upon the throne of David. Yet in Matthew 1 we find Jesus Christ tracing his earthly genealogy right back to this man, **JECONIAH**.

Now, if this is true that no seed from **JECHONIAS** should ever sit upon the throne of David, then why is it that:

In Psalm 10:16 we read, "The Lord is king for ever and ever..." and
In Matthew 2:2 the Wisemen ask, "Where is He that is born, KING OF THE JEWS?" and

In Matthew 27:37 at the Lord's crucifixion, the sign nailed on the cross said, "This is Jesus of Nazareth, the KING OF THE JEWS." and

In Revelation 19:16 it says that one day Jesus is coming back, and he will be crowned as the "KING OF KINGS and the LORD OF LORDS"?

If Jesus came from the seed of Joseph, then He has no right to be king. However, returning to Matthew 1 we will notice Jesus is not the product of Joseph's seed, but that of the Holy Spirit and Mary. Jesus was **VIRGIN BORN!**

In **verse 16** we read, "And Jacob begot Joseph (legal father of Jesus), the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ." The phrase "of whom was born Jesus" being in the feminine gender refers back to Mary not to Joseph, meaning Jesus came from Mary not from Joseph.

Again holding your place in Matthew 1, turn to **Luke 1:31-35** where we read the Angel's announcement of the birth of Christ to Mary.

"And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. (32) He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: (33) And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end. (34) Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? (35) And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God."

How will Jesus reign over the Throne of David? Jesus was able to claim the right to the **THRONE OF DAVID**, because:

In the genealogy of Matthew 1 we have His lineage traced back from JOSEPH to David the king through his son Solomon.

In the genealogy of Luke 3 His lineage is traced back from MARY to David through his son Nathan.

Now since Jesus came from **DAVID** through **NATHAN** to **MARY**, which is the blood line of **ROYALTY**, Jesus could legally sit on the Throne of David as King of the Jews and subsequently forever as King of Kings!

O how significant are even these details to the birth of Jesus Christ. If these genealogies of Joseph and Mary had been reversed or had Jesus been born of Joseph's seed, Jesus could not have been, nor ever be, the Kings of the Jews, let alone our Saviour.

Now back to the original question. Why did God choose these women, and these men to be included in the earthly family of His Son? Please allow me to answer that question with another question, "What kind of people do you believe God should have had in the genealogy of Jesus Christ?"

Perhaps you are thinking that God should have included only moral, upright and honest people in His genealogy.

But you know, if righteousness was the criteria, **NO ONE**, **NO ONE** from Adam all the way down to Mary herself, would qualify. In fact, **NO ONE** even in this church this morning would qualify as sinless.

NO ONE could begin to qualify because:

In Romans 3:23 we read, "...all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."

In Romans 3:10 we read "There is none righteous, no not one."

In Jeremiah 17:9 we read, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?"

So why did God choose these women? Why did God choose these men and include them in the earthly family of His Son? The answer is recorded for us in the angel's announcement to Joseph following the birth of Jesus in Matthew 1:21, "...**thou shalt call His name Jesus: for he shalt save his people from their sins.**" Reading that, we need to ask ourselves what kind of sins are we talking about? Well, in this genealogy we have:

**The sins of adultery, The sins of immorality,
The sins of murder, and The sins of lying.**

From all kinds of sins Jesus came to save us. There is a song that goes like this:

**Sinners Jesus will receive, Sound that word of Grace to all.
Sing it over and over again, Christ receiveth sinful men.
Make the message clear and plain, Christ receiveth sinful men.**

His genealogy attests to that fact, Jesus came to save and receive sinners unto Himself. Maybe you are sitting here this morning and saying, "**I don't put myself into that category.**" If you don't put yourself in that category, then according to scripture, you can never be born into the family of God, because Jesus came not to call the righteous but rather to call sinners of which we all are.

Now what makes the inclusion of these women meaningful and how Christ can actually and rightfully receive us into his family is spelled out in verse 5 with **RAHAB** and **RUTH**.

RUTH was not an immoral woman. Actually, she was a very moral, upright woman, but there was a divine curse upon her, as she was from the nation of Moab. In Deuteronomy 23:3 we read that a "**...Moabite shall not enter into the congregation of the Lord forever...**" Ruth, according to Ruth 1:4, was a Moabite and yet she was listed in the genealogy of Jesus Christ. How could that be?

From the very tender account of the book that bears her name, **RUTH**, we discover how she was drawn into the blessing of God.

Ruth married a very prominent, wealthy, humble man by the name of Boaz. As a result of that marriage, Ruth became a recipient of the blessing of God because of the merits of Boaz.

Now all across this land, whether in churches or out of churches, people are saying:

**I am a good person.
I am OK, I am a decent person.
I am not like David, I have never murdered anyone.
I am not like Rahab, I am not an immoral woman.
I am not like Abraham or Jacob, I am not a liar.**

Yet there is no one who **cannot** say with the Psalmist David, "**in sin did my mother conceive me.**" Ruth just like all of us was born disqualified, and every single individual born into this world is born disqualified from the **blessings** of God, the **peace** of God and the **hope** of heaven, because we have been born in sin.

But there came along the great Bethlehemite, Jesus Christ. He loved us and took upon Himself our sin, and He died to pay the full penalty of our sins with His blood. When we yield to that love and receive by faith the work of Christ as our Savior, we then have the right to be in the family of God. As we read in John 1:12, "**But as many as receive Him, to them gave He the power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name.**"

We possess nothing that has made us worthy to belong in the family of God, but upon

the merits of Jesus Christ, we have a right to be in this eternal family.

My friend, let me tell you, no matter what your view of Christmas may be, WITHOUT JESUS CHRIST YOU DON'T HAVE A CHANCE OF GOING TO HEAVEN. Written upon a pencil with an eraser on both ends were these words, "Life without Jesus Christ is like this pencil, THERE IS NO POINT TO IT! Christmas without Christ, there is no point to it. Life on this earth without Christ, there is no point to it.

If you haven't accepted Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour, without Him you haven't a ghost of a chance. The moment you die, you will slip straight into the pit of hell. You will have nothing with which to stand before God as "all of our righteousness are as filthy rags" in the sight of God. But with Christ you shall stand before God, not only on your merit but upon His.

Notice with me the last person's name mentioned in verse 5, **RAHAB**. When she is mentioned in the Three New Testament passages of **Matthew 1:5**, **James 2:25** and **Hebrews 11:31**, she is always referred to as "Rahab the Harlot." Her story is given in Joshua 2. At great risk to herself, Rahab hid the spies sent by Joshua, She asked them if they could spare her life when the city of Jericho was attacked by the Israelites. The spies instructed her to take a "Scarlet Cord" and hang it out the window, and then she and all in her house would be spared.

Now it seems God takes great delight in referring to that story over and over again. Why? Because that "Scarlet Cord" is symbolic of the blood of Jesus Christ. And the only way we can be spared from the wrath of God is by confession in the shed blood of Jesus Christ.

In Romans 3:23 we read, "For all have sinned.." then in verse 24-25 we read, "Being justified...though the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation (covering) through faith in His blood.."

This "Scarlet Cord" was a sign, a blood sign to save the household of Rahab.

Now in Luke 2:12 we read of another sign connected to the birth of Christ. "And this shall be a sign unto you: Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes" I can't prove this, but very possibly the color of this cloth was scarlet, as Jesus came into this world to save sinners. And the only way he would be able to do that would be by His shed blood. If this is true then the sign of the red cloth signified that a Saviour was born, as

Luke 2:11 tells us, "For unto you is born, a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord."

In Matthew 1:21 we read, "thou shall call His name JESUS: for He shall save His people from their sins."

In I Timothy 1:15 we read, "This is a faithful saying...that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners..."

Why the inclusion of these sinful people in the genealogy of Christ? Because Jesus came into this sin filled world to save sinners like you and me. Ask yourself:

If you have ever been born again by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ?

If you this moment have the hope of Heaven, the hope of Eternal life?

If there was ever a day, or a place, or a time that you came to Jesus and confessed Him as Saviour?

If not, I urge you to do it today.

Don't leave here without Jesus as your Saviour, or else **YOU WILL MISS WHAT CHRISTMAS IS ALL ABOUT.**

If God has spoken to your heart after reading the sermon, "**The Genealogy of Jesus Christ**," right now talk to God about what He has spoken to you.

Do you have the assurance that one day you will go to heaven? If you have no assurance that you know Jesus Christ, then I trust you will decide to accept Him as your personal Savior. The Bible tells us in

Acts 16:31, “**...Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved...**”

Romans 10:13, “**For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.**”

This prayer is here for those who need to ask Jesus to be their personal Savior: “**I do want to go to Heaven. I know I am a sinner, and I do believe Jesus Christ died for me. I realize I cannot buy this great salvation, nor can I earn it. Knowing Jesus died on the cross and arose from the grave to pay my sin debt and to purchase my salvation, I do now trust Him as my Savior, and from this moment on I am completely depending on Him for my salvation.**”

If you made the decision to accept Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, please let me know. Please send an e-mail to pastormiklas@aol.com and I will send you some literature that will help you in your Christian life.

The “**Weekly SERMON**” was sent as a ministry of Bible Baptist Ministry, 14 United Zion Circle, Lititz, PA 17543. Our Privacy policy ensures that your e-mail address will not be sold, or shared with any third party.

PLEASE TAKE NOTE OF THE FOLLOWING PERMISSION TO COPY: The “**Weekly SERMON**” is reproduced in several formats, therefore, in its original form, without any changes, the “**Weekly SERMON**” may be copied and re-transmitted by electronic mail, and copies may be printed for individual or ministry purposes, provided that such copying, re-transmission, printing, or other use is not for profit or other commercial purpose. Any copying, re-transmission, distribution, printing, or other use of the “**Weekly SERMON**” must set forth in full the heading that is given before each “**Weekly SERMON.**” Any other request for use, please contact Bible Baptist Ministries at pastormiklas@aol.com or by phone at **717-625-2992**.