

The Kingdom-Driven Life #2

The Book of Matthew

The 42nd Generation

The greatest breakthrough to Kingdom-Driven living comes in seeing ourselves as true-born children of God and heirs of the Kingdom.

I. The Genealogy of Jesus

A. Son of Abraham/Son of David

This is a record of the ancestors of Jesus the Messiah, a descendant of David and of Abraham:

Abraham was the father of Isaac.

Isaac was the father of Jacob.

Jacob was the father of Judah and his brothers....

Jesse was the father of King David.

David was the father of Solomon (whose mother was Bathsheba, the widow of Uriah).

Solomon was the father of Rehoboam...

Jacob was the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary.

Mary gave birth to Jesus, who is called the Messiah.

All those listed above include fourteen generations from Abraham to David, fourteen from David to the Babylonian exile, and fourteen from the Babylonian exile to the Messiah.

Excerpts from Matthew 1:1-17 NLT

1. Remember from our last study that Matthew presents us with the “face” of Christ as the “Lion” of the tribe of Judah, the Messiah-King of the Jews.
2. He begins his gospel by tracing the lineage of Jesus back to Abraham.

(Luke is the Gospel that reveals Christ as the “face” of the “man”, so his genealogical record traces Christ back to Adam, identifying Him as “Son of Man.”)

3. Genealogies are critical to identifying the Messiah-King for whom the Jews were looking.
4. Tracing Christ’s line back to Abraham fulfills Christ’s own words:

“...salvation is of the Jews.”

John 4:22

5. Tracing Christ back to David fulfills the covenant promises God made to David; that one of his sons would sit on the throne forever. (2 Sam. 7:12; Ps. 132:11)

B. Hidden Treasure

1. The Bible contains many genealogical passages which we often skip over.

2. There is much to be gleaned from these historical records, including the message today concerning the “42nd Generation”.
3. The record identifies three major movements in Israelite history:

- Their origins in God’s call to His “elect” in Abraham to the establishment of the Kingdom in David
- From David to the disbursement of the Jews into Babylonian captivity, approximately 500 years before the birth of Christ
- From the carrying away to Babylon to the birth of Christ the Messiah

So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; and from David until the carrying away into Babylon are fourteen generations; and from the carrying away into Babylon unto Christ are fourteen generations.

Matthew 1:17 KJV

4. The significance here is that there is NO further generational development after Christ according to the flesh!
5. Up to the birth of Christ, there was much focus upon the generational transfer according to the flesh:

- a. Abraham, Isaac and Jacob
- b. The 12 patriarchs become the “fathers” of the 12 tribes of Israel
- c. The 12 tribes are “nationalized” as Israel in the Book of Exodus

6. The Jews knew their King would come from the tribe of Judah, a descendant of David. (16 times in the Gospels Christ is referred to as the “Son of David”)
7. What they could not see was that after the birth of Messiah, there would be NO generational transfer according to earthly, physical genealogy!

II. So WHO Is the “42nd Generation?”

A. A New Beginning

1. Christ’s coming marked the entrance of the Kingdom of God into the earth in physical form.
2. Until Christ, there was no concept of the Kingdom apart from an earthly, political realm established in an identifiable, geographical setting.

Now if you will obey me and keep my covenant, you will be my own special treasure from among all the peoples on earth; for all the earth belongs to me. And you will be my kingdom of priests, my holy nation.

Exodus 19:5-6 New Living

3. The coming of Christ and the revelation of the Kingdom was to forever abolish the idea that salvation and spiritual blessing had anything to do with being Jewish or anything else to do with the flesh!

Peter, a Jew, wrote his general epistle to all believers, linking them with God's promise to Israel through Moses!

But you (writing to Christians)...**are a chosen people.**
You are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession.
As a result, you can show others the goodness of God,
for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.
(Then he goes further to make sure we see
that he is NOT addressing any formerly identifiable people group)...
Once you had no identity as a people; now you are God's people.
Once you received no mercy; now you have received God's mercy.
1 Peter 2:9-10 NLT

4. The generation of Jesus and the revelation of the true Kingdom of God trumped all previous understanding.
5. Until we catch hold of this revelation, the New Testament can never make sense to a Gentile!

B. Gospel Proofs of the 42nd Generation

1. The virgin birth of Christ disannuls the fleshly seed of human fathering. Since Christ had no fleshly descendants, all who are "in Him" must be "born from above," as He was!

And the angel answered and said unto (Mary)...'The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.'
Luke 1:35 KJV

2. Christ's birth foreshadowed the new birth required to be in His generation:

Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, "Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.
That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit."
John 3:3, 5-6 KJV

Jesus is definitively repudiating the flesh as a measure of righteousness, salvation, or blessing!

Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God;
1 Corinthians 15:50 KJV

3. John the Baptist warned the Jews that their earthly lineage would not secure their salvation.

But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, "O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance:

**And think not to say within yourselves, 'We have Abraham to our father': for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham."
Matthew 3:7-9 KJV**

4. Even the earthly family of Jesus had to realize their relationship after the flesh would bring no special favors.

**There was a crowd sitting around Jesus, and someone said, "Your mother and your brothers are outside asking for you."
Jesus replied, "Who is my mother? Who are my brothers?" Then he looked at those around him and said, "Look, these are my mother and brothers. Anyone who does God's will is my brother and sister and mother."
Mark 3:32-35**

5. Jesus infuriated the Jews by continually including the Gentiles in His offers of salvation, grace and mercy!

a. In one instance, Jesus' references to Old Testament grace extended to the Gentiles caused the Jews to attempt to murder Him in his hometown!

**And he said, Verily I say unto you, No prophet is accepted in his own country.
But I tell you of a truth, many widows were in Israel in the days of Elias, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, when great famine was throughout all the land;
But unto none of them was Elias sent, save unto Sarepta, a city of Sidon, unto a (Gentile) woman that was a widow.
And many lepers were in Israel in the time of Eliseus the prophet; and none of them was cleansed, saving Naaman the (Gentile) Syrian.
And all they in the synagogue, when they heard these things, were filled with wrath,
And rose up, and thrust him out of the city, and led him unto the brow of the hill whereon their city was built, that they might cast him down headlong.
But he passing through the midst of them went his way,
Luke 4:24-30 KJV**

b. In another instance, Jesus praised the faith of a Roman centurion, assuring him of the place in heaven his faith would provide him!

**When Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, "Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.
And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, *in the kingdom of heaven.*
But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."
Matthew 8:10-12 KJV**

C. Apostolic Confirmations of the 42nd Generation

1. The birth of Christ and the "generation of Jesus" so obliterated the Old Testament distinctions after the flesh that Paul wrote:

For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

**There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.
And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.
Galatians 3:27-29 KJV**

2. The New Testament revelation of Christ and His Kingdom tore down every wall of flesh separating man from God, so much so that Paul re-defines what it means to be a Jew!

**For you are not a true Jew just because you were born of Jewish parents or because you have gone through the ceremony of circumcision. No, a true Jew is one whose heart is right with God. And true circumcision is not merely obeying the letter of the law; rather, it is a change of heart produced by God's Spirit. And a person with a changed heart seeks praise from God, not from people.
Romans 2:28-29 New Living Translation**

3. The genealogical record of Matthew 1 doesn't really end with Christ! ALL who are born (re-born) of Him are included!

**Well then, has God failed to fulfill his promise to Israel? No, for not all who are born into the nation of Israel are truly members of God's people!
(KJV says: "...they are not all Israel which are of Israel...")
Being descendants of Abraham doesn't make them truly Abraham's children. For the Scriptures say, "Isaac is the son through whom your descendants will be counted," though Abraham had other children, too. This means that Abraham's physical descendants are not necessarily children of God. *Only the children of the promise* are considered to be Abraham's children.
Romans 9:6-9 NLT**

D. The True Church Is the "Israel" of God

1. The "racial" issue of Jesus' day was not "black" versus "white", or "male" versus "female"...it was Jew versus Gentile.
2. The Jews rejected Christ and His Kingdom largely because they could not accept the fact that God's election included Jew and Gentile.
3. The Church does not 'replace' Israel. The Church subsumes Israel, and Gentile believers are "grafted" in to the "tree of life" that includes the nations. (Rom 11:17-21)

But some of these branches from Abraham's tree—some of the people of Israel—have been broken off. And you Gentiles, who were branches from a wild olive tree, have been grafted in. So now you also receive the blessing God has promised Abraham and his children, sharing in the rich nourishment from the root of God's special olive tree. But you must not brag about being grafted in to replace the branches that were broken off. You are just a branch, not the root.

**"Well," you may say, "those branches were broken off to make room for me." Yes, but remember—those branches were broken off because they didn't believe in Christ, and you are there because you do believe. So don't think highly of yourself, but fear what could happen. For if God did not spare the original branches, he won't spare you either.
Romans 11:17-21 NLT**

4. Then, as now, the greatest hindrance to Kingdom-Driven living is seeing ourselves as second-class citizens instead of sons of God through Christ, every bit as entitled to blessings as the Jewish believers of Bible days!

God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

Don't forget that you Gentiles used to be outsiders. You were called "uncircumcised heathens" by the Jews, who were proud of their circumcision, even though it affected only their bodies and not their hearts. In those days you were living apart from Christ. You were excluded from citizenship among the people of Israel, and you did not know the covenant promises God had made to them. You lived in this world without God and without hope. But now you have been united with Christ Jesus. Once you were far away from God, but now you have been brought near to him through the blood of Christ.

For Christ himself has brought peace to us. He united Jews and Gentiles into one people when, in his own body on the cross, he broke down the wall of hostility that separated us. He did this by ending the system of law with its commandments and regulations. He made peace between Jews and Gentiles by creating in himself one new people from the two groups. Together as one body, Christ reconciled both groups to God by means of his death on the cross, and our hostility toward each other was put to death.

He brought this Good News of peace to you Gentiles who were far away from him, and peace to the Jews who were near. Now all of us can come to the Father through the same Holy Spirit because of what Christ has done for us.

Ephesians 2:8-18 NLT

**ALL THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN CHRIST
ARE INCLUDED IN THE "42ND GENERATION!!!**