

go through the Gospel According to Matthew, ask yourself the question: “Which of these three titles does this passage point to Jesus as?” Certainly other ideas and concepts are explored in Matthew’s Gospel, but you will find that Jesus is being portrayed as one of them in nearly all of the stories.

But What Do the Titles Mean?

The three titles of Jesus are important because of what they signify.

1. The Messiah: This comes from the Greek term, Χριστός (Christos), meaning literally, “The Anointed One.” This is the One whom the Old Testament points to as the deliverer of God’s people.
2. The Son of David: This title gives Jesus the rightful claim to the throne over Israel. Old Testament prophecy says that whoever the Messiah is, He will be from the Davidic line (2 Sam. 7:11-16; Ezekiel 34:23).
3. The Son of Abraham: This title ensures the purity of Jesus’ Jewish heritage, tracing His line all the way back to the founder of God’s people. There is also probably an echo of God’s promise to Abraham to be a blessing to people from every nation.

Matthew 1:1-17

The record of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham:

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

David was the father of Solomon by Bathsheba who had been the wife of Uriah. 7 Solomon was the father of Rehoboam, Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asa. 8 Asa was the father of Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah. 9 Uzziah was the father of Jotham, Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah. 10 Hezekiah was the father of

Manasseh, Manasseh the father of Amon, and Amon the father of Josiah. 11 Josiah became the father of Jeconiah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

12 After the deportation to Babylon: Jeconiah became the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel. 13 Zerubbabel was the father of Abihud, Abihud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor. 14 Azor was the father of Zadok, Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud. 15 Eliud was the father of Eleazar, Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob. 16 Jacob was the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, by whom Jesus was born, who is called the Messiah.

“The record of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham.”

MATTHEW 1:1

17 So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; from David to the deportation to Babylon, fourteen generations; and from the deportation to Babylon to the Messiah, fourteen generations.

Study Notes

VERSE 1

“The record of the genealogy of...” This is a common way to begin a Jewish genealogy but there is perhaps more to it. The word for *genealogy* in the Greek, “γένεσις” (Genesis), and record, “βίβλος” (Biblos), could roughly be understood as, “the book of the genesis of Jesus the Messiah.” There is evidence that the Greek Old Testament (LXX) utilized the “genesis” terminology for the actual book of Genesis. Thus, there is thought that perhaps Matthew was playing off of that so as to say, “This is the new beginnings of Jesus the Messiah.”

VERSE 2

“Judah” The name Judah refers to the son of Jacob, but there is great significance. Of Jacob’s sons, they are all given blessings by him before he passes away (Genesis 49:1-27), and they eventually grow the 12 Tribes of Jacob, who by that point in his life was called Israel. Thus, the 12 Tribes of Israel are formed. Judah is significant because Judah eventually becomes the Southern Kingdom after the split (1 Kings 12; 2 Chronicles 10). It is from Judah that the Messiah will spring forth (Genesis 49:10; Revelation 5:5).

VERSE 5

“Ruth” This is in reference to the same Ruth of the Book of Ruth.

VERSE 12

“The deportation” Verbiage that refers to the exile of Jews out of the promised land and into captivity. This is an extremely important moment in the history of a Jewish person, so it makes sense to use it as an anchor point in a genealogy. Beyond that, it typifies what Christians will look like the New Testament era, although Israel is not our home, but heaven is (1 Peter 2:11).

Study Questions

Day One

1. Read verses 2 through 6. Circle the names you are familiar with and underline the ones that you have never heard of. Now, do a quick search of those names and look up their corresponding Bible verses. Write a small description beside each of them.
2. In the first 6 verses, Jesus is shown to come from David’s line. Why is this so important? Why is it hard for us to see the significance in this as Christians in America in the 21st Century?

Day Two

1. Read verses 6 through 11. Circle the names you are familiar with and underline the ones that you have never heard of. Now, do a quick search of those names and look up their corresponding Bible verses. Write a small description beside each of them.
2. Think about a time when you have had to move out of your home temporarily. Maybe your AC went out in the summer, you had a major remodel, or some other reason - how difficult was this? Why was it difficult? How long were you out of your home? Now think about the Israelites being removed, not only from their homes, but their land and everything they knew and were comfortable with. This would be like moving to another country where English is not the primary language. How would you feel about God if this happened to you?

Day Three

1. Read verses 12 through 16. Circle the names you are familiar with and underline the ones that you have never heard of. Now, do a quick search of those names and look up their corresponding Bible verses. Write a small description beside each of them.
2. What is different about this passage? Look at the wording in the verses of this genealogy and compare them with verse 16. Why is this significant? Use Scripture to record your answers.

Day Four

1. Read Luke 3:23-38. What are some differences and similarities between Luke's genealogy and Matthew's? Note the names, the way it is written, and any other details that you come across.
2. Why do you suppose Luke included this genealogy if Matthew's Gospel was already in circulation? Why do you suppose Mark's Gospel and John's Gospel did not include one?

Week 1 Discussion: The Heritage of Faith

For Matthew, establishing Jesus as the Messiah, the Son of David, and the son of Abraham was important for various reasons. The mere task of tracing Jesus' lineage is impressive, and yet, Matthew was able to do it. This week, we will consider the heritage of our faith. This is an aspect of our faith that is often not discussed, and yet was very important for our spiritual ancestors.

1. How far would you be able to make it if you were asked to trace back your own family lineage? What about your spiritual lineage? Why would knowing your heritage, both physical and spiritual, be valuable?
2. We often think of Jesus as Savior, but do you ever think of Him as King (Son of David)? What about as the representative of the people of God (Son of Abraham)? Why are those two aspects important for us to understand as well?
3. How do you relate to Jesus personally as King? How do you relate to Jesus personally as Savior? Give practical examples.
4. Being a Christian centers on personal faith in Jesus Christ, but it is also understood as belonging to a larger family of faith. What are some different aspects of the family that can be seen in the local church and the universal church (all believers)? What aspects of the family do you bring to your local church? Does local church matter to you or do is it easily moved off if something else comes up? Why or why not?
5. How can you pass along your spiritual heritage to someone else through discipleship? How important is it to tell stories of people who have shaped your Christian walk? Why?

Takeaways:

1. The genealogy of Jesus Christ is important because it proves Jesus' lineage links Him to not only David but Abraham and thus solidifies His rightful title of Messiah.
2. It also reminds believers that their lineage of faith matters.

PRAYER REQUESTS: