



Hill Cliffe Study Guide Sunday 28 November 2021

Advent 1 – The Family Tree Matthew 1.1-17

Please try to plan the study to ensure that all the questions are covered. Do Q1 really quickly

1. For a bit of fun, have a go at telling your own edited highlights version of the story of the Old Testament. What events and which characters, would you choose in telling your story?

Please read Matthew 1.1-17

The story (the story of the Messiah's family history) is told in 3 sections, each of 14 generations: Abraham - King David; King David – Exile in Babylon; Exile – Jesus. Whilst the ancestral list is historically accurate, it is a selective history. Please read Genesis 12.1-3 and 2 Samuel 7.12-14

2. What storylines are highlighted by the inclusion of Abraham and David in the family line – and how are these storylines uniquely fulfilled in Jesus?

The Judgement of Exile and the Hope of Rescue - Please read Psalm 137.1-4; Hebrews 9.27-28; Acts 17.30-31

3. The nation of Israel didn't think that God would judge them – and yet it happened just as God said it would. How is this storyline a sober warning to our generation?

This family story is not an air-brushed account where all the dodgy and shady characters are conveniently left out. It's a list of messy sinners who trust in God and are included in God's family by grace not merit. Thankfully the mess of our lives doesn't put God off. He has always got his hands dirty in bringing beauty from the ashes of our lives. "There is more grace in Christ than there is sin in my heart".

4. Please read **Romans 5.6-8; 20-21**. How does Jesus' coming into the world take this truth about God's grace to a whole new level?

5 women are listed in Jesus' ancestral family tree – Tamar, Ruth, Rahab, Bathsheba (wife of Uriah), and Mary.

5. What message does this highlight in the story of God's family? How does Jesus continue this storyline as he builds his kingdom on earth as it is in Heaven?
6. How does the apostle Paul continue this storyline – see Galatians 3.27 – for the church? How should we?

Ruth, the Moabite, the great grandmother of King David, is a 'foreigner' to Israel.

7. What is the clear message of this particular storyline? How should we seek to continue this storyline in Jesus' family today?

As believers in Jesus, we are all now part of the story of God's family – all connected by Jesus

8. What are the events and people in your history which connected you with God's family tree? Please pray for the next generations and our part in helping connect them with God's family.