

Rev. Paul A. Hottinger

Jesus' Ancestry The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Friday, September 8, 2017
8:15 AM Mi 5:1-4a; **Mt 1:1-16, 18-23** (God entering into humanity and absorbing all of
the issues that have plagued the human race in its history.)

Now you may have noticed that the genealogy of Jesus traces the ancestral line of Joseph, and Joseph was really not the father of Jesus. So in what way do all these people become ancestors of Jesus? Well in general, among the poor, marriages were arranged among relatives. So **if Joseph was of the family of David, then most likely so was Mary**, although actually it does not say so in the Bible. It's one of those assumptions. But **the assumption was made by Matthew when Jesus is called "Son of David," so we are dealing with assumptions.**

But we have to keep in mind that the gospel of Jesus Christ is all about how God became human, **how God entered into human life and took up all of the weaknesses and infirmities and injuries and problems of human life.** And the stories of the descendants of Abraham are precisely about those things. So in one way or another, the story of Christ is the story of **God entering into humanity and absorbing all of the issues that have plagued the human race in its history**, not only those of literally the children of Abraham, but also the children of the Chinese and the Indian and the African and every other group. If we fail to see that, we fail really to see the true story.