

THE FAITHFULNESS OF GOD DISCUSSION QUESTIONS


MATTHEW 1:1-25


- 1 Consider how Jesus is the prophesied Son of David and also the Son of Abraham: Throughout his Gospel, Matthew presents Jesus as the kingly Messiah promised from David's royal line.

 Look up 2 Samuel 7:12-16 to see how the Messiah would be from David. From the very first sentence in Matthew, discuss how Jesus fulfilled this prophecy.

 Matthew not only connected Jesus to David, but back yet further to Abraham. Jesus is the Seed of Abraham in whom all nations would be blessed. Discuss how Jesus is the Son of Abraham from Genesis 12:3.

- 2 This genealogy is noted for the unusual presence of four women. Women were rarely mentioned in ancient genealogies, and the four mentioned here are worthy of special note as examples of God's grace. They show how God can take unlikely people and use them in great ways.


 Tamar: Write a short bio of Tamar from Genesis 38

 Rahab: Write a short bio of Rahab from Joshua 2; 6:22-23


 Ruth: Write a short bio of Ruth from Ruth 1

 Her who had been the wife of Uriah: Write a short bio of Bathsheba (who is mentioned by implication in Matthew 1:6) from 2 Samuel 11

 Discuss the unusual presence of these four women in the genealogy.

 These four women have an important place in the genealogy of Jesus to demonstrate that He identifies with sinners in His genealogy, even as He will in His birth, baptism, life, and His death on the cross. "Jesus is heir of a line in which flows the blood of the harlot Rahab, and of the rustic Ruth; he is akin to the fallen and to the lowly, and he will show his love even to the poorest and most obscure." (Spurgeon)

- 3 **Virgin Conception: How does the denial of Jesus' virgin birth affect the gospel message?** So, what if Jesus had 2 biological human parents? What if Jesus had no human parents? Discuss the ramifications of these questions.

 Mary: "She was found with child of the Holy Spirit." Matthew plainly (without the greater detail found in the Gospel of Luke) presents the virginal conception and subsequent birth of Jesus. However, the virgin birth was difficult for people to believe back then, even as it is also doubted now by some.

