

**TO FULFILL WHAT HAD BEEN SPOKEN #2**  
**The Messiah Will Be Born**  
**December 3-5, 2005**

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots Branch will bear fruit.... In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his resting place will be glorious.

*Isaiah 11:1, 10 TNIV*

This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham: 2 Abraham was the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, 3 Judah the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar, Perez the father of Hezron, Hezron the father of Ram, 4 Ram the father of Amminadab, Amminadab the father of Nahshon, Nahshon the father of Salmon, 5 Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab, Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth, Obed the father of Jesse, 6 and Jesse the father of King David. David was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been Uriah's wife, 7 Solomon the father of Rehoboam, Rehoboam the father of Abijah, Abijah the father of Asa, 8 Asa the father of Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat the father of Jehoram, Jehoram the father of Uzziah, 9 Uzziah the father of Jotham, Jotham the father of Ahaz, Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, 10 Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, Manasseh the father of Amon, Amon the father of Josiah, 11 and Josiah the father of Jeconiah and his brothers at the time of the exile to Babylon. 12 After the exile to Babylon: Jeconiah was the father of Shealtiel, Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, 13 Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, Abiud the father of Eliakim, Eliakim the father of Azor, 14 Azor the father of Zadok, Zadok the father of Akim, Akim the father of Eliud, 15 Eliud the father of Eleazar, Eleazar the father of Matthan, Matthan the father of Jacob, 16 and Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, and Mary was the mother of Jesus who is called the Messiah. 17 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 1:1-17 TNIV*

Introduction: Through the prophets God promised to send a Messiah who would come from the lineage of King David, the son of Jesse. Matthew demonstrated how the origin and pedigree of Jesus fulfilled the ancient prophecies. Quite unusual for ancient genealogies was the inclusion of women, especially *these* women. The characters of holy history may seem unlikely to us, but God is never surprised. In fact, God used ordinary, sinful people to fulfill His promises.

- I. God works, regardless of our family background.
  - A. Examples from Jesus' ancestry:
    1. Tamar deceived her father-in-law, Judah, who thought she was a prostitute, and she conceived his child.

2. Rahab had been a prostitute in Jericho before it fell.
      3. Ruth was the half-gentile descendant of Lot, Abraham's nephew. After Lot's wife died, his daughters enticed him into a drunken stupor, had sexual relations with him and produced his descendants, including Ruth.
      4. Bathsheba had an adulterous relationship with King David, who had her husband, Uriah, killed in action at the front line of battle.
      5. Other names in Jesus' genealogy represent additional intrigue, deception, scandal, immorality, even murder.
    - B. Ancestry is not an obstacle to God's love and care. Our family backgrounds may contain the notorious, nefarious, depraved and degenerate, but if the Lord can use Jesus' ancestors to fulfill His Messianic promises, then He can also work in our lives for His good purposes.
  - II. God works, despite our own faults and failures.
    - A. The Bible does not hide the sinfulness of its characters.
      1. Abraham twice deceived kings and called Sarah his sister.
      2. Isaac did the same thing with Rebekah.
      3. Jacob deceived father Isaac and tricked his brother Esau.
      4. Judah and brothers sold brother Joseph into slavery and deceived their father Jacob.
      5. Judah fathered a child with his daughter-in-law Tamar.
      6. David was an adulterer and murderer.
    - B. Sordid, but true stories can be told about every man in Jesus' genealogy.
      1. Some descendants (kings) were idol worshippers; some killed their own children on fiery altars; others were extremely unjust.
      2. Yet, the Bible also contains accounts of humility, repentance, restoration and usefulness to God.
    - C. Despite your own past sinfulness, if you allow Him to, the Lord will change you and use you for His glory.
    - D. Jesus' genealogy also presents implications for church and ministry. The list of illicit characters foreshadows that "Jesus ignores human labels ... of illegitimacy to offer His gospel of salvation to all, including the most despised and outcast of society." (Craig Blomberg) We should, too.

Conclusion: Sometimes bad things are done to us, and sometimes we do them to ourselves (and others). Often life presents us with a script not of our choosing—disasters, diseases, deceptions, defeats. Through it all a sovereign God of providence and grace chooses to fulfill His plan and purpose for our lives and His world.