



Part 3: God's Covenant Faithfulness – The Promised King

Matthew 1:1

“It would seem that our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.” – C.S. Lewis, *The Weight of Glory*.

A prayer to precede all prayers: “*May it be the real I who speaks. May it be the real Thou that I speak to.*” – C.S. Lewis

I. **The Book of the Genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David**

Jesus is the fulfillment of God's promise to mankind through King David that one day a mysterious man, the Messiah—both a descendant of David and the Son of God—would arise to rule as King and to invite all people to surrender to him and live in his beautiful kingdom.

Matthew gives us three grand themes:

- An awesome vision of God as a promise keeper whose reach of love extends inexorably through all of history
- A shocking and stunning vision of Jesus as *both* a humble and all-powerful King
- And a vision of the Kingdom of God that can satisfy our hearts and move us to bow our knees before the king of heaven

A. “The Book of the Genealogy” = “Book of Genesis”

Matthew is saying that 2000 years of Israel’s history have set the stage for this man.

And with the genealogy, he’s demonstrating Jesus’ legitimate, legal claim to the throne of David—Jesus is the one they have been waiting for.

And the next few words help us understand why they’ve been waiting so long and so hopefully:

B. Of Jesus Christ, the Son of David

“Christ” – *Christos*—Messiah—Anointed One

- Saul was anointed King, but he failed and God took away his anointing.
- Then God anointed David.
- After David was crowned king, he wanted to build God a house, but God made a covenant with him instead:

“The Lord declares to you that the LORD will make *you* a house. When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men, but my steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away before you. And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.” 2 Samuel 7:11-17

Israel saw this promise as the culmination of all the promises, and they waited 1000 years for its fulfillment.

The fulfillment of this promise is buried in the promise itself: God would keep covenant with Israel because Jesus as a king in David’s line, would both keep the covenant perfectly and bear the stripes of all people’s sin. In this way, God’s covenant love will never, ever be broken.

So when Matthew says Jesus is the “Son of David”—he’s saying Jesus is the fulfillment of this promise—he is the New and Perfect David—the King they have been waiting for.

II. God the promise-keeper

Matthew gives us an awesome vision of God as a promise keeper whose reach of love extends inexorably through all of history.

This is God's reach of love, the theme of this Advent series:

“So long as we imagine that it is we who have to look for god, we must often lose heart. But it is the other way about; He is looking for us. . . Our hope is in his determination to save us, and he will not give in.” – Simon Tugwell

“In all humanity's religions, man reaches after God. But in all his relationships, God reaches for man.” – Anne Voskamp

III. Jesus the king

Matthew gives a shocking and stunning vision of Jesus as *both* a humble and all-powerful King.

A. Son of God

At the end of Matthew, Jesus has been arrested, and the high priest asks Him, “Tell us if you are the Christ (the anointed King) the Son of God.”

Jesus said to him, “You have said it. And in the future, you will see the Son of Man seated in the place of power at God's right hand and coming on the clouds of heaven.” Matthew 26:63-64

He's referring to this Kingly Messianic prophecy from Daniel 7:

“And behold, with the clouds of heaven, there came one like the son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. And to him was given dominion and glory and kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.” Daniel 7:13-14

The Coronation of the King: Revelation 5:11-13

This is why Paul will say, “at the name of Jesus every knee (shall) bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord.” Philippians 2:9-10

This is the STUNNING part of Matthew's King Jesus—he's not just the king of Israel, he's the king of heaven and earth—the King with stars on his breath.

B. Son of David

“Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor’s headquarters, and they gathered the whole battalion before him. And they stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on his head...And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying, ‘Hail, King of the Jews!’ And they spit on him.” Matthew 27:27-30

Jesus the King, who will come on the clouds in glory and rule in fulfillment of the throne of David, wore a crown of thorns when he came to us this time.

He’s a king with stars on his breast and thorns on his brow.

IV. The beautiful Kingdom

And a vision of the Kingdom of God that can satisfy our hearts and move us to bow our knees before the king of heaven.

But what makes it so GOOD that Jesus is king? Why will everyone roar with joy?

“And proclaim as you go, saying, ‘The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.’ Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons.” Matthew 10:7-8

Jesus’ kingdom is a realm where all that makes us sad—death, and mourning and crying and pain, will come untrue. (J.R.R Tolkien).

The Kingdom of God is good and beautiful. It’s already here, and we are invited to be a part of it and to be a part of advancing it.

V. Our response

Do we want a king? Will we kneel before King Jesus? Will we gladly join his mission—the advancement of his beautiful kingdom of light on earth?

*Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name
Your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,
For yours is the kingdom and the power and glory forever, Amen.*
Matthew 6:9-13