



God's Grand Story—The New Testament

The Coming of Jesus

January 14, 2024

We will divide the New Testament into seven parts:

1. Jesus Comes
2. Jesus Ministers
3. Jesus Dies and Lives
4. The Church Begins
5. Paul's letters
6. General Letters
7. Revelation

Matthew 1:1-17 "The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham..."

The Word of God is telling us that from Abraham to Christ there is a perfectly planned flow of history. Jesus' birth is the climax of 3 groupings of 14.

Seven or any multiple of seven symbolizes perfection, and in the generations from Abraham to Christ, we have 3 sets of 14.

Under God's control, the history leading up to the birth of Christ has been orderly and perfectly planned with meticulous, mathematical care. Since God made His promise to Abraham, He moved history forward in an orderly, purposeful, perfectly balanced way toward the OT history's fulfillment in the birth of Jesus Christ.

So, the first truth I want you to see is that this genealogy is a demonstration of God's order and movement toward the great goal of salvation through His Son. **God controls the flow of history!**

Not only does God control the flow of history; God chooses flawed humans as He carries history forward to His goals.

Let's take a closer look at the lineage of Jesus...

1. **Abraham** lied to save his neck.
2. **Jacob**, Abraham's grandson, cheated his brother, his father-in-law, his uncle.
3. **Judah**, Jacob's son, committed incest with his own daughter-in-law Tamar.
4. **Tamar** seduced her father-in-law, Judah, and the product of the union was part of the line leading to Christ.
5. **Judah's brothers** sold their younger brother, Joseph, into slavery just because they were jealous.
6. **David** was an adulterer and murderer.
7. **Rahab** was a prostitute.
8. **Ruth** was a foreigner, not even Jewish. She is a Moabitess.
9. **Manasseh** was involved in the occult. And Manasseh shed so much innocent blood that 2 Ki 21 says, "He was a terror to his people."
10. **Amon** rejected God.
11. **Kings**: almost half of these kings were crooks, and all but a handful worshipped an idol or two for good measure.

God used murderers, adulterers, prostitutes, idolaters, cheaters, liars as He carries history forward to His Son.

He wants us to know that when the world goes wild, He stays calm and is in total control.

God is still purposely moving human history forward as He moved it forward through the OT generations to the coming of Jesus Christ.

Luke 2:1-7

God used the laws of a wicked government and the decrees of greedy leaders to accomplish His purposes. God had a plan and Caesar couldn't thwart it. In fact, Caesar's very decrees would be used to accomplish it.

He is still superintending His purposes to such detail that He can have each one of His people, including you and me, in the right place at the right time to accomplish His purposes which include His glory and our good.

God, as the designer and director of that scheme gives His guarantee...

All things will be worked out together for your good and He will fulfill all His purposes in and through you and nothing can thwart that.

When the shakings come, don't be stirred.

Our God is in control, working out His purposes for His glory and our good.

He is on the throne, and He isn't the least bit nervous.

Keep the genealogy of Jesus in mind.

God chose you in Christ, and Christ makes you worthy.