



— LINEAGE OF THE KING —

Zerubbabel was the father of Abiud. Abiud was the father of Eliakim. Eliakim was the father of Azor. Azor was the father of Zadok. Zadok was the father of Achim. Achim was the father of Eliud. Eliud was the father of Eleazer. Eleazar was the father of Matthan. Matthan was the father of Jacob. Jacob was the father of Joseph.

Matthew 1:13-16

Lesson 17

FIRST DAY: Review and Overview

1. How did the life of Zerubbabel speak to you?

2. Hidden in obscurity, buried in the hills of the insignificant village of Nazareth, *the stem of Jesse* survived (Isaiah 11:1). There, unnoticed and unseen by the aggressive forces of conquering rulers and unregarded by the murderous paranoia of King Herod, David's lineage waited until God began to raise up the long anticipated *branch of David*. After generations of dormancy, God's work began inconspicuously, awakening the lineage with a godly young virgin and her betrothed. Both Mary and Joseph were descendants of King David. The lineage of Jesus through Joseph (Matthew 1) was a legal claim to the throne of Israel. The lineage in Luke 3:23-38, traces Jesus' biological claim to the throne of David through Mary. Read the passages below and remark on the re-awakening of God's Messianic promises:
 - a. Matthew 1:16

 - b. Luke 1:68-69

 - c. Luke 2:4

 - d. Matthew 2:15

3. Although the fulfillment of God's promises is often hidden for a time, their presence is certain! Ask God to strengthen your faith in His promises.

*There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse,
And a Branch shall grow out of his roots.
Isaiah 11:1*

SECOND DAY: Background

1. Following the Jews' return from exile and the rebuilding of Jerusalem, God's people became complacent in their relationship with Him. God spoke to them through the prophet Malachi and then was silent for 400 years. During this time, known as the Intertestamental Period, Israel went through a series of sociopolitical upheavals. The Medo-Persian Empire, which had given the Jews many freedoms and encouraged the rebuilding of Jerusalem and the temple, ruled Israel until the Greeks conquered them in 332 B.C. During this time the Jews were heavily influenced by pagan Greek culture. In 167 B.C., a tyrannical ruler named Antiochus Epiphanes oppressed the Jews and desecrated the temple, instigating a period of war, persecution, and unrest in Israel. When Rome conquered Palestine in 63 B.C., control of Judea changed hands again, creating a blend of Jewish, Greek, and Roman culture in the land. At that time Herod, a descendant of Edom, bought the throne of Israel from Rome and proclaimed himself king. He continually sought to curry the favor of Rome, appease the Jews, and viciously hold on to his position. How might this explain why David's descendants lived in Nazareth?

2. The men from the lineage of Jesus listed below lived during these troubled times. While we don't learn anything more about their lives from Scripture, we do know from history some of the turmoil they lived through. We also can glimpse, by the meaning of their names, how these heirs of David held to God's promises through dark days. Notice how their names highlight their enduring faith:
 - a. Abiud - My father is majesty
 - b. Eliakim - Raised up by God
 - c. Azor - Helper
 - d. Zadok - Just or Righteous
 - e. Achim - The LORD will establish
 - f. Eliud - God his praise
 - g. Eleazar - Help of God
 - h. Mathan - Gift
 - i. Jacob - Heel catcher
 - (1) How do you see God's hand upon this lineage?
 - (2) How does this inspire you to hold on during tough times?

3. The commentator Matthew Henry wrote, *The Messiah is called a Rod and a Branch; the words signify a weak, small, tender product, a twig, such as is easily broken off. He came forth out of the stem of Jesse. When the royal family was cut down and almost leveled with the ground, it would sprout again.* From the following passages note and comment on the Messianic references:
 - a. Isaiah 11:1
 - b. Jeremiah 33:15
 - c. Zechariah 6:12-13
 - d. Revelation 22:16
 - (1) What does this convey to you about God's promises? See also Jeremiah 33:20-22.

THIRD DAY: Read Matthew 1:16–25

1. *Jacob begot Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus who is called Christ* (Matthew 1:16). According to Matthew 1:18, how did *the birth of Jesus Christ* come about?

2. According to Matthew 1:19a, what kind of man was Joseph?
 - a. As a result what was he considering? Matthew 1:19b
 - (1) According to the Law, Joseph had the right to accuse Mary of adultery and have her put to death. What does his decision convey to you about him?

3. From Matthew 1:20–21 comment on the following:
 - a. Joseph's activity

 - b. the means by which God spoke to Joseph

 - c. how Joseph was identified

 - d. God's instruction concerning Mary
 - (1) Why do you think Joseph was *afraid*?

 - e. the truth about Mary's condition

 - f. Joseph's role in God's plan
 - (1) Why was Jesus' name so significant?

4. According to Matthew 1:22–23, what was God doing through these events?
 - a. What blesses you most about this prophecy? Isaiah 7:14

5. When Joseph was *aroused from sleep*, how did he respond to the angel's words? Matthew 1:24–25
 - a. Why were his actions remarkable?
6. How is Joseph an inspiration to you?

FOURTH DAY: Taken from Luke 2

1. Joseph played a key role in the most important event in human history, the Advent of the Messiah, Jesus Christ. Use the following events in Luke 2 to share what Joseph's perspective might have been concerning:
 - a. the *census* (verses 1–5)
 - (1) Link this with Micah 5:2 to comment on God's sovereign plan in these events.
 - b. Jesus' birth (verses 6–7)
 - c. the testimony of the shepherds (verses 15–20)
 - d. Jesus' circumcision (verses 21–24)
 - e. the prophecy of Simeon (verses 25–33)
 - f. the *coming in* of Anna (verses 36–38)
2. What effect do you think these events had on Joseph?
3. How does this speak to you concerning God's plans?

FIFTH DAY: Read Matthew 2:13–23

1. After Jesus' birth, *wise men from the East* came to worship Him as *King of the Jews* (Matthew 2:1–11). What might Joseph have thought about this?
 - a. Following this remarkable event, what happened to Joseph? Matthew 2:13
 - b. How did Joseph respond to this word? Matthew 2:14–15a
 - (1) Use Matthew 2:15b to remark on the significance of Joseph's obedience.
 - c. What took place immediately after Joseph's departure? Matthew 2:16–18
 - (1) How does this highlight the importance of Joseph's obedience?
2. According to Matthew 2:19–20, what happened *when Herod was dead*?
3. Joseph obeyed by returning *into the land of Israel*. However, *he was afraid* to go to Judea because Herod's son Archelaus was in power (Matthew 2:21–22a). Why would this have been a concern?
 - a. How did God direct Joseph at this point? Matthew 2:22b
 - b. Use Matthew 2:23 to comment on how God once again fulfilled His Word.
4. How does God's work in Joseph's life speak to you concerning:
 - a. God's leading
 - b. God's purposes
 - c. sensitivity to God's directives
 - d. obedience

SIXTH DAY: Review

1. From your study share how you see the hand of God protecting the lineage of Jesus Christ.
 2. Joseph's actions played a major role in the fulfillment of prophecy. Observe and note this from the following Scriptures:
 - a. Matthew 1:20-25
 - b. Luke 2:4; Matthew 2:6
 - c. Matthew 2:13-15
 - d. Matthew 2:22-23
 3. How are you blessed by the life of Joseph?

*And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS,
for He will save His people from their sins.*
Matthew 1:21