**“Jesus: Son of David”**

# 

Jeremiah 23:3-6

Acts 2:22-36

Luke 1:26-33

Matthew 1:1,6

Advent Midweek – Son of David

From Matthew, chapter 1, verse 1 and 6: “The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham … and Jesse the father of David the king. And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah.”

In the name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Apparently, King Edward VIII was not a **hero** of England. He’s not remembered as a leader putting the needs of his people before himself. He wasn’t the inspiration of any Shakespearean play or of singers or movie producers. King Edward VIII **disappointed as a king**. He (history accounts) selfishly abdicated his duties to crown and country so as to marry who **he’d wanted (a disgrace to the monarchy in a woman thought of ill-repute)**. Now, Henry V and Richard the Lionheart and Elizabeth I and even Elizabeth II, they will be remembered for an assumed greatness and nobility **in service**. But Edward, no. He was thought an **embarrassment** … a **black spot upon Britain** who history hesitates to grant more than just a footnote.

The way Matthew introduces Jesus to his readers is by tracing His lineage through kings and patriarchs of all reputations (heroes, but also disappointments), Him promised as the divine Messiah, but through the heritage of people, sometimes earthly kings. The Gospel presented by Matthew begins with the words “the book of the **genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham**”, and the evangelist **packs great meaning into that one sentence**, hearkening to the ancestry and prophecy of the One who would be (from human lineage) God’s Savior from Heaven given to earth (the One sacrifice that He’d provide in order to appease the demand for sin and crush Satan’s head of his ownership of sinners who were enslaved to a fate determined by that sin). Jesus was that sacrifice … and so much the more than any of His ancestors in David and Abraham … He was their Savior as well. He was **King of kings** who would reign upon a kingdom that would have no end. God had redemption planned through a Seed that would pass through Abraham and David … that plan was decided-upon before the foundation of the world. And it was set into motion the moment it became needed upon the fall of humanity’s first people in Adam and Eve.

History’s always understood the importance of **genealogies**, which there’s some resurgence in, or at least curious about them again. Previously, it’s been the task of a family member writing things in the front of their Bible, but websites now have cropped-up to help the process. DNA’s allowed more branches of a family tree to be traced and linked together. This provides context to what **came together to be each of us individually**.

The sermons of this series are designed to unpack **Jesus’ family tree** … and its significance, and that’s to better see how the deliverance of mankind **came together by God’s plan and control** **(how He worked in weaving through history and a Chosen People this / His purpose: the saving of the world)**. The Old Testament history leads **to and through Mary and Joseph (a particular young couple by no accident)**. And **David’s Son is David’s Lord and Savior as He is Mary and Joseph’s**. And Jesus is the reason (the real reason) for thrones-at-all in David’s lineage. **See, that throne led to the one that Jesus sits on … His, though, is ETERNAL**.

1

Unlike King Edward VIII of England, David was known as God’s great king (and **champion**) for the Israel of the moment. He set the bar high for kings to follow, and after falling from those heights **he** rose them to, **Israel longed-for a return / a king to restore them to their previous glory**. But **his success** was meant, just, to **hint** at the **heavenly glory to come**. **Jesus (Son of David) would also be even David’s LORD**.

So why does Matthew call Him the **Son of David** when He’d descended-also from other kings? He was, for instance, also a Son of Manasseh (who’d led Judah into, themselves, doing evil and he sacrificed his children to false gods). Manasseh was an **embarrassment** … a **shameful excuse** for a king.

But Matthew calls Him the Son of David while including the **full genealogy** to remind us that He would come to redeem and save all people, from greatest heroes to worst failures. If He were called the Son of Manasseh, would it better remind us that He came not to return Israel to **its glory** but to **God’s glory … saving people stained by sin**.

Yet David also did what was evil in God’s sight. After miraculously defeating Goliath (saved by God through that), the prophet Nathan had to be sent to him to **call him to repentance** (reminding him of his own great sin). David repented though, confessing himself “sinner from his mother’s womb”, begging God not to “cast him from His presence nor take His Holy Spirit from him”. This is **why** he was God’s great king, after the lineage to the Savior. David (who God would help defeat lion, bear, giant, and countless armies), also was prey for Satan, so **David (in other words) needed a Savior and Lord** **… and knew it!**

2

And God **provided Him!** To Pharisees, Jesus asked: “what do you think about the Christ? Whose son is He?” and they answered “the Son of David”, yet they didn’t understand. David called his descendant his Lord. Peter said that it was David’s Son who was raised from the dead for us and David and ascended to the right hand of the Heavenly Father. Isaiah said: “to us a Child is born; to us a Son is given; and the government would be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Might God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and of peace there would 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”.

Although Jesus is, both, the Son of David and the Son of Manasseh, He’s, also, an altogether **different kind of king to either**. He’s **God**, come to bring **God’s rule fully to earth**. He’s **the** **only Righteous One**, no matter to what degree one human might be more useful than another. He came to save the high and mighty (who fall) and the meek and lowly having no earthly strength of their own. Not one is righteous before God, not even King David. Yet God sent the One who, Jeremiah foretold, would be “Our Righteousness for us. In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel dwell securely. And the name by which He will be called is ‘The Lord is our Righteousness” …

… yet a king with a crown of **thorns**, covered not with robes beautiful but of the **blood and sin and shame of us**. He was sacrificed, but not to pagan deities, but **as the wages of what we deserve by virtue of our sin**, **the Lion of Judah as God’s Lamb slain**. He, too, gave up His throne / abdicated from where He was, but **to save this world which He love**d. Jesus is the king who put the needs of His people before Himself knowing (as Scripture quotes a leader of the people) “it was better that **one man** die for the nation than that the entire nation perish” … even if it was the **King to die**. **This king** took the form of a servant becoming obedient unto death, even death on a cross. On that day of His sacrifice, over His head (in the inscription of the cross), He was **marked as King**. **There** the Son of David **died, but won**, dying and winning for David and Manasseh and all kings and queens, peasants, paupers, rich, poor, strong, weak, young and old … **sinners** from every family and circumstance.

**You and I** also are sons and daughters of David … and Manasseh … kin. We’ve inherited their sin and shame along with our own. Yet Jesus (David’s foretold Son) came so as to **save each of us sharing in David’s weakness … and in his repentance**.

**So** Matthew begins his Gospel writing: **focusing upon the Kingdom of God come to us through the history of His action, Jesus the Son of David**. He **brings** the Kingdom of Heaven to earth, proclaimed victorious in Scripture and given us benefit of by grace and received in faith. With King David, **we can sing as well: “Your Kingdom, Lord, is an everlasting one, and Your dominion we recognize as the one that endures throughout all generations”**. In Jesus’ name. Amen.