



THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW - APRIL 9, 2024

Jesus' Genealogy = 3 Lines with some mini-theology of the Old Testament

Line 1 – Abraham to David

4 Women! Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba (or, “wife of Uriah”): These are unusual choices – no Sarah, Rebekah, Rachel, Leah

“One gets the idea that Matthew pored over his Hebrew Scriptures until he could locate the most questionable liaisons possible in order to insert them into his record, and so, finally, to preach the gospel even in his genealogy.” (Dale Bruner)

This line teaches divine mercy.

Line 2 – Solomon to the Exile

This line teaches God’s justice. Judgment ends with the exile.

Line 3 – Exile to the Christ

This line teaches the faithfulness of God. His promises to Abraham for a “seed” for everyone and his promises to David for an everlasting kingdom - these are finally coming about in Mary’s womb.

“Look,” the finished genealogy says, “God promised a Christ, and he delivered!”



We begin Matthew’s Gospel with the idea that Jesus is the fulfillment of everything the Old Testament says.

JOHN THE BAPTIZER

- All four gospels represent John as the fulfillment of Isaiah’s opening vision (Isaiah 40:3)
- All Israel expected a Next-to-Last Man: Malachi told Israel that he would be an Elijah (Mal 4); Isaiah told Israel that he would be a Preparer (Is 40); so all of Israel was looking for the penultimate Elijah-Preparer.

- Perhaps a reinforcement is the detail about John's clothing—"the prophetic wardrobe" (cf. Zech 13:4 and 2 Kings 1:8). Diet indicates he is an ascetic – an independence from the world.
- The importance of "repentance" and confession of sin in connection with John's baptism.
- John represents the "old" – the law; Jesus represents the "new" – the gospel
- Jesus' ministry gives what John's cannot – the Holy Spirit and the forgiveness of sins
- John's "Fire Sermon" – John lashes out at the religious – Pharisees and Sadducees – John wants to know what they are doing there. He calls them "snakes." He is proposing that they think that their heritage will be enough to grant them eternal security, that God's covenant with Abraham is enough to save them. Previously, baptism was for Gentile converts, to purify them. Now, John is offering baptism in accordance with confession of sins as a way to prepare for the kingdom of heaven.

JESUS' BAPTISM

John is a little confused - Jesus responds that it is to "fulfill all righteousness." What does that mean? What does his baptism have to do with that?

- 1) Jesus is modeling how to do the will of God. ("doing the will of God" is Matthew's definition of righteousness) Obedience.
- 2) Jesus is now changing the meaning of baptism – it is now becoming a baptism of the Holy Spirit (baptism is becoming sacramental)
- 3) Jesus is receiving his identity from His Father. It is a moment of intimacy and affection from Father to Son.

JESUS' TEMPTATION IN THE WILDERNESS

The Bible is clear about the existence of Satan.

"As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath." – Ephesians 2:1-3

What do we know about Satan?

1. Prince of the power of the air – all around us, therefore immediately present in this world as a chief influencer.
2. Prior to placing faith in Christ and receiving new life in Him, people are "dead in trespasses and sins" and are under the influence of Satan.
3. The phrase "sons of disobedience" means "like father, like son/daughter"
4. Satan does not have direct power over our will, but he works by deceiving us.

Satan desires to rob us of the experience of God's abundant provision. He uses three weapons:

“Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. For everything in the world—**the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life**—comes not from the Father but from the world.” – 1 John 2:15-16

There is no coincidence that Satan used these categories with Eve:

“When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree **was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom**, she took some and ate it.” – Genesis 3:6

...and with Jesus:

Jesus' temptations	Eve's temptations	"The World"
Turning stones to bread	Good for food	Desire of the flesh
Jumping off the temple	Pleasant for the eyes	Desire of the eyes
Political power and glory	Desirable to make one wise	The pride of life

First, Satan attacks Jesus' identity: "IF you are the Son of God..."

Then, Satan attacks Jesus with the same types of attacks used on Eve. --

They are attacks on our thoughts, ideas, feelings.

Humans cannot be forced to do evil (nor to do good), but they can be persuaded.

