

O COME LET US ADORE HIM:
THE INFANCY NARRATIVE OF MATTHEW
MATTHEW 1-2

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Matthew 1: 1-17, Jesus is the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham

Word of God promised that line of David would last forever

Word of God begins *sacred* history with Abraham

Word of God is sacred not secular history

In sacred history the meaning of events and personalities in God's plan are important not accuracy of dates or history (II Samuel 7: 12-17)

This is the reason for certain gaps in biblical history (Genesis 12: 1-3)

Jesus descended according to the word of God

Jews were people of the book

Their self-identity, their personal morality, national policies, their destiny and purpose were guided by the word of God

Church MUST also be people of the book (word of God)

Word of God is for us gift, guide, and goal

Legitimacy and future are dependent upon faithfulness of the book (word of God)

Word of God though attacked and misrepresented to fit desires and politics of people has outlasted those nations, cultures, civilizations who considered themselves on the right side of history

History has demonstrated that the eternal teachings and truths of the word of God are on the right side of history and eternity

The Theological Genealogy

Three divisions of history also reflect three stages of lives of people

Period before exile: Establishment of purpose and faithfulness to it

The exile: Straying from purpose and the consequences

Period after exile: New beginnings and return to purpose

The women in Jesus genealogy

Tamar, justified seductress (Genesis 38)

Rahab, harlot (Joshua 2: 1-7)

Ruth, member of despised race (Moabite, Ruth 1:4)

Bathsheba, wife of Uriah, compromised adulteress (II Samuel 11-12)

Mary, mother of Jesus, who could have been accused of sexual immorality

Inclusion of non-Jews in God's divine plan from the beginning (Exodus 12: 38)

God's plan is broad enough to include those the community of faith sometimes rejects

Matthew 1: 18-25, Joseph: The Man Who Lived Up to His Name

Joseph, May God Add or Increase

Significant Josephs' in Scripture

Joseph, son of Jacob

Joseph, earthly father of Jesus

Joseph of Arimathea, who gave grave for Jesus

Joseph, selected to be replacement for Judas (Acts 1: 23)

The birth of Jesus and Righteous Couples

Joseph and Mary (Matthew 1: 18-19)

Zechariah and Elizabeth (Luke 1: 5-6)

Sometimes God needs righteous couples, not just righteous individuals

Righteous couples obey the word of God

The Holy Spirit guides righteous couples

God can use righteous couples for special purpose

Righteous couples can be misunderstood when they are guided by the Holy Spirit

Righteous couples can be channels and recipients of miracles

Matthew 2: 1-12, Visit of Magi

Persian teachers, priests and astrologers who were equivalent of Levites in Israel

Their visitation rather than Levite scribes represent first sign and symbol of

worldwide recognition, affirmation and conquest of Christ

Their coming represent the ways Jesus is often received

Herod, hatred and buses

Scribes, Indifference

Wise men, Adoring worship

Gifts of adoration

Gold for the king (Jesus Christ the King of Kings)

Frankincense for the priest (Jesus Christ, Great High Priest)

Myrrh for one who is to die (Jesus Christ the Savior of the world)

Matthew 2: 13-23, Jesus and Moses

The flight into Egypt represents protection of infant Moses from plot of Pharaoh

Massacre of infants recalls slaying of children by Pharaoh

The return from Egypt represents exodus of Israelites from Egypt

Moses was dispenser of the law; Jesus is fulfillment of the law

O COME, LET US ADORE HIM!!!