

His Family

I thought it might be nice to read the story of Christmas from Matthew as we start today. I love Matthew's Story.....

Matthew 1:1–16 (ESV)

1 The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. 2 Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, 3 and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram, 4 and Ram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, 5 and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, 6 and Jesse the father of David the king. And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, 7 and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asaph, 8 and Asaph the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, 9 and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, 10 and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josiah, 11 and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon. 12 And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, 13 and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, 14 and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, 15 and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, 16 and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ.

Why did Matthew decide to start the introduction of the Messiah with a long and kind of diverse genealogy? Why did the Jewish people care about such things? Why should we care about such things?

Well, it turns out on that first Christmas night that many who studied the Scriptures were expecting the Messiah to arrive.....to a descendant of David....in Bethlehem....if not now within a few years. How did they know the Messiah was coming? How could they be so sure? We will learn of wise men from Babylon...Non Jewish Men....Who knew the Scriptures....and were expecting His arrival. We will learn of a man named Simeon who knew He would come and was waiting for Him in the temple. It turns out that not everyone was surprised when Jesus arrived. The Scriptures had been revealing clues about His arrival for over 2000 years. Starting in Genesis....those who knew Scriptures were not surprised by His first coming....just like those of us who know Scriptures today will not be surprised by His second coming.

In fact...Jesus Himself tells us that these predictions about Him must all be absolutely fulfilled in Him. If even a single one is not....God is a liar. Jesus told 2 men on the road to Ammaeus after his resurrection...

Luke 24:44 (ESV) 44 Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled."

We are going to look at the Holy Scripturea and trace the lineage of Jesus as foretold in the Old Testament. I am going to discuss 15 Prophetic Scriptures.....15 Clues if you will that answer the

questions... 1. How would the Israelites recognize Messiah when he came? 2. What were His credentials? 1. Whose son would He be? 2. Where would He be born? 3. How would He die? 4. When would He come? All of the answers to these questions were laid out like a script in the TO. They were written hundreds if not thousands of years before they ever happened. The Bible is the only Holy Book that does this....Predicting things before they happen...with 100% accuracy.

This Christmas I want us to look forward to Messiah. Rather than looking back to that First Christmas night, I want us to put on the glasses of those who lived before that day. I want us to look forward toward Christmas by studying the same Scriptures that they studied. God made the arrival of the Messiah crystal clear in His word. In fact, it was so clear that every Jewish woman prayed that her first son would be the Promised One. The Jewish people knew Messiah was coming because God always kept His promises to them and all the Holy Scriptures foretold of Him..... Each clue narrowing down the possibilities.Each clue increasing our expectation....Each clue clarifying our perspective and Each clue increasing our anticipation.

Those who studied God's Word....learned of the Promised One to come. God wanted to make sure...that those who were serious about looking for Him would recognize Him when He came. And as their understanding matured....Their anticipation builds.....and as we move toward Christmas...we too must study the Scriptures....

Jesus fulfilled over 315 specific prophecies

The Old Testament contains over 315 Prophecies about Jesus that were fulfilled in His lifetime....315 Clues if you will....that reveal to us who this man would be, what He would do, and why we should follow Him. No other religion in the world....writes the autobiography of their leader...Thousands of years before He was born...with 100% accuracy. When I began studying prophecy....I began to understand....that this book could only be written by God. That no other religion can make that claim...And that My only response to the truth in this book....Is to surrender to the God who wrote it and accept Jesus as my Messiah...my Savior.

We are not going to look at 315 prophecies....but I have chosen 15...just 15 in order to give us a new perspective on that not so silent night....when what God promised....happened...and the world was never again the same. Christmas is the story of God keeping His promise... For unto us a Savior was born...

God wanted to reveal His plan- HIS STORY

He wanted those who truly desired to know....Those who were willing to study the Scriptures....Who were willing to search with their hearts...Would know His plan and recognize it when it unfolds. But those who weren't willing to search... those who didn't believe God's promises....Those who didn't search with their hearts because they thought they knew everything.....Those who had their own agendas...own expectations...would miss it...

Discovery comes from a desire to pursue. My hope is that this Christmas....if you have never studied the Scriptures....That you will with an open mind...pursue what God reveals in His Word Our Christmas Gift to you this season is to help you see God's Plan....And to be used by God...to point you to the Promised One. So that you can decide for yourself whether to accept or reject what God has done and the One He promised.

God did not leave us clueless. Have you ever played the game 20 questions? It is a game based on deductive reasoning that dates back to the 1800's. This series is sort of like that. Not just anyone could be Messiah. Many people had claimed to be the Messiah. Just like today...God wanted us to know that there is only One Messiah. If I wanted to identify one person in the world and make sure you knew who it was...I would have to give you some identifiers. Western Hemisphere...Country? United States...State...County...City....Zip....Street Name....Street Address...Name....Jr or Sr.

His Scriptures answer the questions....That is what these 15 prophecies do...Start off broadly and generically, but by #15 the Scriptures are pointing only to Jesus Christ. So let's start the journey toward Christmas and look at the first clue.

1. The Promised 1 would be a man

The serpent...Satan... has deceived Adam and Eve. Sin has entered the world. The creation has rejected its Creator. All are doomed to death. God declares His punishment for Satan

Genesis 3:15 3. 14 So the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, "Cursed are you above all the livestock and all the wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. 15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

enmity= hostility, hatred, ill will. "Proto Evan Gel ion" Means The First Gospel...The first formal presentation of the Gospel message. The Fall of Man has just occurred. Satan is responsible. God gives a prediction concerning the fate of the Serpent

One of these days...Serpent...there will come One....Who will be a descendent of the Woman...One of her descendents will come forward. Serpent...I will allow you to bruise His heel..You will be able to cause some damage...But Mr Serpent...Satan...this Promised 1....One that comes from her offspring....He will crush your head. Write that down...while you still can. You will hurt Him....but He will destroy you. It is all part of my Soverign Plan...You Satan can only do what I allow.

He will be the one that battles with you. In Genesis 3...God loves us so much...that even though He must issue His punishment for Satan and Man. He promises one to come....AND he promises victory..So even though Adam and Eve's sin has separated us from God. God promises...One who will defeat what Satan has done and thus restore His relationship...the one lost in the Garden.

God essentially says...you have lost a battle...but I will win the war for you. There is so much to unpack in this one passage but we will save that for a later time. For our purposes today....this passage tells us that the Promised 1 will be a man. HE.... a man...will crush your head....Satan. So Messiah will be a male....That narrows it down by at least half, but we need more clues...there are a lot of men

2. The Promised 1 will be Semitic

We use the term Semitic today to describe someone who is Jewish, but the meaning is actually anyone who is of Abraham's Descent. Including Jews and Arabs.

Genesis 9 Let me set the context..There was a great flood. We know of the Ark We learn that only 8 survived from the pre-flood world into the post flood world. We learned that from 1 Peter 3:20 and 2 Peter 2:5 Who are the 8? 1. Mr and Mrs Noah 2. 3 Sons 1. Ham...father of Canaan 2. Shem and JAP Pith

3. And their respective wives. The entire world was populated from these three lines. All of us can trace our lineage in some fashion to one of these three lines....And we will see...so would the Promised 1

So the question is...through which line would the Messiah come? 1. Ham...Shem...or JAP pith?

Genesis 9:26–27 (ESV) 26 He also said, “Blessed be the LORD, the God of Shem; and let Canaan be his servant. 27 May God enlarge JAP pith, and let him dwell in the tents of Shem, and let Canaan be his servant.”

The blessed Lineage will be through Shem. Shem is the blessed line. The Messiah must come from Shem's Line. From the word "Shem" we get Semitic. Who are the Semitic people of the Earth? All those who descended from Shem. Jews...Arabs...(Syrians...Assyrians...and Persians).

The Messiah is not coming from Ham's line. We would have expected that.... since Ham was cursed because he looked on Naoh's nakedness.Ham's descendants will be Caanan- The Cushites, Egyptians, Ethiopians, Libyans, Palestinians, and the dreaded Canaanite. Essentially all from Middle East except the Arabs.

He is not coming from JAPeth's line Most people trace the European and North American's from that line

So the Promised 1...Will be a man....He will be Semitic But there are a lot of Jews, Arabs, Persians....So which Semitic Nation will He come from? Clue #3

3. The Promised 1 must come from Abraham's descendants

In Genesis 11 there is a long genealogy. It starts with Shem and goes all the way down to Terah...Abraham's Father....Then we study Abram who would become Abraham.....God begins to deal with Abraham in a special way.....God makes promises to Abraham...Look at Genesis 12:3

Genesis 12:3 (ESV) 3 I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

Note that God is going to bless those.... plural....but the curse is singular....Him...Satan. God did not curse Mankind...He cursed Satan.The ground is cursed because of us. But despite all of that...the blessing of God...the promise of One to come....Is promised through Abram to all the families of the earth

The same promise is repeated in Genesis 22

Genesis 22:17–18 (ESV) 17 I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, 18 and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.”

This blessing that started in Genesis 3....and tracks through Shem's Line....We now learn that it is through Abraham's lineage that the blessing flows. The Promised 1 will come through Abraham. So the Promised 1 is a man....He will be Semitic...He will be from Abraham's Line....But we have a problem...Abraham has more than one son. Prominent ones were Ishmael and Isaac So which one? Our

entire world hinges on the answer to this question. This is the core issue between the Jews and the Arabs.

4. The Promised 1 must come through Isaac's Line

Abraham knew his offspring would be blessed

Genesis 15:2–4 (ESV) 3 And Abram said, "Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir." 4 And behold, the word of the LORD came to him: "This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir."

Abraham realizes he has no heir. God tells him your heir will not be a common household servant....It is coming forth from your own body

The problem is that Abraham got tired of waiting on God. He thought I will help God out..Every time we try to help God out...we create more problems than answers. "I think my wife is too old to bear a son....So I will do what is customary....Sarah and Abraham decided to allow him to impregnate Hagar....Hagar was an Egyptian servant in Abraham's Home....From that union came forth Ishmael. Note that Hagar came from and Egypt....She was of the line of Ham- the cursed line. Genealogies track through the male however. Look at how proud Abraham is with what he has done.

Genesis 17:18 (ESV) 18 And Abraham said to God, "Oh that Ishmael might live before you!"

Lord look at what I have done for you... Look how I have helped you. Here is the heir Lord, I took care of this for us...Now look at God's response

Genesis 17:19 (ESV) 19 God said, "No, but Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his offspring after him.

NO....God does say no. God is not impressed. This blessing...the lineage of the Promised 1...that started in Genesis will not be channeled through the lineage of Ishmael, but it will come through Isaac.

God reminding Abraham and us...I am working out my plan....I don't need your help....This blessing will unfold exactly how I decide it unfolds. Sarah in fact becomes pregnant in her old age...and gives birth to Isaac...just as God determined and predicted.

Problem...Isaac had more than one son. 2 are prominent in the Scriptures.Esau and Jacob. So the Promised 1 will come from which one?

5. The Promised 1 will come through Jacob's Line

We turn to Numbers 23 and 24. These are called Balem's Oracles. The nation of Israel is in bondage to Egypt for 400 years. In the Exodus they go to Mt Sinai: Map They receive the Mosaic Law....They get to the edge of the Promised Land....God tells them to scout out JericoThey See Giants there....and are afraid.

The same generation that saw God deliver them from Egypt...Saw God give deliver them through miraculous plagues...Protected them as He passed over. Let them across the Red Sea...Gave them His commandments...They trusted God to do all of that...but could not trust God to drive out the Giants

Sounds like us doesn't it? God gets us through one crisis but we doubt He can get us through the next one. We lapse into unbelief...That is what happened to the first generation of the Jewish Nation. God said because of your unbelief..you will wander in the desert and die there. Only the 2 who didn't doubt me..will enter the promised land with the second generation. Joshua and Caleb

They end up camping just across the Jordan from Jericho...in the land of Moab. That is the context of Numbers 23 and 24

One of the enemies of Israel is a man Balaam the King of Moab. He hired Balaam a Jewish Prophet to curse Israel. Balaam is a prophet for profit.....He was a prophet for God but he had his mind on money.....He prostituted his prophetic gift. Rather than bless the nation of Israel...He called out curses on Israel, but every time he tried to curse Israel it would backfire.

God's presence was so powerful over the nation of Israel that every time Balaam tried to curse them...blessings followed from his mouth. There were 7 of these called "Balaam's Oracles"...Each of these 7 start with "Balaam took up his discourse and said.." We are going to focus on oracle #4

Numbers 24:17 (ESV) 17 I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near: a star shall come out of Jacob, and a scepter shall rise out of Israel; it shall crush the forehead of Moab and break down all the sons of Sheth.

So we have a star...we have a scepter.....Scepter- a staff of Royal Power held by a King. A star will come out of Jacob.....The Descendants of Jacob are Jewish.12 Tribes ...The Messiah will be Jewish....Jewish means that you are....A descendant of Abraham...Isaac...and Jacob. God has eliminated all of the other Gentile nations....Eliminated all Arabic Nations Man...Semitic..Abraham...Isaac..Jacob...A Scepter or King will come out of Israel.

One day this Messiah will come forth and overthrow....Note the phrase crush the head...a link back to the promise in Genesis 3....He will crush the head of the enemies of Israel...including the Moabites and Canaanites- cursed descendants of Ham

Our Christmas Cards...Show A Star. We learn of wise men...who were looking for a star. A Star that would rise out of Jacob....Representing a King that would rise from Israel...Have you ever wondered why?

What caused them to associate the coming of the Messiah with a star? They came from the East...How did these non Jewish people...from Far off in Babylon know to look for a star....Know to anticipate the Jewish Messiah when those in Jerusalem....missed it?

Why did they travel so far to see this new King? We picture 3 of them because they brought 3 gifts...But it is more likely that there were many of them...Perhaps 100 or more. Their arrival stirred up all of Jerusalem. They tended to travel in large numbers in caravans for safety...Traveling by camel across the desert...What did they see in the sky...that told them this was a special event? What did they see that so amazing...that they left everything to travel to Jerusalem to find Him?

We believe they were from Mesopotamia. The area of Babylon...Today's Iraq. The Wise Men were members of a learned class that emerged in Ancient Persia...They were advisors to the King.Trained in agriculture, mathematics, history, astronomy, and it turns out Jewish Scriptures. The Eastern Magi were known to have a thirst for knowledge that was insatiable.

Why did they have an interest in Jewish Scriptures... To understand that you have to go back about 600 years before Jesus' birth

God made a covenant with the Jewish people at Mt Sinai. He warned them that if they did not follow His Commandments that they would be scattered throughout the world

Deuteronomy 28:64 (ESV) 64 "And the LORD will scatter you among all peoples, from one end of the earth to the other, and there you shall serve other gods of wood and stone, which neither you nor your fathers have known.

After a lengthy history of disobedience...God finally allowed Jerusalem to fall in 586 BC. The Temple was destroyed. King Nebuchadnezzar sought to assimilate the exiles into Babylonian culture by obliterating their religious and cultural identity and creating dependence upon the royal court.

One of those exiled was a young man named Daniel. His story involves refusing to bow down to the King....surviving a Lion's Den...and eventually finding favor from the King. Daniel ends up with a very interesting job.....King Nebuchadnezzar has a concerning dream that no one can interpret....Daniel tells him that God will allow Him to interpret the dream. Daniel accurately tells the King what the dream means....then look at what happens next

Daniel 2:46–48 (ESV) 46 Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell upon his face and paid homage to Daniel, and commanded that an offering and incense be offered up to him. 47 The king answered and said to Daniel, "Truly, your God is God of gods and Lord of kings, and a revealer of mysteries, for you have been able to reveal this mystery." 48 Then the king gave Daniel high honors and many great gifts, and made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon and chief prefect over all the wise men of Babylon.

Daniel was the leader of the Wise Men...God's Sovereign Plan...included promoting Daniel to a place of influence...Think about that...Daniel became the leader of the wise men...of a foreign nation and even got King Nebuchadnezzar to recognize Daniel's God.

What do you suppose Daniel taught them? He went to the lions den because he would not compromise God's Truth...no doubt the Wise Men were taught the prophecies....about the Star and the Sceptre that comes out of Israel...The Blessing that comes through Judah. Taught even the prophecy about themselves...Did you know that the wise men coming...was fulfilment of prophecy?

Isaiah 60:3–6 (ESV) 3 And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. 4 Lift up your eyes all around, and see; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from afar, 6 A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall bring good news, the praises of the LORD.

Nations shall come to your light. Kings to the brightness of your rising....Lots of camels shall cover you...They come from the East...bearing Gold and frankincense....Makes Sense to me...Bringing good news and praises of the Lord. Not only were they given specific details.....but It appears they were also taught WHEN the star would occur.

Daniel was given a prophecy by God regarding the timing of these events. It relates to Daniel 9 and the prophecy of 70 weeks We will cover those specifics next week. But this prophecy tells us that there will

be 69 Weeks (69 times of 7 years)...Between when the decree goes out to rebuild the first temple and when the Messiah will present Himself and be cut off or killed.

The decree to rebuild the first temple 1. Is likely referring to Nehemiah 2:1

Nehemiah 2:1 (ESV)

1 In the month of Nisan, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was before him, I took up the wine and gave it to the king. Now I had not been sad in his presence.

This is another historical anchor....The twentieth year of Artaxerxes is well known it is 444 BC. So from 444 BC they started counting.... And based on that prophecy they believed.... That the Messiah would present Himself to the temple and be killed between the years 26-33 AD.

600 years before Jesus was born. Daniel prophesied that He would die in 26-33 AD. They did not know how old He would be at his death...But they knew that He would be born within about 80 years of those dates. So you can imagine how high the anticipation level must have been as that date came closer...and closer...

The Promised 1 will be Jewish....from Jacob....But Jacob had 12 Children....Each of Jacob's Children would be apportioned an area of the promised Land. Later known as the 12 Tribes of Israel...So which one will He come from?

6. The Promised 1 must come from the tribe of Judah

Where would this scepter come from? It would rise out of Israel.... Then in Genesis 49 God tells us...Its Judah

Genesis 49:10 (ESV) 10 The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until tribute comes to him; and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples.

The Royal Authority will come from the descendants of Judah. The Promised 1 From Judah will receive tribute and obedience of the peoples

Man...Semitic....Abraham....Isaac...Jacob...Judah....

7. The Promised 1 must come from the family Jesse

Isaiah 11:1 (ESV) 11 There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

So a branch will come from the line of Jesse. It will be a branch that produces fruit...Remember that the Holy Spirit we know produces spiritual fruit Next we will learn more about that branch....and it becomes clear this branch is the Promised 1

Isaiah 11:2-6 (ESV) 2 And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. 3 And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, 4 but with righteousness he shall

judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
5 Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

This person will have the Spirit of the Lord rest upon him. When Jesus was baptized John recognized him because He was the one where the Spirit descended and remained.

John 1:32–34 (ESV) 32 And John bore witness: “I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. 33 I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ 34 And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God.”

Now in addition we are learning not only the genealogy but beginning to understand more about who He would be....Wisdom, understanding, council, might, knowledge, respect for the Lord...He judges with righteousness

So we look to family of Jesse...Jesse had 8 Sons....So which one?....next truth

8. The Promised 1 must come from the line of David

1 Samuel 16:10–12 (ESV) 10 And Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, “The LORD has not chosen these.” 11 Then Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but behold, he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and get him, for we will not sit down till he comes here.” 12 And he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. And the LORD said, “Arise, anoint him, for this is he.”

2 Samuel 7:8 (ESV) 8 Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel.

This is an important part of the Bible...called the Davidic Covenant....God enters into a covenant with David and his offspring and as that covenant is revealed...we learn more about the Promised 1...God telling David...my hand is upon you. You David will be the ruler over my people Israel...Ok Cool...you will one day be King of Israel....one of many. But then God reveals something...His plan is much bigger than just Israel.

2 Samuel 7:16–17 (ESV) 16 And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.’ ” 17 In accordance with all these words, and in accordance with all this vision, Nathan spoke to David.

David's house...his lineage....Will endure forever...Your throne will be established forever. In other words David....from your line there will be a forever throne...The only person who could have a forever throne is someone who is eternal...God.

Psalms 132:11 (ESV) 11 The LORD swore to David a sure oath from which he will not turn back: “One of the sons of your body I will set on your throne.

The lineage must come from David's line

Isaiah 9:6–7 (ESV) 6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

But David has more than one son.

9. The Promised 1 must come from the line of Solomon

1 Chronicles we learn more. This is David speaking....

1 Chronicles 28:4–7 (ESV) 4 Yet the LORD God of Israel chose me from all my father's house to be king over Israel forever. For he chose Judah as leader, and in the house of Judah my father's house, and among my father's sons he took pleasure in me to make me king over all Israel. 5 And of all my sons (for the LORD has given me many sons) he has chosen Solomon my son to sit on the throne of the kingdom of the LORD over Israel. 6 He said to me, 'It is Solomon your son who shall build my house and my courts, for I have chosen him to be my son, and I will be his father. 7 I will establish his kingdom forever if he continues strong in keeping my commandments and my rules, as he is today.'

This idea of a forever kingdom..a forever throne....would come through Solomon's lineage. And only an eternal Messiah could fulfill that prophecy.

9 Genealogical Clues

So that ends the Genealogical Clues.... Man...Semitic....Abraham....Not from Ishmael but rather Isaac...Not from Esau but rather Jacob... Of all the 12 tribes....God says keep your eye on the tribe of Judah. Of all the families of the tribe of Judah...keep focused on the branch of Jesse..Of Jesse's sons watch the youngest one David....nd of all of David's sons keep your eye on Solomon.

Why did Matthew start his story of Jesus with Genealogy? Because He knew the prophecies and he knew his Jewish audience did as well.

Matthew knew that if you could not trace Jesus through the 9 prophecies we just reviewed and anything else he said about Jesus didn't matter. God doesn't make mistakes....so if He promised something about the coming Messiah and Jesus didn't fulfill it....then He could never have been the Messiah.

But the Genealogy is only a part of the prophecies regarding the birth of Jesus. We covered today 9 of the 15 I have chosen.

Next week we will review six more prophecies. At the moment, any descendant of Solomon could have been the Messiah.

But there are six more clues....Six clues that narrow the possibilities down to only one man. Only one man ever born met all the prophecies and could have been the Messiah.

If you believe that God wrote the Scriptures to us...and honestly if you study them with an open mind....it's pretty obvious. Then you will come to the realization that of all the people ever born in this world....of all the millions of people who might be the descendants of Solomon....only Jesus could ever be the Promised One. We will look at those 6 Promises next week. Let's Pray.