

christmas longings
week 2: hope

matthew 1

“matthew’s begats”

Abraham had Isaac
Isaac, he had Jacob
Jacob, he had Judah
and his kin
Then Perez and Zerah
Came from Judah's
woman, Tamar
Perez, he brought Hezron
up
And then came

Aram, then Amminadab
Then Nahshon, who was
then the dad of Salmon
Who with Rahab fathered
Boaz
Ruth, she married Boaz
who had Obed
Who had Jesse
Jesse, he had David
who we know as king

“matthew’s begats”

David, he had Solomon by
dead Uriah's wife

Solomon, well you all
know him

He had good old
Rehoboam

Followed by Abijah who
had Asa

Asa had Jehoshaphat had
Joram had Uzziah

Who had Jotham then
Ahaz then Hezekiah

Followed by Manasseh
who had Amon

Who was a man

Who was father of a good
boy named Josiah

Who grandfathered
Jehoiachin

Who caused the
Babylonian captivity

Because he was a liar

“matthew’s begats”

Then he had Shealtiel,
who begat Zerubbabel

Who had Abiud who had
Eliakim

Eliakim had Azor who had
Zadok who had Akim

Akim was the father of
Eliud then

He had Eleazar who had
Matthan who had Jacob

Now, listen very closely

I don't want to sing this
twice

Jacob was the father of
Joseph

The husband of Mary

The mother of Christ

- where the writer spills extra ink:
comments, descriptions, extra details
- different from the rest or unusual
- summary or application given

tips for reading “begats”

So all the generations from *Abraham to David* were fourteen generations, and from *David* to the deportation to *Babylon* fourteen generations, and from the deportation to *Babylon* to the *Christ* fourteen generations.

matthew 1:17

honestly identifying where we are,
seeing where we long to be
and believing the gap between can be closed

hope (defined)

1 How lonely sits the city that was full of people! How like a widow has she become, she who was great among the nations! She who was a princess among the provinces has become a slave.

2 She weeps bitterly in the night, with tears on her cheeks; among all her lovers she has none to comfort her; all her friends have dealt treacherously with her; they have become her enemies.

lamentations 1

7 Jerusalem remembers in the days of her affliction and wandering all the precious things that were hers from days of old.

When her people fell into the hand of the foe, and there was none to help her, her foes gloated over her; they mocked at her downfall.

11 All her people

groan as they search for bread; they trade their treasures for food to revive their strength. “Look, O Lord, and see, for I am despised.”

12 “Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by? Look and see if there is any sorrow like my sorrow, which was brought upon me

lamentations 1

16 “For these things I weep; my eyes flow with tears; for a comforter is far from me, one to revive my spirit; my children are desolate, for the enemy has prevailed.”

18 “The Lord is in the right, for I have rebelled against his word; but hear, all you peoples, and see my

suffering; my young women and my young men have gone into captivity.

20 “Look, O Lord, for I am in distress; my stomach churns; my heart is wrung within me, because I have been very rebellious. In the street the sword bereaves; in the house it is like death.

lamentations 1

before:

beautiful

bustling with life

princess

great among the

nations

a light to the nations

after:

death

despair

mourning

devastation

destruction

shame

jerusalem before & after babylon

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matthew 1:17



Commander Robert Kirk & the USS Valdez (Newport, RI)



So all the generations from *Abraham to David* were fourteen generations, and from *David* to the deportation to *Babylon* fourteen generations, and from the deportation to *Babylon* to the *Christ* fourteen generations.

matthew 1:17

- sweep it under the rug
 - problem: becomes toxic
- enshrine it in our lives as the main story
 - problem: given too much power

mistakes with babylon

God has come to put babylon in its proper
place

neither sweeping under the rug

nor enthroning it as lord over our lives

the question:

what will you do with your pain?

christmas meets babylon

creation:

“it is good”

“it is good”

“it is very good”

earth:

the land of the ruins

“we did this”

after:

death

despair

mourning

devastation

destruction

shame

all ~~jerusalem~~ ~~after~~ ~~babylon~~

honestly identifying where we are,
seeing where we long to be
and believing the gap between can be closed

where we are:

orphans separated from God
in the land of the ruins
re-ruining it daily

sin & death gap

where we want & were made to be:
eternal life

perfect world

with a perfectly

hope (defined)



Christ has come

AND

Christ will come again



advent

- God has come to get us in the land of the ruins
- babylon is not the last word on your story
- Jesus can be if you will only trust him
- good news for the beautiful ruins of chatham county...

christmas in the land of the ruins

“is it nothing to you, all you who pass by?”

(lamentations 1:12)

lamentations (missional) question

to a people in the land of the ruins

scarred by it

re-ruining it daily

and who created the gap between us & God

God has come to close the gap

to make all things right & new

so that babylon wouldn't have the last
word

so that He might

the hope of christmas
in the land of the ruins