

EASTER

SHARE

Can you share anything about your family tree, history, or lineage?

SEEK

Resurrection

What better place to talk about Resurrection Day, Easter, than the genealogy of Matthew's Gospel! Maybe you're thinking, *Wait a minute. The genealogies aren't for Easter, they're for Christmas!* Well, I'm glad you asked!

The beginning of Matthew's gospel in the original Greek text says, "The beginning of the γενεσεως (ge-ne-say-ohs), or 'genesis' of Jesus Christ." This word is also used in 1.18 to tell how the birth (γενεσεως) of Jesus came about. While Matthew 1.1 uses the word to talk about a genealogy (although notice that this isn't a "normal" genealogy; it is a picking and choosing of people in order to tell a story), 1.18 uses it to talk about a story. What we're talking about here, then, is a birth *story* or *origins* of a birth. If someone were to ask you what the origins of your birth were, if you knew it you would begin telling a story of how your heritage and lineage all came together. You would tell a story and fill in details.

What Matthew is trying to do right from the beginning is tell the *story* of Jesus; where He's come from and what He's expected to be like. Especially in that era, it was common to expect a person's behavior to reflect that of their lineage. Jesus was and is divine. His birth was prophesied long ago. There was devastation and murders because of His birth. But Jesus' lineage also reveals kingship; He was coming and continues to rule. But how was that kingdom established?

When Jesus resurrected from the dead He said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me" (28.18). In other words, God's resurrection of Jesus reveals Jesus' kingship! Jesus could not be held down, even by death! Not to mention His victory over sin on the cross, bearing the weight of the world's rebellion toward God. Everything He stood for: justice, love, wisdom, peace, etc, cannot be taken by human or spiritual evil. The birth story was but a foreshadowing, an appetizer, of the glorious Kingdom to come through the resurrection of Jesus. This Easter, may we share the great Story of our Lord and His rising!

SEE

RESURRECTION

WHAT DOES EASTER MEAN TO YOU? WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO THE "WIDER WORLD," OR THE UNITED STATES?

IF MATTHEW IS TRYING TO TELL A BIRTH STORY, WHAT IS HIS MAIN POINT? WHAT DOES MATTHEW WANT TO SAY ABOUT JESUS?

ACCORDING TO PAUL IN 1 CORINTHIANS 15.17, IF THERE IS NO RESURRECTION THERE IS NO CHRISTIAN FAITH, AND WE ARE ALL STILL LIVING IN OUR SINS. CHRISTIANS THEREFORE HINGE THEIR RELIGION ON THE RESURRECTION. WHY IS THE RESURRECTION THE CORNERSTONE OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH? WHAT DID THE RESURRECTION ACCOMPLISH?

HOW IS THE KINGSHIP OF JESUS A CHALLENGE TO A WORLD THAT IS GENERALLY INDIVIDUALISTIC AND RULES THEIR OWN LIVES? HOW IS THE KINGSHIP OF JESUS GOOD NEWS TO OUR WORLD?

Please take a few moments to pray with and for one another