

Advent

*A Season of Hope
& Expectation*

[illegible]

“Tracing God’s Faithfulness”

Matthew 1:1-17

Intro:

If we believe **2 Tim. 3:16** then we need to pay *attention* to the genealogies of scripture.

Genealogies were *important* to the Jew. It not only *delineating* their heritage, but also *defining* their function within Israel.

In his genealogy of Jesus Matthew closes out the 400 years of *silence* between the OT and new. In **vs.1** he presents *Jesus* as the fulfillment of all the Jews had:

1. Believed,
2. Been *taught*, and,
3. That which they have *anticipated*, **Gen. 12:2-3**,

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I. The Mercy of God

Vs. 2-6a, 17

With the inclusion of women of ill *repute* Matthew showed that:

- 1.** God’s *love* was bigger than any race,
- 2.** That Jesus is the *Savior* of all peoples,
- 3.** That Jesus is the *light* to the Nations,
- 4.** Jesus is the *fulfillment* to the promises of Abraham, **Gen. 22:8.**

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II. The Judgment of God

Vs. 6b-11

God’s *judgment* fell hard on Israel as they *neglected* the poor and divorced their *religious* practice from their ministry to the poor. **Amos 4:1-4.**

As the poor will *always* be with us our duty is to be *gracious* to them, **Deut. 15:11, Prov. 19:17.**

As it is the *priority* and *concern* of the Lord, thus it should also be for the *church*, **Matt. 25:31-46, Gal. 2:10.**

We can gauge our *obedience* to the Lord primarily by looking at how we take *care* of the *poor*. It’s a *heart* issue.

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III. The Faithfulness of God

Vs. 12-17

The *promise* of a Savior first came to Abraham, **Gen. 12:3**, and then to David, **2 Sam.7, Ps. 89:4**.

As the Jews waited for the *Messiah*, so we must trust God to *work* on our behalf in His *time*, His *way*, **Gal. 4:4-5**.

Matthew showed that by Christ’s *coming*, the importance shifted from *bloodlines* to *faith* in Him.