

11/2/25

Sermon Title: The Word, Jesus Christ Himself, became flesh and came to us

Preacher: Pastor Kim Soonbae

Scripture Passage: Matthew 1:1–25

The Genealogy of Jesus the Messiah

¹ This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham:

² Abraham was the father of Isaac,

Isaac the father of Jacob,

Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers,

³ Judah the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar,

Perez the father of Hezron,

Hezron the father of Ram,

⁴ Ram the father of Amminadab,

Amminadab the father of Nahshon,

Nahshon the father of Salmon,

⁵ Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab,

Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth,

Obed the father of Jesse,

⁶ and Jesse the father of King David.

David was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been Uriah's wife,

⁷ Solomon the father of Rehoboam,

Rehoboam the father of Abijah,

Abijah the father of Asa,

⁸ Asa the father of Jehoshaphat,

Jehoshaphat the father of Jehoram,

Jehoram the father of Uzziah,

⁹ Uzziah the father of Jotham,

Jotham the father of Ahaz,

Ahaz the father of Hezekiah,

¹⁰ Hezekiah the father of Manasseh,

Manasseh the father of Amon,

Amon the father of Josiah,

¹¹ and Josiah the father of Jeconiah and his brothers at the time of the exile to Babylon.

¹² After the exile to Babylon:

Jeconiah was the father of Shealtiel,

Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel,

¹³ Zerubbabel the father of Abihud,

Abihud the father of Eliakim,

Eliakim the father of Azor,

¹⁴ Azor the father of Zadok,

Zadok the father of Akim,

Akim the father of Elihud,

¹⁵ Elihud the father of Eleazar,

Eleazar the father of Matthan,

Matthan the father of Jacob,

¹⁶ and Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, and Mary was the mother of Jesus who is called the Messiah.

¹⁷ Thus there were fourteen generations in all from Abraham to David, fourteen from David to the exile to Babylon, and fourteen from the exile to the Messiah.

Joseph Accepts Jesus as His Son

¹⁸ This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit.

¹⁹ Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

²⁰ But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.

²¹She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:

²³ “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).

²⁴ When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife.

²⁵ But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

After the prophet Malachi, God remained silent for about 400 years.

During that period, He gave no prophetic revelation.

This silence was a form of discipline for Israel’s disobedience, but that was not all—it was also a time given for the people of Israel to renew their faith and prepare to receive the Messiah.

At the same time, God Himself was preparing for the dawning of a new era.

During those 400 years of silence, God was quietly carrying out His redemptive plan—preparing the way for the work of redemption through Jesus Christ.

So what kind of preparations did God make during those 400 years?

The sovereign God, who rules over the world and directs the course of history, allowed Alexander the Great of the Greek Empire to conquer Persia, spreading Hellenistic culture throughout the known world and establishing Greek as the common language.

After Alexander’s death, God allowed Rome to rise to power.

Rome built an extensive network of roads—so much so that people said, “All roads lead to Rome.”

This made it possible for Jewish communities scattered across the world to build synagogues, which later became centers for the preaching of the gospel.

Let us look more closely at the historical and environmental changes that took place around Israel during those 400 silent years.

- **539 B.C.** – Persia conquered Babylon.
- **536 B.C.** – King Cyrus of Persia issued a decree allowing the exiled Israelites to return to their homeland, rebuild the temple, and restore temple worship.
- **330 B.C.** – Alexander the Great of Greece conquered Persia.
As a result, Hellenistic culture spread widely, and Greek philosophy—such as Platonic and Stoic thought—entered Israel.
The Scriptures were translated into Greek (the Septuagint).
- **323 B.C.** – After Alexander’s death, his empire was divided.
Antiochus IV of the Seleucid dynasty came to rule over Israel.
He forced Hellenistic culture on the Jews and persecuted Judaism—banning circumcision and Sabbath observance, and setting up a temple to Zeus in Jerusalem, where he sacrificed pigs on the altar.
The Jews resisted, leading to the **Maccabean Revolt (167–140 B.C.)**.
- **146 B.C.** – Macedonia and the Achaean League were destroyed by Rome, bringing Greece under Roman control.
- **64 B.C.** – The Roman general Pompey reorganized the East, bringing Judah under Roman rule.
Herod was appointed king of Judea by Rome.
To gain favor with the Jews, Herod began a massive reconstruction of the temple (25 B.C. – A.D. 64).

During this time, Judaism was divided into several sects—**Sadducees, Pharisees, Essenes, and Zealots**:

- **The Sadducees** were composed mainly of priests and the aristocracy.
They accepted only the Torah, rejecting other Jewish traditions and oral law.

They denied resurrection and the existence of angels, and cooperated with Rome to preserve their status.

They disappeared after the destruction of the Temple in A.D. 70.

- **The Pharisees** emphasized both the written law and oral traditions.

Unlike the Sadducees, they believed in resurrection, angels, and the afterlife.

They taught the law in synagogues rather than in the Temple and were often at odds with Jesus for their focus on external formality.

They became the foundation of modern Judaism.

- **The Essenes** lived in isolation, separating themselves from worldly society. They practiced communal living and awaited God's imminent judgment and the dawn of a new age.

They lived near the Dead Sea in Qumran, where they produced manuscripts that greatly influenced modern biblical studies.

- **The Zealots** were militant nationalists who resisted Roman rule, even through violence, in their zeal to uphold the law.

They were eventually crushed by Rome.

Although these groups differed in belief and politics, all longed for a powerful Messiah who would deliver them from Roman oppression.

This 400-year period of silence was, in fact, God's time of thorough preparation. And when the time was fully come, **God Himself came into the world in human form.**

The Word—Jesus Christ—became flesh and dwelt among us.

The four Gospels—**Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John**—are accounts written from different perspectives and for different audiences. Each records what was seen and heard concerning the birth of Jesus Christ and the works He performed during His time on earth.

The Gospel of **Matthew**, in particular, was written by Matthew, one of the twelve disciples of Jesus.

Having shared in Jesus Christ's public ministry, Matthew recorded what he witnessed and heard—specifically for the **Jewish people**.

Matthew begins his Gospel with the **genealogy of Jesus Christ**.

He does this to prove to the Jews—who were well-versed in the Old Testament—that Jesus is indeed the Messiah promised by God.

The genealogy traces Jesus' lineage from **Abraham** through **David** to **Jesus Christ**, showing that He fulfills God's covenant promise to send the Messiah from the line of David.

Through the prophet **Isaiah**, God had declared that *"a shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit."*

(Isaiah 11:1) A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.

And through the prophet Nathan, God told David that his throne would be established forever.

(2 Samuel 7:14) I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with a rod wielded by men, with floggings inflicted by human hands.

(2 Samuel 7:15) But my love will never be taken away from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you.

(2 Samuel 7:16) Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me your throne will be established forever."

(2 Samuel 7:17) Nathan reported to David all the words of this entire revelation.

Even though Judah fell to Babylon and the Davidic dynasty could no longer continue its throne, God fulfilled His promise by having Jesus Christ born from the lineage of David.

¹¹ and Josiah the father of Jeconiah and his brothers at the time of the exile to Babylon.

¹² After the exile to Babylon:

Jeconiah was the father of Shealtiel,
Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel,

Matthew also reveals God's profound message through the genealogy of Jesus Christ.

In Judah at that time, women were not typically included in genealogies—yet in the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the names of several women, and even Gentile women, are recorded: Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, and the wife of Uriah.

Tamar deceived her father-in-law Judah and bore a child through him to continue the family line.

Rahab was a prostitute.

Ruth was a Gentile woman who followed her mother-in-law Naomi.

The wife of Uriah (Bathsheba) committed adultery with David and later married him.

Including these women in the genealogy of Jesus Christ was meant to show that the barriers between male and female, Jew and Gentile, had been broken down. Salvation is not only for the Jews but also for the Gentiles.

It demonstrates the love of God that embraces even sinners who deserve death. Through the genealogy of Jesus Christ, we see that God's salvation transcends gender, social status, and every human boundary.

After recording the genealogy of Jesus Christ, Matthew goes on to describe His birth.

¹⁶ and Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, and Mary was the mother of Jesus who is called the Messiah.

Normally, a genealogy lists the father, but in the genealogy of Jesus, no father is mentioned.

There is no record stating that Jesus was born from Joseph, the husband of Mary. It is to testify that Jesus was not born through a physical union between a husband and wife.

Matthew explains this in the following way:

¹⁸ This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit.

It says that Jesus Christ was conceived in His mother Mary before she came together with Joseph.

When Joseph found out that Mary was pregnant, he planned to break off the engagement quietly.

But an angel of the Lord appeared to him and addressed him as a son of David, telling him that the child had been conceived by the Holy Spirit.

¹⁹ Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

²⁰ But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.

The angel of the Lord told Joseph that Mary would give birth to a son, and that he should name Him **Jesus**, because He would save His people from their sins — revealing that this child was the promised **Messiah**.

²¹She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:

²³ “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).

Matthew quotes the words of Isaiah to make it clear that the birth of Jesus is the fulfillment of God’s covenant promise.

Here is the prophecy from Isaiah:

(Isaiah 7:14) Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

Immanuel means “God with us.”

The Word, who is God, became flesh and came to this earth, marking the beginning of God’s work of salvation.

The righteous Joseph obeyed the command of the angel of the Lord.

²⁴ When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife.

²⁵ But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

Beloved members of Church of Godly Dreams,

During the 400 years of silence, God thoroughly prepared to accomplish His work of redemption.

And finally, He sent the Word—Jesus Christ—into this world.

Consider why God had to send His one and only Son, Jesus Christ, to this lowly earth as a man.

It was to resolve the problem of human sin.

Since all people are sinners, the issue of sin must be dealt with, for its price must be paid.

But the wages of sin is death—meaning all humankind must die.

Moved with compassion, God initiated the project of human salvation by sending Jesus Christ to this world to pay the penalty of sin on our behalf.
And whoever is in Christ Jesus is freed from the yoke of sin and made truly free.

Today, there are many deceptions in the world.

As the end draws near, Satan and his demons prowl around like roaring lions, trying to keep people from receiving salvation.

Even some who call themselves church leaders have joined in, claiming that salvation can be found “here” or “there.”

From October 27 to 31, the **World Evangelical Alliance (WEA)** General Assembly was held in Seoul, South Korea.

Prominent church leaders in Korea (such as Pastor Oh Jung-hyun of Sarang Church and Pastor Lee Young-hoon of Yoido Full Gospel Church) took the lead, persuading believers that the WEA is different from the WCC.

But this is not the truth.

Do not be deceived.

There is salvation only in **Jesus Christ**.

God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved.
Believe in Jesus—and be victorious!