

Week 52
359/06

Transforming Daily
“... *Jesus who is called Christ* ...”
Matthew 1:16

Matthew gives a long elaborate genealogy regarding the birth of Christ through Joseph's family (probably because Matthew was more interested in the legal lineage of Jesus than his natural lineage as was Luke in his genealogy in chapter three). But Joseph is still referred to as “the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus who is called Christ.” This text directly precedes the birth narrative of the Christ-child. Why is the lineage so important?

The lineage is important for various reasons, but not the least of which is to show direct correlation of Jesus to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob as the Seed of promise. Luke's rendition of the lineage of Jesus takes Him back to Adam and even God. Why is that important? It is important because it shows the correlation through genealogy to dispel all other claims of Christ's Saviorhood and to prove God's Word through prophecy is true.

That's what the whole purpose of Christmas is about. It's not about gift giving and lights and ornaments and holly and evergreen. We use all of those things to symbolize certain aspects of the Christmas season, (and to be sure, they're beautiful), but the whole purpose of Christmas is to glorify God through the person of Christ. Yes, Christ is the perfect and supreme gift to mankind to take away the sins of the world, and through which eternal life is offered, but that is a secondary effect of the cause of Christ. Or if you will, His coming was twofold: to bring glory to God, first, and good will toward mankind, second. Make no mistake about it; Christmas is about God, not man. Man is just the undeserving benefactor of the grace of God through Jesus Christ.

So, in all of your gift giving and in all of your decorating and in all of your family cheer, don't forget that Christmas is about the sovereign will of God to bring glory to Himself from His creation through the promised Child, Jesus who is called the Christ!