

SECTION I.

THE PROPHETIC ORIGIN OF JESUS, THE MESSIAH. i: 1; ii: 23.

(The three things treated under Section I. were essential to the Jewish conception of the Messiah. Hence the prominence given them by Matthew alone.)

SUBJECT I.

THE HUMAN, ROYAL DESCENT OF JESUS, AS MESSIAH. i: 1-17.

(The human and royal descent is urged first, as being most likely of all to win and fix the attention of the Jews at that period of their history.)

CHAPTER I.

1 Title of the Genealogy. The book of the generation [or, *birth*: as in ver. 18] of Jesus Christ [Or, *The genealogy of Jesus Christ*], the son of David, the son of Abraham.

2 First Period—to the Monarchy. (The first period traces the descent from Abraham, the father of the faithful, the *Covenant* head of the Messianic line. This was the fountain-head of all Messianic hope.)

Abraham begat Isaac; and Isaac begat Jacob; and Jacob begat Judah and his brethren; and Judah begat Perez
3 Zerah of Tamar; and Perez begat Hezron; and Hezron begat Ram; [Gr. 4 *Aram*] and Ram begat Amminadab; 5 and Amminadab begat Nahshon; and Nahshon begat Salmon; and Salmon begat Boaz of Rahab; and Boaz begat 6 Obed of Ruth; and Obed begat Jesse; and Jesse begat David the king.

Second Period—to the Captivity.

(The second period traces the descent from David the *royal* head of the Messianic line, through the period of national glory and decline.)

And David begat Solomon of her 7 *that had been the wife of Uriah*; and Solomon begat Rehoboam; and Rehoboam begat Abijah; and Abijah begat Asa [Gr. *Asaph*]; and Asa

Sect. 1. He must prove to the Jews that Jesus had the *Prophetic Origin* of Messiah: (1) descended from Abraham, and from David by the royal line; (2) conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of a virgin, and "God with us;" (3) born in Bethlehem and brought up in Nazareth.

Subj. I. The Jews would not listen to the teachings of the Gospel at all until shown clearly that Jesus had the *Human and Royal Descent* of Messiah. Hence the *genealogy*, which was documentary evidence of unquestionable authority. The Jew had no logical way of escape from it.

1. - See Gen. v. 1.—**Jesus.** The proper name of our Lord. See note on v. 21. —**Christ.** His official name. Hebrew, *Messiah*, anointed. Priests (Lev. viii: 30), kings (1 Sam. x: 1), and prophets (1 K. xix: 16) were so set apart. So Jesus to His offices.

2.—**Son of D., the son of A.** Prophecy had led the Jews to expect Messiah to be lineally descended from both these.

3. **Of Tamar.**—Jewish writers attempt to represent her sins—as also those of Rahab (5) and Bathsheba (6)—as virtuous acts committed under divine direction. Rather, God chooses the base things to humble Jewish pride (1 Cor. i: 29).

5.—**Ruth.** The heathen Moabitess is also exalted by God's choice.

6.—**David the King.** Matthew gives the *official pedigree* of Jesus as Messiah and King. The descent must be traced by the *legal royal line*, through Joseph the father of Jesus in Jewish law. Luke (iii.) gives the *actual descent* from David through Nathan and Mary, to meet the wants of the Gentile world.

8.—**Joram begat Uziah.** Three kings are omitted between these—*Ahaziah* (2 K. ix: 29), *Joash* (2 K. xii: 1), *Amaziah* (2 K. xiv: 1)—after the Jewish custom, to reduce the generations to 14. These kings may have been chosen for omission because they were descendants of Jezebel, and both wicked and insignificant. *Jehoiaachim* is afterward omitted as the creature of the King of Egypt