

▼ Christmas Eve

Rocklyn Clarke Sr. - Sunday December 24, 2023

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<http://www.LifeChurchBoston.org/>

▼ Opening Material

▼ Welcome!

- Praise the Lord!
- Welcome to another Life Church sermon!

▼ Transition

- Welcome to another Sunday at Life Church.
- The upper right QR code links to our notes.
- The QR code on the left links to our giving page.
- Questions? If you took the time to visit us, you deserve to get answers!
- Email: Questions@LifeChurchBoston.ORG

▼ Matthew 1:1-17

This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham:

Abraham was the father of Isaac,
Isaac the father of Jacob,
Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers,
Judah the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar,
Perez the father of Hezron,
Hezron the father of Ram,
Ram the father of Amminadab,
Amminadab the father of Nahshon,
Nahshon the father of Salmon,
Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab,
Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth,
Obed the father of Jesse,
and Jesse the father of King David.

David was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been Uriah's wife,
Solomon the father of Rehoboam,
Rehoboam the father of Abijah,
Abijah the father of Asa,
Asa the father of Jehoshaphat,
Jehoshaphat the father of Jehoram,
Jehoram the father of Uzziah,
Uzziah the father of Jotham,
Jotham the father of Ahaz,
Ahaz the father of Hezekiah,
Hezekiah the father of Manasseh,

Manasseh the father of Amon,
Amon the father of Josiah,
and Josiah the father of Jeconiah and his brothers at the time of the exile to Babylon.

After the exile to Babylon:

Jeconiah was the father of Shealtiel,
Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel,
Zerubbabel the father of Abihud,
Abihud the father of Eliakim,
Eliakim the father of Azor,
Azor the father of Zadok,
Zadok the father of Akim,
Akim the father of Elihud,
Elihud the father of Eleazar,
Eleazar the father of Matthan,
Matthan the father of Jacob,

and Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, and Mary was the mother of Jesus who is called the Messiah.

Thus there were fourteen generations in all from Abraham to David, fourteen from David to the exile to Babylon, and fourteen from the exile to the Messiah.

- Matthew begins with a genealogy that ties Jesus unmistakably to the Old Testament.

▼ The genealogy has 4 explicit milestones:

- Unmentioned: Old Testament history from Adam to Abraham
- Abraham
- David
- Exile
- Jesus

▼ Unmentioned: Adam - Abraham

- The Bible's 1st Genealogy: Adam – Noah (Genesis 5)
- The Flood
- Noah's Family: Shem, Ham, Japheth
- Tower of Babel
- Abraham's Genealogy: Shem – Abraham (Abram)

▼ Let's look at the 1st genealogy in the Bible - Genesis 5

This is the written account of Adam's family line.

When God created mankind, he made them in the likeness of God. He created them male and female and blessed them. And he named them "Mankind" when they were created.

When Adam had lived 130 years, he had a son in his own likeness, in his own image; and he named him Seth. After Seth was born, Adam lived 800 years and had other sons and daughters. Altogether, Adam lived a total of 930 years, and then he died.

When Seth had lived 105 years, he became the father of Enosh. After he became the father of Enosh, Seth lived 807 years and had other sons and daughters. Altogether, Seth lived a total of 912 years, and then he died.

When Enosh had lived 90 years, he became the father of Kenan. After he became the father of Kenan, Enosh lived 815 years and had other sons and daughters. Altogether, Enosh lived a total of 905 years, and then he died.

When Kenan had lived 70 years, he became the father of Mahalalel. After he became the father of Mahalalel, Kenan lived 840 years and had other sons and daughters. Altogether, Kenan lived a total of 910 years, and then he died.

When Mahalalel had lived 65 years, he became the father of Jared. After he became the father of Jared, Mahalalel lived 830 years and had other sons and daughters. Altogether, Mahalalel lived a total of 895 years, and then he died.

When Jared had lived 162 years, he became the father of Enoch. After he became the father of Enoch, Jared lived 800 years and had other sons and daughters. Altogether, Jared lived a total of 962 years, and then he died.

When Enoch had lived 65 years, he became the father of Methuselah. After he became the father of Methuselah, Enoch walked faithfully with God 300 years and had other sons and daughters. Altogether, Enoch lived a total of 365 years. Enoch walked faithfully with God; then he was no more, because God took him away.

When Methuselah had lived 187 years, he became the father of Lamech. After he became the father of Lamech, Methuselah lived 782 years and had other sons and daughters. Altogether, Methuselah lived a total of 969 years, and then he died.

When Lamech had lived 182 years, he had a son. He named him Noah and said, "He will comfort us in the labor and painful toil of our hands caused by the ground the LORD has cursed. " After Noah was born, Lamech lived 595 years and had other sons and daughters. Altogether, Lamech lived a total of 777 years, and then he died.

After Noah was 500 years old, he became the father of Shem, Ham and Japheth.

- What's the recurring refrain?
- "and then he died"!
- God had warned Adam & Eve about eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
- Death has become the inevitable fate of humanity.

▼ The Flood - Tower of Babel

- We have become so wicked that God regrets having made us.
- God determines to start over with a righteous man and his family.
- After the flood God "reboots" humanity through Noah.

- ▼ Noah's Family: Shem, Ham, Japheth
 - Noah's family drama (Canaan cursed) – Genesis 9:18-28
 - This is the first hint that the “reboot” didn't work.
- ▼ Tower of Babel

They said to each other, “Come, let's make bricks and bake them thoroughly.” They used brick instead of stone, and tar for mortar. Then they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves; otherwise we will be scattered over the face of the whole earth.”

 - This is the second hint that the “reboot” didn't work.
- ▼ Abraham → 14 → David → 14 → Exile → 14 → Messiah
 - ▼ Abraham
 - ▼ God makes a promise to Abraham – Genesis 12:1-3 (NIV)

The LORD had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you.

“I will make you into a great nation,
and I will bless you;
I will make your name great,
and you will be a blessing.
I will bless those who bless you,
and whoever curses you I will curse;
and **all peoples on earth**
will be blessed through you. ”

 - The Tower of Babel builders had wanted to make their name great.
 - God promises to make Abram's name great.
 - ▼ David
 - God makes a promise to David – 2 Samuel 7:11b-16 (NIV)

“ ‘The LORD declares to you that the LORD himself will establish a house for you:
When your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom.
He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.
I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with a rod wielded by men, with floggings inflicted by human hands.
But my love will never be taken away from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you.

Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me ; your throne will be established forever. ’ ”
- ▼ Summary
 - ▼ Abraham
 - “Through you all nations will be blessed” - Genesis 12:1-3

▼ David

- David's throne will be established forever. – 2 Samuel 7:11b – 16

▼ Exile to Babylon

- What will become of the covenant promises to Abraham and David?

▼ Messiah

- The promises are renewed and fulfilled.
- Jesus will save his people from their sins.
- Jesus is God with us.

▼ A road Littered With Failure

- Genesis 12:1-3 – God's great promise to Abraham (Abram)
- Genesis 12:10-20 – In Egypt Abram passes Sarai off as merely his sister.
- Genesis 15: – God promises Abram a son; Abram believes God and is credited with righteousness. "Cutting of covenant"; smoking firepot.
- Genesis 16: Abram takes Hagar as a wife resulting in Ishmael
- Genesis 17-18: Covenant of circumcision; promise of a son with Sarah.
- Genesis 20: In Gerar Abraham passes Sarah off as his sister.
- Exodus 20-31 – God reveals his covenant with Israel at Mount Sinai.
- Exodus 32 – Golden Calf
- Leviticus 8-9: Aaron and sons ordained and begin ministry.
- Leviticus 10: - Aaron's sons Nadab and Abihu offer unauthorized fire and are struck dead.
- Israel experiences rebels in the wilderness multiple times.
- Judges – What more do we need to say?
- 2 Samuel 7:11b-16 – God promises to build a house for David.
- 2 Samuel 11 – David and Bathsheba
-
- Solomon
- All the rest of the Kings

• **Matthew 1:18-25**

This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about : His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he

will save his people from their sins.”

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).

When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

▼ **Jesus saves his people from their sins.**

- Jesus redeems Israel.
- Jesus redefines Israel as all those who follow him.
- Jesus brings Israel’s history to its climax.
- In Jesus, the Kingdom of God confronts the kingdoms of this world.

▼ **Video**

- [The Bible Explained: What We Get Wrong in the Nativity Scene](#) – YouTube (00:08:39)

▼ **Followup**

► **Discussions, Q&A**

▼ **Life Group**

▼ Welcome (5 - 10 minutes)

- [Icebreaker](#)
- Worship (optional for life group meetings during Sunday service)
- SotM Reading: Matthew 7:7-14 - Ask, Seek, Knock; Narrow and Wide Gates

▼ Word- Discussion Questions

For each question, spend 1 – 2 minutes in silence before you begin to respond.

- How does Jesus embody God’s promise to Abraham?
- How does Jesus embody God’s promise to David?
- How do we reflect these promises in our lives?

▼ Witness

How will we work together as a team to be "good news" to the people around us?

- How is your group doing? Is anyone missing? Do they know you care?
- What are you doing to make your life group safe, healthy, and effective?
- Identify people you can reach for Jesus this week. Pray for them.



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Sunday December 24, 2023



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How To Give



Matthew 1:1-17 (1 of 2)

This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham:

Abraham was the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob,
Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, Judah the father of Perez and Zerah, whose
mother was Tamar,
Perez the father of Hezron, Hezron the father of Ram, Ram the father of Amminadab,
Amminadab the father of Nahshon, Nahshon the father of Salmon,
Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab, Boaz the father of Obed, whose
mother was Ruth,
Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of King David.

David was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been Uriah's wife,
Solomon the father of Rehoboam, Rehoboam the father of Abijah,
Abijah the father of Asa, Asa the father of Jehoshaphat,
Jehoshaphat the father of Jehoram, Jehoram the father of Uzziah,
Uzziah the father of Jotham, Jotham the father of Ahaz,
Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, Hezekiah the father of Manasseh,
Manasseh the father of Amon, Amon the father of Josiah,
and Josiah the father of Jeconiah and his brothers at the time of the exile to Babylon.



Matthew 1:1-17 (2 of 2)

After the exile to Babylon:

Jeconiah was the father of Shealtiel, Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, Zerubbabel the father of Abihud, Abihud the father of Eliakim, Eliakim the father of Azor, Azor the father of Zadok, Zadok the father of Akim, Akim the father of Elihud, Elihud the father of Eleazar, Eleazar the father of Matthan, Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, and Mary was the mother of Jesus who is called the Messiah.

Thus there were fourteen generations in all from Abraham to David, fourteen from David to the exile to Babylon, and fourteen from the exile to the Messiah.



Exploring Matthew 1



Matthew begins with a genealogy that ties Jesus to the Old Testament.

- Unmentioned: Old Testament history from Adam to Abraham
- Abraham
- David
- Exile
- Jesus



Unmentioned: Adam - Abraham

The Bible's 1st Genealogy: Adam – Noah (Genesis 5)

The Flood

Noah's Family: Shem, Ham, Japheth

Tower of Babel

Abraham's Genealogy: Shem – Abraham (Abram)



1st Genealogy - Genesis 5 (1 of 3)

This is the written account of Adam's family line.
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1st Genealogy - Genesis 5 (2 of 3)

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After Noah was 500 years old, he became the father of Shem, Ham and Japheth.



1st Genealogy - Genesis 5 (3 of 3)



What's the recurring refrain?

“and then he died”!

God had warned Adam & Eve about eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Death has become the inevitable fate of humanity.



The Flood – Tower of Babel (1 of 2)

We have become so wicked that God regrets having made us.
God determines to start over with a righteous man and his family.
After the flood God “reboots” humanity through Noah.

Noah’s Family: Shem, Ham, Japheth

- Noah’s family drama (Canaan cursed) – Genesis 9:18-28
- This is the first hint that the “reboot” didn’t work.



The Flood – Tower of Babel (2 of 2)

Tower of Babel

They said to each other, “Come, let’s make bricks and bake them thoroughly.” They used brick instead of stone, and tar for mortar. Then they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves; otherwise we will be scattered over the face of the whole earth.”

- This is the second hint that the “reboot” didn’t work.



The Road To The Messiah – Abraham

Abraham → 14 → David → 14 → Exile → 14 → Messiah

God makes a promise to Abraham – Genesis 12:1-3 (NIV)

The LORD had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you.

“I will make you into a great nation,
and I will bless you;
I will make your name great,
and you will be a blessing.
I will bless those who bless you,
and whoever curses you I will curse;
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will be blessed through you.”

- The Tower of Babel builders had wanted to make their name great.
- God promises to make Abram’s name great.



The Road To The Messiah

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God makes a promise to David – 2 Samuel 7:11b-16 (NIV)

“ ‘The LORD declares to you that the LORD himself will establish a house for you: When your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom.

He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with a rod wielded by men, with floggings inflicted by human hands.

But my love will never be taken away from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you.

Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me ; your throne will be established forever. ’ ”



The Road To The Messiah

Abraham → 14 → David → 14 → **Exile** → 14 → **Messiah**

Abraham

- “Through you all nations will be blessed” - Genesis 12:1-3

David

- David’s throne will be established forever. – 2 Samuel 7:11b – 16

Exile to Babylon

- What will become of the covenant promises to Abraham and David?

Messiah

- The promises are renewed and fulfilled.
- Jesus will save his people from their sins.
- Jesus is God with us.



A Road Littered With Failure – Abraham

Genesis 12:1-3 – God’s great promise to Abraham (Abram)

Genesis 12:10-20 – In Egypt Abram passes Sarai off as merely his sister.

Genesis 15: – God promises Abram a son; Abram believes God and is credited with righteousness. “Cutting of covenant”; smoking firepot.

Genesis 16: Abram takes Hagar as a wife resulting in Ishmael

Genesis 17-18: Covenant of circumcision; promise of a son with Sarah.

Genesis 20: In Gerar Abraham passes Sarah off as his sister.



A Road Littered With Failure - Israel

Exodus 20-31 – God reveals his covenant with Israel at Mount Sinai.

Exodus 32 – Golden Calf

Leviticus 8-9: Aaron and sons ordained and begin ministry.

Leviticus 10: - Aaron's sons Nadab and Abihu offer unauthorized fire and are struck dead.

Israel experiences rebels in the wilderness multiple times.

Judges – What more do we need to say?



A Road Littered With Failure – David, etc

2 Samuel 7:11b-16 – God promises to build a house for David.

2 Samuel 11 – David and Bathsheba

Solomon

All the rest of the Kings



Matthew 1:18-25

This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about : His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

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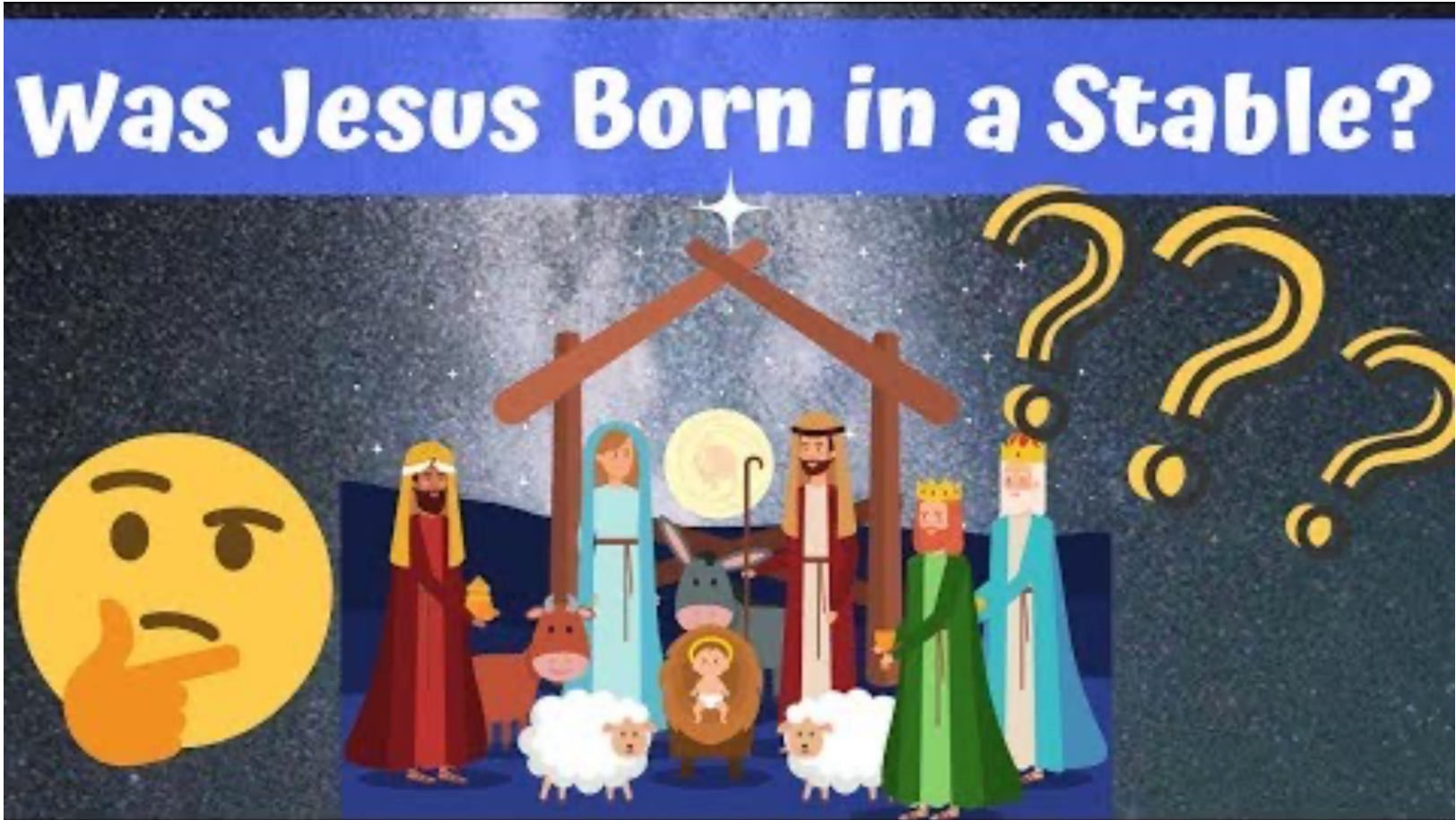
The Road To The Messiah – Jesus

Jesus saves his people from their sins.

- Jesus redeems Israel.
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- Jesus brings Israel's history to its climax.
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Nativity Misconceptions





Life Groups



Word

Spend 1 – 2 minutes in silence before you begin each question.

- **How does Jesus embody God's promise to Abraham?**
- **How does Jesus embody God's promise to David?**
- **How do we reflect these promises in our lives?**

Witness (How we work as a team to be "good news" to others)

- How is your group doing? Is anyone missing? Do they know you care?
- What are you doing to make your life group safe, healthy, and effective?
- Identify people you can reach for Jesus this week. Pray for them.



Announcements



- Sunday Service December 17, 2023
- Sunday Service December 24, 2023
- Sunday Service December 31, 2023
- Watch Night Fellowship Dec 31, 2023 - TBD
- Men's Bible Study Wed (1/3) 7pm - Zoom
- Sunday Service (Communion) January 7, 2024

How To Give



Life Groups



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