

## **CHRIST, THE SON OF DAVID**

Rt. Rev. Peter M. Buss, Sr.

*Lesson: Matthew 1:1-17*

Children, you know that every single word of the Lord's Word is holy. He has given us this Word out of His own mouth, telling us things that He thinks it is important for us to know, and the Lord doesn't waste words. Every little thing He says is very important.

The Word is the Lord's Word. He used certain people, like Moses and Matthew, and Mark, and Luke, and John, and Isaiah, to write what He wanted; but it was what He said that mattered.

Now this morning we read a lesson that doesn't seem terribly important. It is the beginning of the Christmas story, and all it *seems* to do is tell how the Lord was born into the house of David. That's what Matthew the apostle thought it was doing. You see, it starts with Abraham, the very first of the people who became Israel, and it says who his son was—Isaac, and who his son was—Jacob, and then it goes on, through Judah, and so on, right down to King David, the great king of Israel. Then it goes on, and shows how Joseph, who was not the real father of the Lord, but was thought by some to be so, was a descendant of the great King David.

Matthew thought this was important, for it was promised that the Lord who would come, the Christ, would be a son of David. If the Lord was not of the house of David, then He couldn't be the Messiah. So he carefully wrote all these things down.

But the Lord made him to write these things, because the Lord wanted to tell things in the internal sense of the Word which were very holy indeed. We are told that this list of names from the Old Testament, tell us in the internal sense, how it was that the Lord of heaven and earth, who was God Himself, came down to be born among men.

Think of it, children. The Lord who was such a tiny baby was also God Himself, who made everybody and everything. How can the Lord God come down to earth, when the earth was so wicked, and where people were just ordinary people. The Lord had to come down in a most special way, otherwise people wouldn't be able to bear Him when He came. If He had just come, not in a special way, it would have been as if the sun were to come down from the sky, and rest on the earth. Of course we would all be burned up, wouldn't we? So if the Lord came down, we would be killed.

But no, the Lord came down in a special way. He passed through each one of the heavens, and it is this passing through the heavens which this list tell us about. The first fourteen names tell of how the Lord came down through the highest heaven—that is what is meant in the internal sense by the names of Abraham to Jesse, the father of David, for each of those names stands for something in the highest heaven. Then the next fourteen names, from David to the captivity, tell of how He came through the middle, or spiritual heaven. And the last group tells how He came through the lowest heaven, and was finally ready to be born on earth.

You know, we are told that the internal sense of this part of the Word is so special that people on earth will find it very hard to understand. But, we are told, the angels understand a little more of it, and when it is read on earth, they hear it, and they know that people on earth are reading about the beginning of Christmas, of the wonderful way in which the Lord of heaven and earth came down through the heavens, to be born on earth, and save mankind. And they have joy in their hearts, and give joy to us too, for they know far better than we do what a marvelous work this was which the Lord did.

So as you read the Word each Christmas, do not leave out these names in your reading. They are very special. First, they tell a summary of all the stories of the Old Testament, from Abraham, right through to the end. Second, they tell how Joseph really was of the house of David the king. And most important of all, they tell to the angels, and even a little to us, of how the Lord our God bowed the heavens and came down, how He passed through heaven to be born on earth, as our Savior. *Amen.*