

The genealogy in 1:1-17 was / is...*Describing & Discussing**Mark the lines below as correct (C), incorrect (X), or partly correct (▲). Most, but not all, are correct.***() very important?**

- () necessary background information?
- () proof that Jesus is qualified to be King?
- () a three-part summary of Jewish history?
- () about divine protection and preservation?
- () about God's grace to Gentiles and sinners?
- () especially important to early Jewish believers?
- () the otherwise unknown royal lineage of Joseph?
- () the foundation on which Matthew's Gospel is built?
- () designed to point to Jesus as the true Messiah (1:1)?

() not very interesting?

- () exhaustive?
- () long and detailed?
- () mostly just names?
- () without much action?
- () not a popular passage?
- () like Genesis chapter five?
- () difficult to teach or preach?
- () not aimed at Gentile readers?
- () sadly underappreciated by many?

applications*Doing*

Dr. Ed (on the Matthew series as Christian education)

As you can see on the syllabus, this is a Christian Education course as well as a Bible course. We plan to cover the entire Gospel of Matthew, but our main goal is to improve teaching skills. We will use worksheets that I have made to promote discussion, but you will also be learning to make your own worksheets. How much have you worked on Bible study worksheets?

Frank (on many worksheet questions and negatives)

I don't print out worksheets very often, because I usually only ask a few questions when I'm teaching. Frankly, I think there are too many questions on today's worksheet, but I'm glad that many of them are negative. It's about time we admitted that some parts of the Bible are not very interesting even if they are **important**.

Dr. Ed (on questions and the challenging passage)

Actually, Frank, there are only two big questions on today's worksheet. The first is about why the geneology is important, and the second is about why people today find it boring. The many sub-questions help answer the two main ones.

For sure, today's worksheet contains more negatives than most. That is because the geneology of Christ is one of the most **challenging** passages in Matthew to teach. That's also why it is **interesting** to me and why I find it sad that it is **underappreciated by many**. Most of you probably agree that the geneology is **important**, but you do not enjoy it very much. It is **necessary background information** and was **especially important to early Jewish believers**, but since it **lacks action** it can be difficult to teach.

Frank (on the personal interaction behind 1:1-17)

Lacking action? The birth of over 40 babies involved lots of it. Frankly, I wish more of the interaction were clearly spelled out by Matthew. Most of the unseemly matters (1:3, 5, 6) seem to have been **sensored**.

Dr. Ed (on God's grace toward sinners)

God could have omitted Tamar (1:3), Rahab (1:5), Ruth (1:5), and the wife of Uriah (1:6) altogether, but it is good that they are included in a delicate way. This is **an expression of God's grace toward sinners and Gentiles**. It is not sensorship, but something about the careful wording should be included in the worksheet.

Red (on the modest wording in Mat. 1:1-20)

Since most of us in this class are still single, I would like to change the subject, but I read ahead and noticed verse 18. It says that Mary was found with child "before they came together." This and everything in the geneology are clear enough but **worded modestly**. *Frankly*, I do not agree with *Frank* about the partial omission of various personal matters.

Dr. Ed (on the use of debatable lines on worksheets)

I agree, but it is helpful to include some debatable lines on worksheets. Lines that are obviously correct or incorrect are not very thought provoking. Your "worded modestly" phrase is totally correct, and Frank's "sensored" terminology is not. Nevertheless, I purposefully put many partly-correct lines on today's worksheet.

"Much of the geneology in Matthew is about God preserving the line of David during the Babylonian captivity. This is part of Matthew's emphasis on divine protection which becomes more clear in chapter two. It is also stressed at the end of the Gospel in the great commission."

Dr. Mattson: respected (imaginary) Matthew scholar

Dan (comments from a messianic perspective)

The geneology in Matthew is **interesting** to me as a messianic Jew. It is **not too long and detailed**. Some people were left out. So it is **not exhaustive**, and studying it does not exhaust me. I love the three **symmetrical** divisions.

Dr. Ed (closing comments on Matthew's geneology)

Symmetrical, yes! Let's add that to our worksheet as a subpoint. I suspect Matthew's geneology was crafted as **three sets of fourteen** as a teaching aid. Moreover, my final point today is that Matthew's geneology is **not necessarily difficult to teach**. A **well designed** worksheet and the geneology's design make a huge difference.