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House to House Heart to Heart

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Dunlap

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THAT BORING LIST OF NAMES

MATTHEW 1:1-17 *Allen Webster*

Matthew did not try to make the opening of his book about Jesus especially fetching. In fact, most people believe the first seventeen verses of the New Testament are so boring that they skip them entirely.

Since every thought from God is precious (Psalm 139:17), we must not simply pass over half a chapter with only a glance. Why are these three lists of fourteen names each in the Bible? Of what value could they be to one who has never heard of most of these people, and cannot pronounce half of them?

Let us look a little deeper. This “boring list of names” shows:

GOD’S FAITHFULNESS—HE NEVER FORGETS A PROMISE

When God promised Abraham that all nations would be blessed through him (Genesis 12:2–3), it was not idle chatter. Forty-two generations, two thousand years, and forty Bible books later, it was finally happening.

It goes back even two thousand years before that. Ever since the ruin of Eden,

all creation had awaited its Savior, the promised seed of woman that would one day restore paradise (Genesis 3:15). It was the hope of every expectant mother and the dream of every pacing father. He was “the Desire of All Nations” (Haggai 2:7).

God never forgot that He had promised a Savior who would be both the seed of woman and the descendant of Abraham. He is “the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments” (Deuteronomy 7:9; cf. Isaiah 49:7). God has made promises to us, and He “is not slack concerning” those promises (2 Peter 3:9). “God is faithful” (1 Corinthians 1:9). He promised:

- To save us when, as penitent believers, we were immersed for forgiveness (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38).
- To listen to our prayers and meet our needs (Matthew 6:33; 7:7–11).
- To be with us all the way, every day (Matthew 28:20; Hebrews 13:5).

- To make a way to escape every temptation (1 Corinthians 10:13).
- To make propitiation for the sins of His people (Hebrews 2:17).
- That the gates of hell will never prevail against His church (Matthew 16:18).
- That if we confess our sins, He will forgive us our sins, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9).
- To preserve those who suffer according to His will (1 Peter 4:19).
- To save us and give us an inheritance (John 14:1–2; 1 Peter 1:3–5).

He has kept, is keeping, and will keep all these and the thousands of other promises He has made to us. “Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful” (Hebrews 10:23). Delays of promised mercies, though they exercise our patience, do not weaken God’s promise.

GOD’S IMPARTIALITY—HE FAVORS THE UNDERDOG

This list has three classes who were discounted in Jewish culture: younger sons, women, and Gentiles.

The Jews favored the oldest son with both the birthright and a double inheritance, so it is notable that Jesus generally descended from a younger brother in a family—such as Abraham, Jacob, Judah, David, Nathan, and Rhesa (Luke 3:23–28). This stands in contrast to earthly princes who often gain thrones as the oldest son of the king.

Matthew differs from Luke in naming women in the genealogy. In a culture that devalued women to the point that some men prayed daily: “God, I thank you that I am not a woman, a slave, or a Gentile,” the biography written for the Jews included women. Jews traced lineage through fathers and did not normally even list women, yet five women are named here.

Although it was promised that the Messiah would be of the “seed of Abraham” (Genesis 12:1–3), God nonetheless managed to include some Gentile blood in Jesus. Two of the women listed in Jesus’ lineage were originally strangers to the commonwealth of Israel:

- Rahab was a Canaanite (Joshua 2:1).
- Ruth was a Moabite (Ruth 1:22).

These were unexpected grafts, since marriages to foreigners were forbidden by Jewish law. As a Moabitess, Ruth was specifically excluded from the nation of Israel (Deuteronomy 23:3–6).

Jesus favored the underdog in His ministry. Luke especially brings this out. Jesus took time for children, touched lepers, interacted with women, and was concerned for the sick and aged.

What does this mean for us? In Christ, “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus” (Galatians 3:28). Those who are strangers and foreigners are welcome, in Christ, to the citizenship of the saints (Ephesians 2:13–18). God exalts the lowly (Luke 1:52); so, “Let the lowly brother glory in his exaltation” (James 1:9). He puts great honor on the part that lacks it (1 Corinthians 12:24).

GOD’S GRACE—ONE’S PRESENT AND FUTURE ARE GREATER THAN THE PAST

The Savior’s family tree has its share of bent twigs and broken branches. Abraham, for example, was a man of faith, but he also lied on two occasions, sending his wife into the arms of Pharaoh and Abimelech and putting the promised seed in jeopardy. David was a man after God’s own heart (Acts 13:22), but he was also once a man after Bathsheba—with whom he committed adultery and for whom he committed murder.

Of the women mentioned in the list, two—Rahab and Ruth—are foreigners, and three—Tamar, Rahab, and Bathsheba—were stained with sin (Genesis 38; Hebrews 11:31; 2 Samuel 11), yet God permitted them to be Jesus’ ancestors.

Matthew’s purpose may have been to show Jesus’ humility, that He took the likeness of sinful flesh (Romans 8:3), that He who came to save “that which was lost” (Matthew 18:11), and that He was the Friend of sinners. “Where sin abounded, grace abounded much more” (Romans 5:20).

GOD’S DIVERSITY—ALL KINDS OF PEOPLE ARE REPRESENTED.

Every person can find someone who represents himself in this list.

There are high society people, but there are also obscure nobodies. There are kings and farmers, men and women, heroes of faith and notorious sinners who were redeemed by grace. There are patriarchs, Gentiles, women of doubtful character, good men, bad men, and wise people. All supply important links.

In the Son of Man there is a blending of all classes; He is the representative and helper of all (Matthew 11:28–30; Revelation 22:17). Jesus belongs to our race—the human race. “He knew what was in man” (John 2:25). In Him, therefore, is neither Jew nor Greek exclusively, but all are one (Galatians 3:28–29).

GOD’S POWER—HE BEATS THE DEVIL EVERY TIME

Matthew’s genealogy shows God’s power in preserving Abraham’s descendants as a race through whom Christ could come into the world. Providence is God’s control of circumstances so that His purposes are fulfilled (Genesis 50:20).

Luke’s genealogy goes all the way back to our first parents (Luke 3:38). Satan tempted Eve, and Eve sinned (Genesis 3:1–6). She shared with Adam, and he sinned. God then put a curse on man, woman, the earth, and the devil. Then He declared: “I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel” (Genesis 3:15).

Although all of Jesus’ ancestors sinned, and Satan tried to wipe out the race many times (sometimes getting down to one qualifying seed), God always stepped in and keep the lineage intact.

That boring list of names turns out to be not so dry after all.



Wrong Is Always Wrong

Wrong is wrong, even if you do not get caught. “The eyes of the Lord are in every place, keeping watch on the evil and the good” (Proverbs 15:3).

Wrong is wrong, even if you are doing it for a good cause. The honorable does not justify a dishonorable deed (Romans 3:8).

Wrong is wrong, even if others do a worse deed. It will be of little comfort if we should be lost thinking about the bad deed of others (2 Corinthians 10:12).

Wrong is wrong, even if it does not bother your conscience. Conscience can be trained to accept wrongdoing (1 Timothy 4:2). Sin is lawlessness (1 John 3:4).

Wrong is wrong, even if it is commonly accepted. “You shall not follow a crowd to do evil” (Exodus 23:2). —Anonymous

“Do no wrong.”

JEREMIAH 22:3

Seven Ways to Get More out of Your Life

1. Recognize that life is a gift from God not to be taken for granted (James 1:17).
2. Put more into life. Get involved in the Lord’s work, helping others by teaching them the gospel (Matthew 28:19–20; Mark 16:15–16). The returns are enormous.
3. Never worry about tomorrow (Philippians 4:6; Matthew 6:25). Worry will not achieve anything except an early grave. Instead, give concerns to God (1 Peter 5:7).
4. Do not live in the past. Living in the past causes us to miss current opportunities (Philippians 3:13–15).
5. Live one day at a time. Today is the only day we have to accomplish any good (Matthew 6:33–34).
6. Do not expect life to be problem-free. If it were not for problems, we would not be challenged to grow as individuals (James 1:1–3, 12; 1 Peter 1:3–7).
7. Focus on the positive aspects of life instead of the negative (Philippians 4:8; Galatians 6:10). —North Macon Daily Messenger

Six Reminders from Galatians

1. Do not live for the approval of others (Galatians 1:10).
2. You are not defined by your past (Galatians 2:20).
3. Your worth is in Christ, not your job or education (Galatians 3:27).
4. You are no longer a slave; you are now a child of God (Galatians 4:7).
5. Do not be led by feelings and emotions; be led by the Spirit through His Word (Galatians 5:25; Ephesians 6:17).
6. Do not grow weary while doing good. When the time is right, you will reap what you have sown (Galatians 6:9).

—Glenn Hitchcock

“His delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night.”

PSALM 1:2

God’s Plan for Saving Man

- Divine Love:** John 3:16
- God’s Grace:** Ephesians 2:8
- Christ’s Blood:** Romans 5:9
- Holy Spirit’s Word:** Romans 1:16
- Sinner’s Faith:** Acts 16:31
- Sinner’s Repentance:** Luke 13:3
- Sinner’s Confession:** Romans 10:10
- Sinner’s Baptism:** Acts 22:16
- Christian’s Love:** Matthew 22:37
- Christian’s Work:** James 2:24
- Christian’s Hope:** Romans 8:24
- Christian’s Endurance:** Revelation 2:10





Quiet, Please!

Six-year-old Emma and her four-year-old brother Jackson were sitting together in church. Jackson giggled, sang, and talked out loud. Finally, his big sister had had enough. "You're not supposed to talk out loud in church." "Why? Who's going to stop me?" Jackson asked. Emma pointed to the back of the church and said, "See those two men standing by the door? They're hushers."

—Anonymous

"Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing. Then they said among the nations, 'The Lord has done great things for them.'"

PSALM 126:2



A Stabilizing Influence

Marriage has value to society. (1) Marriage provides an atmosphere of psychological security as a man and woman commit to one another. (2) This sacred institution facilitates an environment of safety for rearing children. Youngsters were not designed to be bred and reared like animals. (3) Marriage creates the type of societal atmosphere that allows religion and moral values to flourish. Marriage was initiated by the Creator (Genesis 2).

—Wayne Jackson



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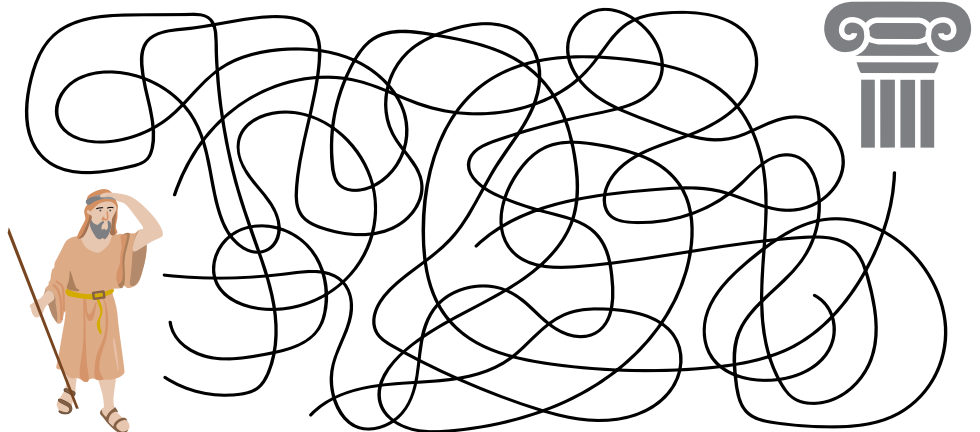
Child-Rearing: Seven Suggestions

1. Teach them the greatest two commandments are to love God and other people (Matthew 22:36–40). They are to love others as they love themselves, which implies self-worth without selfishness.
2. Caution them often about the trash Satan peddles. Develop them into conscientious young people who do much of their own censoring and who will understand that most movies are unfit for Christian consumption (1 Peter 2:11).
3. Bring up the subject of sex and morality. (Do not wait for them to ask or expect them to get their information elsewhere.) Start early. Be open, straightforward, and repetitious (Ephesians 5:3–5). Aim that neither you nor they will be embarrassed to discuss any aspect of it. Your guidance will give them a solid foundation to weather temptation (2 Timothy 2:22).
4. Reinforce your moral teaching (Genesis 18:19) by setting specific guidelines for dating such as: "No dances or parties with drinking. No sitting as a couple in a parked car or unattended house. Be home by curfew time." Never assume a minor son or daughter is old enough, wise enough, or good enough not to need supervision (1 Corinthians 10:12).
5. Train your children to date only those who are morally upright, and urge them to plan on marrying a Christian (Matthew 6:33; 2 Corinthians 6:14–16).
6. Rear children to have respect and cherish relationships with older people (1 Peter 5:5).
7. Teach your children the virtue of work by giving them regular jobs and responsibilities, and you will rear them to be productive adults who will go through life paying their own way (1 Thessalonians 4:11–12; 2 Thessalonians 3:10). Teach them by example to be generous (2 Corinthians 9:7).



Just for Fun Paul the Apostle

Trace the line to help Paul complete one of his missionary journeys



Things Not in the Bible

Did you know that . . .

The Bible nowhere says “accept Jesus as your personal Savior”? (Luke 6:46).

“The Rapture” is not once mentioned in the Bible? (1 Thessalonians 4:13–18).

No one in Scripture was ever told to “Ask Jesus into your heart” in answer to the question “What must I do to be saved?” (Acts 16:29–32).

Christians did not use instruments of music in worship? (Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16).

Nowhere in the Bible is there a command or example for a set day to be baptized? (2 Corinthians 6:2).

Women did not lead in worship when men were present? (1 Timothy 2:8–15).

“Faith only” is mentioned just once in the Bible, and it says “not by faith only”? (James 2:24).

Peter was not a pope, and he had a wife?

(Matthew 8:14; 1 Peter 5:1–2).

It is against God’s will to call any man “Father” as a religious title? (Matthew 23:9).

No church ever sprinkled water instead of immersing for baptism? (Acts 8:35–40; Romans 6:3–4).

No preacher or board of deacons was ever the head of a congregation? (Acts 14:23; Titus 1:5).

There is no example or command for preachers to wear special robes or clothes? (Matthew 23:5; Mark 12:38).

No babies were ever baptized in the Bible? (Acts 8:12).

No one is identified as transgender or non-binary in the Bible? (Matthew 19:4).

Everyone who has put on Christ in baptism is a “saint”? (Philippians 1:1).

There is no God-approved same-sex marriage mentioned in the Bible? (Romans 1:24–32).

Nothing in the Bible suggests that a person can be bought out or prayed out of a purgatory? (Matthew 25:46).

No Scripture says God arbitrarily chooses some to be saved and others to be lost? (Matthew 11:28). —Anonymous

“These . . . searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.”

ACTS 17:11



Cut out this section and mail it to the address on the front.



Bible Quiz

VOLUME 28:1

Send us your answers to receive a free Bible bookmark. We will grade and return your questions and enclose the bookmark “Types/Antitypes – Moses and Melchizedek” as a way of saying thanks for spending time in the Word (quantities may be limited).

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City/State: _____
 Phone: _____

Questions are taken from the New King James Version.

Answers to Previous Quizzes

V. 27:11 Starts with the Letter “H”: 1. Honor (Exodus 20:12); 2. Hadassah (Esther 2:7); 3. Ham (Genesis 9:22); 4. Husbands (John 4:18); 5. Honey (Matthew 3:4); 6. Hezekiah (Isaiah 38:5); 7. Hearers (James 1:22); 8. Humble (James 4:10); 9. Hophni (1 Samuel 4:11); 10. Herodias (Mark 6:19–20); 11. Herod (Matthew 2:16–18); 12. Hope (Titus 2:13); 13. Hell (Matthew 5:22); 14. Hate (1 John 4:20); 15. Heart (1 Samuel 13:14; Acts 13:22); 16. Hagar (Genesis 16:1, 15); 17. Heaven (Matthew 19:14); 18. Hail (Exodus 9:22); 19. Horsemen (Revelation 6:1–8); 20. Heel (Genesis 3:15); 21. Hannah (1 Samuel 1:20); 22 Holy, holy, holy (Isaiah 6:3).

V. 27:12 Starts With the Letter “W”: 1. Wages (Romans 6:23); 2. Wait (Isaiah 40:31); 3. Walk (1 John 1:7); 4. Want (Psalm 23:1); 5. War (1 Peter 2:11); 6. Wash (Acts 22:16); 7. Washpot (Psalm 60:6–8); 8. Watch (Mark 14:38); 9. Water (Revelation 22:17); 10. Way (John 14:6); 11. Weak (Romans 15:1); 12. Wealth (Deuteronomy 8:18); 13. Weary (Galatians 6:9); 14. Week (Matthew 28:1); 15. Weeping (Psalm 30:5); 16. Wheel/wheel (Ezekiel 1:15–28); 17. Whelp (Genesis 49:9); 18. Whisperer (Proverbs 16:28); 19. White (Revelation 20:11); 20. Wicked (Proverbs 15:29); 21. Widows (James 1:27).

Questions from Jesus’ Next-to-Last Sermon

Directions: Find answers in Matthew 23. Questions from the New King James Version.

- How many times does Jesus use these words in this chapter?
 a. Woe: ____ b. Hypocrites: ____
 c. Blind: ____ d. Fools: ____
 e. Snakes (equivalent): ____
- To whom is this scathing rebuke directed? _____
- What part of 23:3 serves as a definition of hypocrisy? _____
- Jesus told the people to do as these men directed, but to not _____.
- Were these leaders too easy or too hard on the people? (23:4) _____
- What did these like to be called? (23:7) _____
- What three names does Jesus say we should not be called? (23:8–10) _____
- He that is greatest among you shall be called your _____.
- Who will be humbled? (23:12) _____
- Who will be exalted? _____
- Whose houses (estates) were devoured (taken)? (23:14) _____
- What are the three weightier matters of the law? (23:23) _____
- Does 23:23 mean that Christians should not sweat the small stuff? What part of the verse supports your answer? _____
- The Pharisees appeared righteous on the outside, but inside they were full of _____ (23:28).
- Jesus said the sins of the Jewish nation from _____ would come upon that generation.
- Where was the second man slain? _____
- Jesus compares Himself to a _____ that would have gathered her chicks under her _____.
- Over what city is Jesus lamenting as the chapter closes? _____

The Greatest Purchase

John Wanamaker was born in 1838 and died in 1922. He owned a department store and served as Postmaster General under President Benjamin Harrison. He was a wealthy man, but he made a surprising statement about his greatest purchase.

When he was eleven years old, he bought a Bible and read it. Years later he said,

“I have made purchases costing millions of dollars, but my greatest purchase was made when I was a country boy eleven years old, when I bought a small red leather Bible for two dollars and seventy-five cents. I paid for it week by week as I earned money. That little red Bible has counted for more than anything else in my life. It was the greatest purchase I ever made.”

Have you bought a Bible? Have you read it? Start with the New Testament. If you have questions or are interested in a non-denominational Bible study, contact us. It is a free community service. No pressure, no donations expected or accepted.



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Recommended Resource



The Gospel Broadcasting Network is unique in the world of religious TV—commercial free, and they never ask for money! Sponsored by the churches of Christ, GBN is available on many cable systems, as well as through their smartphone apps, the Roku device, and at gbntv.org.

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VOLUME 28:1



TYPES & ANTITYPES

ISAAC as a type of CHRIST

God is amazing. No one else could put the shadow of future things into the past. Types and antitypes are examples of God prefiguring the future. Types are the shadows in the Old Testament of things that were to come (antitypes) in the New Testament.

While the Bible does not state that Isaac was a type of Christ, we can note several parallels in their lives and draw lessons from them.



ISAAC TYPE

He was the son of promise
(GENESIS 12:3; 22:18).

His birth was by divine intervention
(GENESIS 18:9–14; HEBREWS 11:11).

His name means “laughter” or
“rejoicing” (GENESIS 21:1–7).

He was named by God before
he was born (GENESIS 17:19).

Abraham offered him as a
sacrifice (GENESIS 22:1–12).

He was offered as a sacrifice on Mt.
Moriah, where the Temple would
later be built (GENESIS 22:2, 14).

He carried the wood for the
sacrifice (GENESIS 22:6).

God provided a ram as a substitute
for him (GENESIS 22:13).

He was returned to his
father (GENESIS 22:12).

JESUS THE CHRIST ANTITYPE

He was the Son of promise (GENESIS
3:15; GALATIANS 3:16; 4:4–5).

His birth was by divine intervention
in the virgin birth (ISAIAH 7:14;
MATTHEW 1:18–23; LUKE 1:30–35).

He brought joy and gladness
to the world (LUKE 2:8–14).

He was named by God before He
was born (MATTHEW 1:21).

God offered Him as a sacrifice (JOHN 3:16).

He was offered on Calvary just outside
Jerusalem, where the Temple was
located (LUKE 23:33; HEBREWS 13:12).

He bore the cross on which He
was crucified (JOHN 19:17).

God provided Him as a substitute for us
(JOHN 1:29; ROMANS 3:25; REVELATION 13:8).

He was raised and returned to His
Father (JOHN 17:5; MARK 16:19).

Views of the Cross

The soldiers, with cruelty, saw in Christ a victim (MATTHEW 27:27–31).

The women, with sorrow, saw in Christ a benefactor (LUKE 23:27–28).

His mother, with anguish, saw in Christ a Son (JOHN 19:26–27).

The disciples, with perplexity, saw in Christ blighted hopes (LUKE 24:13–21).

The first thief, with hardness, saw in Christ a malefactor (LUKE 23:39).

The second thief, with penitence, saw in Christ a King (LUKE 23:42).

A centurion, with conviction, saw in Christ divinity (MATTHEW 27:54).

“The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.”

1 CORINTHIANS 1:18

The Most Important Knowledge

I may know archeology—the study of rocks—but if I do not know Jesus, then I do not know the Rock of Ages. I may know astronomy—the study of the stars—but if I do not know Jesus, then I do not know the Star of Jacob. I may know botany—the study of plants—but if I do not know Jesus, then I do not know the Lily of the Valley or Sharon’s sweetest Rose. —Clarence DeLoach





What Do You Think *about Jesus?*

JESUS DID NOT—

Overtun the corrupt and oppressive Roman government, slash the tax burden, or make Jerusalem sanitary. He did not teach sure cures for diseases, erect hospitals, build libraries and schools, or focus on the economic status of His followers.

HE DID—

Change man's conception of himself, of his fellow man, and of God so that His disciples became different, filled with power, and capable of great faith and magnificent achievement. Through His followers He started more philanthropies than all others who have ever lived. Where Jesus' religion goes, hospitals and clinics, charities and libraries, schools and churches have multiplied. Man has no greater asset than His religion and no greater liabilities than those things which hinder Jesus' progress. —Woodrow Whitten

"Truly this was the Son of God!"

MATTHEW 27:54



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