

The Greatest Story (Part 37):

The King Has Come

Matthew 1:1-17

Memory Verses: Matthew 1:21

MANUSCRIPT

Introduction (Me, We, & the Struggle)

****4 minutes of silence**** That was four minutes of silence. During that time I'm sure some of you were wondering what was going on. You came this morning expecting to here a message but the pastor is just standing there doing nothing. You came to hear a word from the Lord but now all you hear is silence. The longer I just stood here the more uncomfortable it became. You started shifting in your seats... your mind started wondering... and because of this some of you started to focus on things other than hearing from God.

Now... if that is what four minutes of silence does to us here this morning... I wonder what four hundred years felt like. Four hundred years. That is how many years God was silent. Four hundred years since God spoke through the prophet Malachi and promised that the King would be coming.

Put yourself in their shoes this morning. How would you feel concerning this coming King when the last thing you heard about him was 400 years ago. The last Holy Spirit anointed word that was uttered and put to pen was delivered 400 years ago and the prophecy that was given had yet to come to fruition. Is it possible that you may have become uncomfortable, unfocused, and perhaps a bit disillusioned? Well I've got good news this morning. The King has come!

This morning I want to walk us through the first 17 verses of the New Testament. That's right... we finally made it. We are finally in the New Testament... and what I want us to see this morning is the important players mentioned here and their contribution to this story. You will see the anticipation for the coming king build to a crescendo, and just when it seems that all hope has been lost and God has gone silent... Boom Jesus is born. I want you to know this morning that the prophecies are true... that every picture of the coming King in the Old Testament has been fulfilled in the birth of Jesus Christ; God with us! **"Just When You Thought All Hope Was Gone; The King Has Come."**

So let us first look at *Matthew 1:1-17* and see what God is showing us about this King and then as we close today I want us to worship God as we place our trust in this King and spend some time this morning as we continue to pray and fast in concentrated prayer.

Teaching (Expand on the Problem, God)

Before we get into this passage I want you to understand something clearly. One of the main purposes of our church participating in Year of the Bible is so that we can immerse ourselves in the Word of God and fall in love with reading the word everyday, memorizing scripture, and studying the Bible to see how it applies to our everyday lives. But secondly, and perhaps even more importantly... we are doing this so that each and everyone of you who claims to be Christian can adequately tell the story of Christ's redemption of mankind all the way from the fall in the garden to the salvation offered through Christ culminating in the glorification of the church. If you are a believer then you should be able to tell this story. Each and every week for the past 8 months we have been telling this story, most weeks even recapping the whole thing. Some of you have said... "why do you recap the whole story so often." Well, I've been told that it takes me saying something over a dozen times to you in order for you to get it... and I want you to get this. So... **Can You Tell The Story of the King Who Has Come?** I want you to get this... study the timeline, understand the chronology because **One of the purposes of YoTB is so that we can all tell the whole story of the Gospel clearly and concisely.**

Now... lets start reading in *Matthew 1:1* and once again recap this story through the genealogy of Jesus. It says, "The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ. A few things to notice here off the bat. First, in greek genealogy is the word genesis which of course harkens back to the very first book of the Old Testament. Here we see that Jesus is the fulfillment of the Old Testament. Secondly, we see that he, Jesus, is the Christ. Christ is not Jesus' last name, it is his title. Christ means anointed one; Messiah. This title here is telling us from the first verse of the New Testament that the 400 year wait is over... Jesus is the Christ; the King has come. He is the son promised to Abraham whom through the whole world would be blessed and he is the son promised to David who would reign on the throne forever.

So in verse 1 Jesus is declared the Christ... which means that starting in verse 2 we are identified with the Characters of his genealogy. In other words, our lives reflect the sinful people which Christ came to save. Look in **verse 2**. We see Abraham, a man of imperfect faith. Yes he had faith, in fact a greater faith than most, but his faith in God's covenant promises were not enough to keep him from taking matters into his own hands as he slept with his wife's handmaiden in order to conceive Ishmael who was not the promised son. Still, Abraham is redeemed through his continued faith in God's provision as he willing offered up his son Isaac as a sacrifice only to have God stay his hand and provide a lamb foreshadowing the coming Christ.

Also in verse 2 we see Isaac, a man with questionable convictions as

he lies about Rebecca being his sister instead of his wife and almost subjugates her to adultery... just like his father Abraham had previously done with Sarah.

And then we see Jacob, a man of contention. A man who willing stole his brothers birthright and blessing. A man who struggled with his uncle Laban for the right to marry his daughters and keep his wealth. A man who actually wrestled with God demanding a blessing. And a man who was unable to keep his family from falling apart. These are the patriarch's of our faith and even they were far from perfect people.

Next in **verse 3** we see Judah; a man of dubious family values. First he helps sell his brother Joseph into slavery and then later in life he is unwilling to find a husband for his widowed daughter in law; Tamar. Tamar takes matters into her own hands and disguises herself as a prostitute who Judah sleeps with. This story is jacked up... but it just goes to show that so are we.

Now skip down to **verse 4** where we see a man named Nahshon. Now we haven't read much about Nahshon and unless you are very keen you won't remember the few times he's mentioned in Exodus and Numbers. Nahshon was a man of courage and cowardice. According to Jewish tradition he was the first one to step into the red sea's parted waters but he was also the cousin of Caleb when Caleb went to spy out the land. When Caleb came back he did not support Caleb's plan to enter into the promised land and because of this sin he died in the wilderness.

Skip on down to **verse 5** where we see Rahab the prostitute. Even though she was an adulterous woman... she had faith in God and saved the spies in Jericho. Rahab is 1 of only 5 women mentioned in this genealogy; 4 of which are foreigners with questionable backgrounds. Why does God put women in this genealogy when women weren't supposed to be mentioned? And why mention these foreign gentiles who were looked down upon? And why mention women with questionable pasts? Simple... God is showing us that no matter your background, gender, or race... God wants to save you, adopt you, and use you to finish his story.

Also in verse 5 we find Boaz and Ruth. Boaz was Ruth's kinsmen redeemer who is a picture of Christ as our redeemer. The story is coming clearer and clearer. One day there is coming through this lineage a King who will become Abraham's lamb and Ruth's redeemer.

In **verse 6** we finally get to David; a man who walked after God and stumbled. He was very faithful to God but also even to his enemy Saul, declaring that he would not lift up his hand against the Lord's anointed. But later in life that faith faltered as he lost sight of God and committed adultery and murder. But his real legacy is that he repented and remained a man after God's heart.

Also in verse 6 we see Solomon who was the wisest man who ever lived... and yet he was fooled into a lifestyle of adultery and idolatry. It was because of his sin that the kingdom was split in half.

In **verse 7** we see Rehoboam, Solomon's son who was a man of unwise counsel. Instead of listening to wise elders he listened to his arrogant peers and made a decision to increase the taxes of the people... this decision split the kingdom once and for all.

Now lets read **verses 8 & 9** and in verse 9 we see King Uzziah; a man of God and pride. For the most part he was a king who loved God and served him but at the end of his life he wanted to be like the priests and offered incense on the altar of incense and because of this God struck him with leprosy.

In **verse 10** we see Hezekiah; a man of God and an unwise alliance. He also loved God but at the end of his life he trusted in an alliance with Babylon which caused his kingdom to one day be conquered by Babylon.

In **verse 11** we see Josiah; a man who found the law and brought revival to his nation. A man who sought God his whole reign. A man who found the law and trusted in it's promises of the coming King.

In **verse 12** we see Zerubbabel who we know rebuilt the temple. A man after God's glory who knew that rebuilt temple symbolized the coming of the King.

And we finish by reading **verses 13-16** where in verse 16 we see Joseph and Mary. Joseph; a lowly carpenter who wanted to divorce his wife, and Mary; a woman of faith and favor. Mary is in fact proof that God is more of a feminist than anyone would've guessed. You see Jesus was born of woman.. not man. Joseph is not his blood but Mary is. So...the only human link we have to Christ is through a woman. Look at our memory verse... **Mt 1:21 - She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.**... This gives Jesus his divine parentage and his human parentage making him 100% God and 100% man.

We finish in **verse 17** which recaps the genealogy and shows us the perfection of God through the use of the number 14, a divisible of 7. But hopefully you have seen that the biggest takeaway here is how God uses imperfect people to bring about his perfect will. If anything... **The Genealogy of Jesus serves as a small reminder that Christ can save and use anyone for his glory; not matter their background, gender, race, or what sins they have committed.** You say, well some had stories while others didn't... you didn't even mention anyone from verses 13-15 and you're right. Why? Because we don't know their stories, because that was during the 400 years of silence. Their story; Azor, Zadok, Eleazar, Matthan is the story of a lingering hope. Would the line of kings be remade... would the Christ ever come. And now we know... He Has Come. **Just When You Thought All Hope Was Gone; The King Has Come**

So... **Do You Personally Know the King Who Has Come?** The genealogy shows us that God wants us to be a part of his story.. but it also shows us that Jesus is a real historical person. Fake people don't have genealogies. **The genealogy of Jesus serves to show us that he is real and came from a real place**. The people had no doubt started to believe that the Messiah was mere legend... now he was here in the flesh. So... **the question is no longer has he come, but will you come to him?** I don't know where you are this morning but I do know where Christ is... he is alive and ready to change your life. You may have come in here this morning on your last leg ready to give up all hope. But I want you to know there is a hope this morning and that hope is that the King has come. **Just When You Thought All Hope Was Gone; The King Has Come.**

Application (Resolution, You)

If you have not yet come to Christ Today is the Day of salvation. While we sing this song would you come and repent and turn your life over to the king who has come. **Song of reflection**

Today is a day of fasting and prayer for our church. Why do we fast? Well, we fast as a means of focusing on the King who has come. Fasting doesn't make us more spiritual or more favored. In fact, fasting isn't about that. It isn't for God but for us... as a means to refocus on what's most important. That's why we fast food... a vital thing for our livelihood. We need bread to live on but there is something that we need more than bread... we need the bread of life which is Jesus Christ. You see... Christ is more important than food. So fasting places our dependence and hope in the right place. Fasting says... we have no hope but Jesus. That's why we say... **Just When You Thought All Hope Was Gone; The King Has Come**... because Christ is our hope... and nothing else.

Conclusion

So this morning we are going to spend the rest of our time in Prayer and Worship.

A Prayer of repentance

- Repentance from the sins of our nation
- Repentance from the sins of our church
- Repentance from our personal sins

A Prayer of revival.

- Revive our hearts to yearn for Christ
- Refocus us on our vision of depending, reaching, and being transformed
- Relaunch our church to see the lost saved and Christ glorified