

ADVENT 2015



CHRIST COMMUNITY
CHURCH
Changed Hearts. Changed Lives. Changed Community.

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

Matthew 1:1

The opening sentence of the Gospel According to Matthew contains an eternity's worth of theology concerning Jesus. This sentence not only introduces the genealogy that follows but declares the whole purpose of Matthew's Gospel. The Greek word translated "genealogy" could also be translated as "origin" or "genesis" which calls the story of Creation in Genesis 2 to mind.¹ The Gospel According Matthew tells the story of the origin or genesis of a new creation in and through the person and work of Jesus Christ, the King who has come to establish His Kingdom.

In addition to His name, Jesus receives 3 very important titles which all together reveal the reason for His coming. The name Jesus is the Greek version of the Hebrew name Joshua which means "Yahweh saves."² By name alone, the advent of Jesus proclaims the presence of the covenant Lord come to faithfully fulfill His promises of salvation for His people. The term Christ calls to mind for Matthew's Jewish audience visions of the Messiah or Anointed One as promised throughout the Old Testament (see **Daniel 9** for example). Daniel M. Doriani writes, "The title "Christ" signifies a man who is anointed with oil to consecrate him for a special office. He is commissioned by God for a special task. It is vital that we let God define what that task is."³ Many believed that the Christ to come would at long last deliver the people of God from the oppression and tyranny of earthly kings. Yet, God wants more for His people than just an earthly deliverance. He longs to be Immanuel, God with us, so that we can worship unhindered in eternal joy and peace in His presence.

To be called son of David and son of Abraham carries the whole of this covenantal freight. As the son of David, Jesus fulfills God's promise in **2 Samuel 7:16** of an eternal Davidic King who will rule with wisdom, power, mercy, grace, and justice. As the son of Abraham, Jesus

¹ R.T. France, *The Gospel of Matthew. The New International Commentary on the New Testament* (Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2007), 26–29. The same Greek word is used in **Genesis 2:4** in the Greek translation of the Old Testament (the Septuagint) to tell the story of the origin or genesis of Creation.

² D.A. Carson, "Matthew" in *The Expositor's Bible Commentary, Vol. 8: Matthew, Mark, Luke*, ed. by Frank E. Gabelein (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 2007), 75–76.

³ Daniel M. Doriani, *Matthew, Volume 1: Chapters 1–13* (Phillipsburg, P&R Publishing, 2008), 8.



fulfills God's promise of an eternal kingdom in **Genesis 12:1-3** and **17:6-8** in which every tongue, tribe, and nation will be represented and blessed. Matthew declares simply and emphatically that Jesus Christ has come to save God's people from the greatest tyranny of all, sin and death. Further, he declares simply and emphatically that Jesus has come to reign eternally as king of a diverse kingdom that will never fail. The Advent of Jesus Christ is the story of a new beginning and a new creation for God's people.

The purpose of this Advent Series and devotional is to help each of us grow in our understanding and faith in God's faithfulness to His redemptive promises to His people as revealed in the first coming of Christ. The first two chapters of Matthew will serve as our primary source material granting a unique perspective from among the Gospel writers. We will also engage a number of other texts in support of the key concepts discovered in Matthew to help us see the breadth, depth, and covenantal richness of each.

This devotional is designed for daily reflection and response so as to saturate our minds and hearts with the beauty of the Christ King who has come to establish His wonderfully diverse Kingdom for the glory of our faithful covenant God. The readings and questions lend themselves to family or group discussion though personal reflection is also encouraged. At the end of each week, there is a hymn for you to consider in preparation for worship. Read the words slowly and consider their weight and meaning. The familiarity of these hymns often causes a measure of blindness and deafness to their rich spiritual depth. We will sing some version of each of them in worship in hopes that our preparation will enhance their value to us. May we all grow together in our love for our faithful covenant God who sent Jesus, the Messiah and the eternal Davidic King to establish an unfailing Kingdom through the salvation of His people from every tongue, tribe, and nation! May we all grow in our desire to participate in the growth of this Kingdom through the proclamation of and display in deed of Jesus, the incarnation of the God who saves us and dwells with us!

Sub Deo Gloria!

SERMON SCHEDULE

	SUNDAY, 11/29	SUNDAY, 12/6	SUNDAY, 12/13	SUNDAY, 12/20
CALL TO WORSHIP	<i>Psalms 47</i>	<i>Psalms 46</i>	<i>Psalms 22:22-31</i>	<i>Psalms 2</i>
FAMILY READING	<i>Jeremiah 23:5-6</i>	<i>Isaiah 7:10-14</i>	<i>Mark 5:2-6</i>	<i>Jeremiah 31:10-17</i>
ASSURANCE OF PARDON	<i>Hebrews 1:1-4</i>	<i>Hebrews 2:14-18</i>	<i>Hebrews 10:19-25</i>	<i>Hebrews 13:12-16</i>
SERMON TEXT	<i>Matthew 1:1-17</i>	<i>Matthew 1:18-25</i>	<i>Matthew 2:1-12</i>	<i>Matthew 2:13-23</i>
COMMUNION				
BENEDICTION	<i>Ephesians 1:3-10</i>	<i>Ephesians 2:1-7</i>	<i>Ephesians 2:11-16</i>	<i>Ephesians 3:14-21</i>

Matthew 1:1-17: A Genealogy of God's Faithful Promises

...Matthew's genealogy is a work of theological craftsmanship more than it is a simple historical list. It is not only genealogy, it is theology; it is not only archive, it is doctrine; it is not only history, it is a sermon.

FREDERICK DALE BRUNER

Matthew. A Commentary: Volume 1: The Christbook, Matthew 1-12

MONDAY: *Palm 47*: What is the focus of the Psalmist's praise? Why should this matter to us today? Pray for God's name to be hallowed through your life.

TUESDAY: *Jeremiah 23:5-6*: Consider what the name "The Lord is our righteousness" means in this context and in our context. What righteousness are you able to provide or contribute? Give thanks for God's provision of righteousness in the perfect person and work of Jesus Christ.

WEDNESDAY: *Hebrews 1:1-4*: If Jesus is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of His nature and we are being transformed into the image of Christ, then what should become progressively evident in our lives? Ask the Spirit to reveal to you where God's glory is displayed in and through your life.

THURSDAY: *Matthew 1:1-2 Samuel 7:8-17, Genesis 17:1-8*: Reflect on the meaning of Jesus' name and His 3 titles. How has the meaning of each been a blessing to you? Petition God for His kingdom to come and will to be done on earth as it is in heaven.

FRIDAY: *Matthew 1:2-17*: Look up the women from the first section and a few of the kings from the second section. What kind of people are in the genealogy of Jesus? Are you worthy to be in this genealogy? Is there anyone that you need to forgive as Christ has forgiven you?

SATURDAY: *Ephesians 1:3-10*: Meditate on this passage making note of the variety of blessings that it contains. Praise God for His unfailing love and persistence.

O Come, Divine Messiah

WORDS: ABBÉ SIMON-JOSEPH PELLEGRIN, 1663-1745
 ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF FRENCH CAROL VENEZ DIVIN MESSIE
 TRANSLATOR: SISTER MARY OF ST. PHILIP

1. *O come, divine Messiah!*
The world in silence waits the day
When hope shall sing its triumph,
And sadness flee away.

2. *Dear Savior haste;*
Come, come to earth,
Dispel the night and show your face,
And bid us hail the dawn of grace.

3. *O come, divine Messiah!*
The world in silence waits the day
When hope shall sing its triumph,
And sadness flee away.

4. *O Christ, whom nations sigh for,*
Whom priest and prophet long foretold,
Come break the captive fetters;
Redeem the long-lost fold.

5. *Dear Savior haste;*
Come, come to earth,
Dispel the night and show your face,
And bid us hail the dawn of grace.

6. *O come, divine Messiah!*
The world in silence waits the day
When hope shall sing its triumph,
And sadness flee away.

7. *You come in peace and meekness,*
And lowly will your cradle be;
All clothed in human weakness
Shall we your Godhead see.

8. *Dear Savior haste;*
Come, come to earth,
Dispel the night and show your face,
And bid us hail the dawn of grace.

9. *O come, divine Messiah!*
The world in silence waits the day
When hope shall sing its triumph,
And sadness flee away.

Matthew 1:18-25: Born of Low Human Conditions

Matthew surely intends his readers to understand that “Emmanuel” was his name in the sense that all that was involved in that name found its fulfillment in him. The quotation and the translation of the Hebrew name underline the fact that in Jesus none less than God came right where we are. And at the end of the Gospel there is the promise that Jesus will be with his people to the end of the age (28:20)- God with us indeed.

LEON MORRIS

The Gospel According to Matthew

MONDAY: *Psalms 46*: According to the Psalmist, how does God’s presence benefit His people? Pray for those around the world who are in the midst of war and other difficult conditions that they would find comfort and peace in the presence of the Lord.

TUESDAY: *Isaiah 7:10-14*: What does the coming of Immanuel signify for the earthly kings and kingdoms? Ask the Lord to help you grow in your dependence on and confidence in His presence among and reign over all earthly kings and kingdoms.

WEDNESDAY: *Hebrews 2:14-18*: Meditate on the humanity of Christ and its importance to us that He was truly and fully man. Give thanks for what Christ accomplished in His humanity on our behalf.

THURSDAY: *Matthew 1:18*: If God could speak all things into being from nothing (creatio ex nihilo), then what reason is there to doubt the virgin conception of Christ in Mary by the Spirit? Praise God for His ability to do all things for the good of those who love Him.

FRIDAY: *Matthew 1:19-25*: Note Joseph’s response to this very difficult situation. How would you have reacted? Petition God for wisdom in addressing current difficult situations.

SATURDAY: *Ephesians 2:1-7*: Who were you to God before He saved you? In what can you truly boast? Pray for the salvation of those around you that are enemies at current.

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

WORDS: UNKNOWN, 12TH CENTURY
 ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF LATIN CHANT VENI, VENI, EMMANUEL
 TRANSLATOR: JOHN MASON NEALE, 1851

1 *O come, O come, Immanuel,
 and ransom captive Israel
 that mourns in lonely exile here
 until the Son of God appear.*

Refrain:

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
 shall come to you, O Israel.*

2 *O come, O Wisdom from on high,
 who ordered all things mightily;
 to us the path of knowledge show
 and teach us in its ways to go. Refrain*

3 *O come, O come, great Lord of might,
 who to your tribes on Sinai's height
 in ancient times did give the law
 in cloud and majesty and awe. Refrain*

4 *O come, O Branch of Jesse's stem,
 unto your own and rescue them!
 From depths of hell your people save,
 and give them victory o'er the grave. Refrain*

5 *O come, O Key of David, come
 and open wide our heavenly home.
 Make safe for us the heavenward road
 and bar the way to death's abode. Refrain*

6 *O come, O Bright and Morning Star,
 and bring us comfort from afar!
 Dispel the shadows of the night
 and turn our darkness into light. Refrain*

7 *O come, O King of nations, bind
 in one the hearts of all mankind.
 Bid all our sad divisions cease
 and be yourself our King of Peace.*

Refrain

Matthew 2:1-12: Worship Fit for a King

Where is the one born king of the Jews? (Jesus') kingly status was not conferred on him later on; it was from birth. Jesus' participation in the Davidic dynasty has already been established by the genealogy. The same title the Magi gave him found its place over the

cross (27:37).

D.A. CARSON

"Matthew" in the Expositor's Bible Commentary, Volume 8

MONDAY: *Psalms 22:22-31*: Who finds their satisfaction in the Lord? Ask the Lord to renew and reward your passion for seeking and knowing Him.

TUESDAY: *Mark 5:2-6*: How does Jesus' presence as shepherd bring you comfort? Give thanks for Christ's humble willingness to serve and abide with His people as a shepherd.

WEDNESDAY: *Hebrews 10:19-25*: Reflect on the confidence and assurance that you have in Christ. Ask the Spirit to guide you in encouraging others in this same confidence.

THURSDAY: *Matthew 2:1-8*: Compare Herod's response with the pagan wise men. What profit is the knowledge of God's word if there is no obedient response to it? Petition the Lord to help you respond to His word in worship and obedience.

FRIDAY: *Matthew 2:9-12*: Why were the wise men worshipping the baby Jesus? What had He done for them? Give praise to God for who He is as Father, Son, and Helper.

SATURDAY: *Ephesians 2:11-16*: Does this passage have any implications for various divisions that are rampant within our culture? Are you spending more time and energy on furthering these divisions or on serving as an ambassador of reconciliation in Christ alone? Repent of any ways in which you are furthering division and pursue reconciliation.

O Come All Ye Faithful

WORDS: JOHN FRANCIS WADE (ATTRIBUTED)
 ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF LATIN HYMN ADESTE FIDELIS
 TRANSLATOR: FREDERICK OAKELEY, 1841

1 *O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
 O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.
 Come and behold Him, born the King of angels;*

Refrain

*O come, let us adore Him,
 O come, let us adore Him,
 O come, let us adore Him,
 Christ the Lord.*

2 *True God of true God, Light from Light Eternal,
 Lo, He shuns not the Virgin's womb;
 Son of the Father, begotten, not created;*

Refrain

3 *Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;
 O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
 Glory to God, all glory in the highest;*

Refrain

4 *See how the shepherds, summoned to His cradle,
 Leaving their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;
 We too will thither bend our joyful footsteps;*

Refrain

5 *Lo! star led chieftains, Magi, Christ adoring,
 Offer Him incense, gold, and myrrh;
 We to the Christ Child bring our hearts' oblations.*

Refrain

6 *Child, for us sinners poor and in the manger,
 We would embrace Thee, with love and awe;
 Who would not love Thee, loving us so dearly?*

Refrain

7 *Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning;
 Jesus, to Thee be all glory given;
 Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing.*

Refrain

Matthew 2:13-23: Humiliation Fit for a Fugitive

Though he was born king of Israel, heir to David's throne, worthy of the worship from all the nations, and 'God with us', Jesus was indeed a Nazarene, for our sake. He came among us in lowliness and humility, to lead us in a new exodus, out of our bondage to sin and death, into the glorious liberty of the children of God, wiping every tear from our eyes. All of these things took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the prophets.

Thanks be to God!

MARK E. ROSS

Let's Study Matthew

MONDAY: *Psalms 2*. How does this Psalm shape our political views and hopes? Praise God for His sovereignty in the midst of the nations raging.

TUESDAY: *Jeremiah 31:10-17*. Does the weeping of Rachel for her children signify a loss of hope or that redemption is coming? Ask God to help you see where He is at work in the midst of the various dark situations in our world.

WEDNESDAY: *Hebrews 13:12-16*. Meditate on what it means for Christ to have suffered outside the gate to redeem us. What might this mean for us as His followers who continue in a fallen world? Petition God for courage and perseverance in glorifying Him between the now and the not yet.

THURSDAY: *Matthew 2:13-18*. Who usually suffers most under the rule of tyranny? Thank God for how He rules His people in mercy and grace.

FRIDAY: *Matthew 2:19-23*. Consider why Jesus would be associated with Nazareth instead of Bethlehem. What pomp or circumstance is there in being a Nazarene? Give thanks for the humility of Christ who was brought so low in order to save us.

SATURDAY: *Ephesians 3:14-21*. Are you experiencing any of the things for which Paul prays for the Ephesians? Ask the Lord to grant you these things.

1 *Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And Heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing.*

2 *Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.*

3 *No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as, the curse is found.*

4 *He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders, of His love.*