

sermon study guide

Speaker: Pastor Ashwin Ramani

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Sermon Title: Revealing Jesus – Matthew Series: Part 1

PURSUE RELATIONSHIP: Opportunities to connect and pray as a group

1. Where are your ancestors from? What interesting people or events do you recall from your family tree?
2. Pastor Ashwin said, “History is not a random flow of events – but God is orchestrating his plan that He thought through even before the foundations of the world were laid.” In what ways does this thought challenge you? Comfort you?

PURSUE GOD: Time that is devoted to the Word of God

Read Matthew 1:1-17 (see link on the right for audio reading)

3. How would you respond to someone who asked, “Is the Old Testament even relevant? What does it have to do with the New Testament?”
4. Why do you think some women were named in Jesus’ genealogy when it was not the Jewish custom to include women’s names in genealogies? What do their “questionable” backgrounds say about God’s promises being fulfilled through imperfection?

PURSUE MISSION: Seek to be the community of God’s people in your community

Read Gen 12:1-3; 2 Sam 7:12-13

5. How do the titles ‘son of Abraham’ and ‘son of David’ (Matthew 1:1) along with the genealogy demonstrate that in Jesus, Old Testament prophecy is fulfilled?

Read Matthew 28:18-20

6. What part does the Great Commission play in the fulfillment of the Abrahamic and Davidic covenants? How will you respond to this Commission in the coming season?

For Personal Reflection/Prayer:

Pastor Ashwin said, “Jesus specializes in taking what is broken and worthless and turning it into something of great value.” How has God used even the brokenness, difficulties, and dysfunctions in your life and the life of your family to bring you closer to him and make you more like him? Remind yourself of God’s promises and pray that his purposes will be fulfilled in your life.

THE WORD (NIV)

Matthew 1:1-17 (*listen to an online reading here:* <https://www.biblegateway.com/audio/purevoice/niv/Matt.1>)

Gen 12:1-3

The Lord had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you.

² “I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you;

I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.

³ I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”

2 Sam 7:12-13

¹² When your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³ He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

Matt 28:18-20

¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

This week’s writers: Gene and Karen Gibbs, Deb Matiko, Edi Dygert and Jared Harrison

sermon study summary

Revealing Jesus

Matthew 1:1-17

Pastor Ashwin Ramani

The Gospel of Matthew connects the story of Israel in the Old Testament to the story of Jesus in the New. The whole of the Bible is the continuation of a single story where the aspirations and longings found in the Old are seen fulfilled in Christ in the New. God was a promise keeper then. He is a promise keeper to us today. Knowing Jesus should be our foremost passion.

Matthew immediately reveals Jesus via a genealogy that spans two millennia. To a Jewish audience, a genealogy was like catnip to them - Jesus' ancestry would immediately get their attention and interest. Today we present qualifications and experience in our resume. In Jesus' day, family roots gave one credibility. In the time leading up to the New Testament, Messianic expectations rose to a fever pitch. Matthew spoke into this by pointing to Jesus' ancestry. It tells us that Jesus entered history in God's appointed timeline which He planned before the world began. What is true of history is true of our individual lives. God has a plan for your life and is carefully unfolding that plan even now.

Each name in Matthew 1:1-17 was part of Jesus' genealogy. In every family tree, there are those who were influential and famous and those who were infamous. Two figures stand out. Abraham and David. Each was given a 'covenant'. Abraham was told that from him God was going to bless every nation. It encapsulated the purposes of God throughout history. In spite of their becoming increasingly self-centred, God fulfilled this covenant through Jesus. God's covenant with David was unconditional. A son of David would establish an everlasting Kingdom. After 400 years of silence with no words from God or a king on the throne, the Israelites wondered if this would come to pass (Ps 89:3-4). Matthew answered that question: God kept His word through Jesus.

Matthew gives us a look at not only the credentials of the King but also an insight into the nature of His Kingdom. Included in the genealogy are the names of five controversial women: Tamar (a Canaanite woman who slept with her father-in-law), Rahab (a Canaanite prostitute), Ruth (a Moabite), Bathsheba (Uriah's wife whom David stole) and Mary (found to be pregnant before marriage). Many of the men in Matthew's genealogy were equally broken. Jesus came out of this flawed, dysfunctional family. Jesus is the redeemer who takes what is broken and worthless and turns it into something of great value. He did it then. He does it now, bringing us broken people into His family tree (1 Tim 1:15)

Matthew ends his Gospel with the Great Commission (Matt 28:18-19). All authority is given to Jesus. Go and make disciples of all nations. Promise fulfilled. The promise of the ages was to send a Savior who comes to all who acknowledge their need for Him and trust in Him and invites them to be a part of His spiritual family. It is all about God's faithfulness to His promises to His people, both then and now.