

JESUS IS COMING AGAIN

Part 1 of Advent 2025. Matthew 1:1-17.

Peter Foxwell. The Cornerstone Church. November 30, 2025.

Dismiss the Middle School

WAITING FOR NOTHING?

It happened to me again last week. I ordered something online and paid extra for overnight delivery because I needed it for a special project.

The next morning, I tracked the package on the website. It showed “Out for delivery.” It should have gotten there between 4 and 8 AM. So, 8 AM rolled by and nothing.

I waited all day, but my package still hadn't arrived.

So, I rechecked the website. Now it said, “There is a problem with the delivery. If your package hasn't arrived within 24 hours, you may cancel for a full refund.” And that's what I did. I cancelled.

The company promised overnight delivery. I counted on it. BUT ... My waiting was futile. My hopes were dashed. My great expectations came to nothing. Because, for whatever reason, the company did not keep its promise.

WAITING FOR JESUS

And that may be how you feel about the return of Jesus Christ. You're asking, will it ever happen? Good question.

Jesus told his disciples that he would return one day:

Matthew 16:27 (CSB) For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father...

Matthew 24:30 (CSB) ... they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

Matthew 24:44 (CSB) This is why you are also to be ready, because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

Matthew 25:31 (CSB) When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne.

We've been waiting a long time for the return of Christ. Surely, it would have happened by now. Ironically, that's how people thought just a few decades after the resurrection. They had doubts 30 years in. The apostle Peter wrote:

2 Peter 3:3-4 (CSB) Above all, be aware of this: Scoffers will come in the last days scoffing and following their own evil desires, 4 saying, "Where is his 'coming' that he promised?"

I get the skepticism. But I'm not a skeptic. I believe Jesus is coming again. And today's teaching passage in Matthew 1 is a good reminder that God is faithful, and he keeps his promises. God already kept staggering long-range promises in Christ's first coming, so waiting for Christ's return is never waiting for nothing.

His plans always succeed. Let's read Matthew 1:1-17, and I'll show you what I mean...

MATTHEW 1:1-17

1 An account of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham:

Section One

2 **Abraham** fathered Isaac,
Isaac fathered Jacob,
Jacob fathered Judah and his brothers,
3 Judah fathered Perez and Zerah by **Tamar**,
Perez fathered Hezron,
Hezron fathered Aram,
4 Aram fathered Amminadab,
Amminadab fathered Nahshon,
Nahshon fathered Salmon,
5 Salmon fathered Boaz by **Rahab**,
Boaz fathered Obed by **Ruth**,
Obed fathered Jesse,
6 and Jesse fathered King David.

Section Two

David fathered Solomon by **Uriah's wife (Bathsheba)**,
7 Solomon fathered Rehoboam,
Then, there is a list of kings. Now, skip down to verse 12 ...
Rehoboam fathered Abijah,
Abijah fathered Asa,
8 Asa fathered Jehoshaphat,
Jehoshaphat fathered Joram,
Joram fathered Uzziah,
9 Uzziah fathered Jotham,
Jotham fathered Ahaz,
Ahaz fathered Hezekiah,
10 Hezekiah fathered Manasseh,
Manasseh fathered Amon,
Amon fathered Josiah,

11 and Josiah fathered Jeconiah and his brothers
at the time of the exile to Babylon.

Section Three

12 After the exile to Babylon

Jeconiah fathered Shealtiel,
Shealtiel fathered Zerubbabel,
13 Zerubbabel fathered Abiud,
Abiud fathered Eliakim,
Eliakim fathered Azor,
14 Azor fathered Zadok,
Zadok fathered Achim,
Achim fathered Eliud,
15 Eliud fathered Eleazar,
Eleazar fathered Matthan,
Matthan fathered Jacob,

16 and Jacob fathered Joseph, the husband of Mary,
who gave birth to Jesus, who is called the Messiah.

17 So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations; and
from David until the exile to Babylon, fourteen generations; and from the exile to
Babylon until the Messiah, fourteen generations.

THE MESSAGE OF THE GENEALOGY OF JESUS

Discovering the message of the genealogy of Jesus in Matthew 1 will restore our confidence in the return of Jesus.

The message is this: God is faithful. The God who faithfully orchestrated generations of people and events to bring about the birth of Jesus will just as surely bring about the return of Jesus.

Therefore, look back at Jesus' first coming this Advent to strengthen your confidence as you look forward to his second coming.

The genealogy is part of Jesus' origin story. It tells where he came from, humanly speaking. And he came as the final act in a long and winding storyline written by God.

God promised a Savior all the way back at the dawn of human history, after Adam's rebellion (Genesis 3:15). Then, the Lord worked his plan through each successive generation until the birth of Jesus Christ.

God's faithfulness is illustrated in three ways in the genealogy. After I show you that, you will feel greater confidence in the return of Christ.

ILLUSTRATING GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

1. The Birth of the Christ Illustrates God's Faithfulness

Matthew starts Jesus's family tree with a purpose statement:

Matthew 1:1 (CSB) An account of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham..."

These are Jesus's credentials, the proof that he is the **Christ**, the promised anointed Savior-King of the world.

The genealogy's long list of names shows God quietly working "behind the scenes" through centuries of births, deaths, choices, and crises to bring the promised Messiah into the world at the right time.

Verse one tells us that:

- Jesus was **Abraham's** "son." Abraham was the founding father of the nation. God promised Abraham that his offspring would bless all the peoples of the earth (Genesis 12:1-3). Later in Jewish history, "Son of Abraham" also carried messianic overtones.
- Jesus is also King **David's** "son." That means Jesus is royalty. He is the eternal ruler of the world, promised in 2 Samuel 7.

Thousands of years before the birth of Christ, God planned, organized, directed, and put in place the people necessary for it to happen. He didn't forget his promise even when the timeline was far longer than people expected.

God is faithful. He promised a Savior, and he delivered a Savior.

2. The History of Israel Illustrates God's Faithfulness

Matthew divided the genealogy into three stages representing Israel's history:

- Stage one: Abraham to King David represents the rise of the nation.
- Stage two: King David to the exile represents the nation's decline.
- Stage three: The exile to the birth of Jesus Christ represents the restoration of the nation and the world.

That's the whole history of Israel in three acts.

Without going into greater detail, what does this threefold structure tell us?

It tells us that God is faithful. It did not matter what happened - good or bad - God oversaw the family line of the Messiah, the Christ. He didn't allow it to die out or disappear.

God always guides people and events according to his plan and purpose.

Remember what Joseph told the brothers who sold him into slavery:

Genesis 50:20 (CSB) You planned evil against me; God planned it for good to bring about the present result ...

Job 42:2 (CSB) I know that you can do anything and no plan of yours can be thwarted.

Psalms 33:11 (CSB) The counsel of the LORD stands forever, the plans of his heart from generation to generation.

Ephesians 1:11 declares that God “works out everything in agreement with the purpose of his will...”

3. Individual Stories illustrate God's Faithfulness

Matthew did something shocking. In a world where genealogies mentioned only men, Matthew deliberately includes Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Uriah's wife (Bathsheba), Women were usually excluded from the big and important stories. It was a man's world.

These women led "interesting" lives. And their stories remind us that God's purposes stand even in the twists and turns of life. God wove their lives directly into the line of the Messiah.

Let's take a quick bird's-eye look at the women:

- Three were from nations at war with God and Israel: two from Canaan and one from Moab.
- One was married to a Hittite warrior, and the Hittites were polytheists living in Canaan.
- One of the women was unjustly treated by her family, so she slept with her father-in-law to get what she felt she deserved.
- Another of the women was a prostitute in Jericho, a city that Joshua was commanded to destroy.
- One of the women was a penniless widow who found faith in God in unexpected circumstances.
- And Mary was a young, single, pregnant girl with a "yeah, right" story of an angel and a baby conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit.

As surprising and unlikely as it sounds, their lives were links in the long chain of people who led to the birth of Jesus Christ. God is faithful.

GOD IS FAITHFUL, JESUS IS COMING

*The play **Waiting for Godot** by **Samuel Beckett** is a haunting picture of hopeless hope. Two men, Vladimir and Estragon, sit by a barren tree on a desolate road, day after day, waiting for someone named “Godot” who never comes. They keep saying, “We’ll go,” but they never leave. They keep saying, “He’ll come tomorrow,” but he never comes. Their waiting is futile.*

But waiting for Jesus is not like that. We have confidence that the God who worked all things together to bring about the birth of Christ is doing whatever it takes to bring about the return of Christ.

Jesus told his disciples to watch, to be ready, to live with expectancy — not because we’re guessing, but because he has promised. He has risen. He has ascended. He has sworn that he is coming again, and he cannot lie.

So the Christian life is not like waiting for Godot. It’s more like a bride waiting for her groom who has already paid set the date, paid for the venue, and sent the invitations. It’s going to happen.

When Jesus returns, it won’t be a surprise to those who belong to him. It will be the fulfillment of every promise, the end of every tear, the final “yes” to every Amen!

Jesus is coming again. This Advent season, as we look back at his birth and look forward to his return:

- Be confident and stand firm ...
- Stoke your hope and be prepared ...
- Your King is coming. In glory.
- To take his throne on earth.

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

Review

- Review Peter's November 30th teaching and study guide. For more resources, visit www.famousgod.com/small-groups.
- What were the main insights of Peter's teaching?
- What questions do you have about the passage or Peter's teaching?

Discuss

- When you think about the second coming of Christ, are you more skeptical, fearful, indifferent, or hopeful? If someone asked, could you boldly affirm that Jesus is coming again? What's shaped that posture for you over the years?
- How does seeing centuries of names in one short paragraph in Jesus's family tree change the way you think about God's apparently "slow" pace or timetable in keeping his promise of Christ's return?
- How does knowing that "*no plan of God can be thwarted*" affect the way you read the news, face cultural uncertainty, think about the future of the church, view your life's circumstances, or wait for Christ to return?
- Jesus warns that the Son of Man is coming "at an hour you do not expect." What does a healthy, watchful readiness look like in the ordinary routines of your week (work, family, technology, money, rest)?

Prayer Focus

- Pray for more grace to be confident, to stand firm, to never lose hope, and to be prepared for our returning, glorious King as he takes his throne on earth.
- Pray: "Come quickly, Lord Jesus."