

Immanuel: God With Us (I)
Matthew 1:1-17
Key Verse: 1:1

* From the beginning, with this genealogy Matthew shows how God fulfilled his covenant promises to his people. Throughout his Gospel he frequently uses the word "fulfill" to show that the Old Testament prophecies all came true in the life and ministry of Jesus.

1. Read verse 1. Who were the two main ancestors in the genealogy of Jesus? What were God's covenant promises to Abraham? (Ge12:1--3; 17:6; 22:18) To David? (2Sa7:12--13,16) Why is Jesus called the "son of" each one? (Gal 3:8,16; Isa 11:1; Mk 10:47)
2. Note the Patriarchs mentioned in verse 2. How did they come to be included in Jesus' genealogy? (Gen 21:10,12; 25:23; Ro 9:7-8; 10-13) How did they keep God's covenant and pass it on to the next generation? (Heb 11:20,21)
3. How does Matthew allude to some of the failures and sins of God's people in this genealogy? (Mt1:3a [see Ge38:13--16]; Mt1:6b [see 2Sa11:2--5]; Mt1:10 [see 2Ki21:16]; Mt1:11,12a [see La1:5]) How does this reveal God's grace and faithfulness in keeping his covenant promises? (Ro 4:7-8; Ps 33:4; 145:13)
4. Note the women mentioned in this genealogy (3,5,6,16; comp. Ru 4:18-22). Why might Matthew have included them? (Compare and contrast them in regards to faith.) What do you learn here about how to be included in Jesus' spiritual family? (Mt 9:9; Jn 1:12-13; Mk 3:33-35)
5. What was the situation of Israel during the time of exile? (12-16; 2 Ki 25:7-12; Ps 137:3-4) What promises did they hold on to? (2 Ch 36:21-23; Da 2:44; Mal 4:5-6; Lk 1:32-33) How did God maintain the lamp of God in dark times?
6. How does Matthew's genealogy demonstrate that Jesus is the Christ? (17) How did Jesus Christ fulfill all of God's promises? What do you learn about God's character and way of working through this genealogy?