

A black and white, upside-down photograph of a city skyline with various skyscrapers and buildings. The image is inverted, with the top of the buildings at the bottom of the frame.

MATTHEW

The Upside umog Kingdom

Matthew 1

Jesus is the promised king of the eternal kingdom



Authorship

- Matthew
 - His name means “Gift of the LORD”
 - Tax collector
 - Left his work to follow Jesus (Matthew 9:1-13)
 - Named, Levi in other Gospels (Mark 2:14-17; Luke 5:27-32)

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Recipients

- Jews
 - Deeply concerned with the fulfillment of the Old Testament
 - Traces Jesus' lineage from Abraham
 - Emphasis of Jesus as "Son of David" (1:9; 9:27; 12:23; 15:22; 20:30-31; 21:9, 15; 22:41-45)



Purpose

1. To show that Jesus presented Himself to the Jews as the Messianic King that God had long promised in the Old Testament
2. To show that Israel's leaders rejected Jesus as their King—thus resulting in a postponement of the Messianic Kingdom.
3. To show, because of the rejection, that Jesus would build His Church in anticipation of His return to finally establish the promised Messianic Kingdom.

The Chosen - Matthew and Jesus



Matthew 1:1

**Jesus is the promised king,
the fulfillment of Old Testament covenants**

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Jesus is the promised king, fulfillment of Old Testament covenants.

- Genealogy - The word for genealogy is literally translated as genesis.
- It describes the introduction of Jesus, as He brings a new beginning.
- The birth of Christ is a milestone not only in Jewish history but in human history, the beginning of something new.



Jesus is the promised king, fulfillment of Old Testament covenants.

- Jesus Christ - The term "Christ" is the Greek translation of the Hebrew word Messiah (or "anointed one").
- This long awaited One would establish Israel as a power, rule from Jerusalem, reign over an eternal kingdom and bless the world.



Jesus is the promised king, fulfillment of Old Testament covenants.

- Son of David - Covenants were linked in Jewish culture.
- Matthew connects Jesus to two of the most significant covenants in Jewish history: the Davidic and Abrahamic covenants.
- Jesus is the One who fulfills these two covenants – the One the Jewish people have been waiting for – He is the Messiah.



Jesus is the promised king, fulfillment of Old Testament covenants.

- God made a covenant with David that he would father a line of kings that would never end (2 Samuel 7:2), that the kingdom would last forever (2 Samuel 23:5) and the line would culminate with a divine king (the Messiah) who would rule all and maintain His throne for eternity (Isaiah 9:1–7; 11:1–5; Jeremiah 30:4–11; Ezekiel 34:23–24; 27:24–25; Amos 9:11–15).



Jesus is the promised king, fulfillment of Old Testament covenants.

- Son of Abraham - God's other important covenant was established with Abraham in Genesis 12:2–3.
- “And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”



Jesus is the promised king, fulfillment of Old Testament covenants.

- Jesus would be the ruling Jewish messiah.
- But that blessing would not be contained to the Jewish people.
- Jesus would bless all nations, fulfilling the covenant God made with Abraham.
- Matthew wants his Jewish readers to know that Jesus is a savior for the world.



Matthew 1:12-17

**God is faithful,
saving and using imperfect people**

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God is faithful, saving and using imperfect people.

- Matthew traces the bloodline of Jesus, proving that Jesus is in fact the son of Abraham and the son of David.
- The list is split into three sections: the time of Abraham, of David, and of the Exile.
- This list is not exhaustive but instead includes 14 generations in each.



God is faithful, saving and using imperfect people.

- The list includes good kings such as Jehoshaphat, who followed in the ways of King David and was blessed with God's presence.
- The list also includes the likes of King Rehoboam, whose foolish actions caused the division of the kingdom of Israel and a resurgence of idol worship.



God is faithful, saving and using imperfect people.

- Matthew's genealogy includes five women, a rare thing.
- Four of these women were particularly odd choices to include. Tamar, Rahab, and Ruth were Gentiles, and Bathsheba ("the wife of Uriah") was married to a Gentile.
- Three were questionable. Tamar seduced her father-in-law. Rahab was a prostitute. Bathsheba committed adultery.



God is faithful, saving and using imperfect people.

- God uses everyday people to accomplish His purposes.
- This includes those who committed public sins, and those who are labeled as illegitimate.
- They weren't necessarily "qualified" to make the cut for the lineage of the great Messiah and yet God chose them.



God is faithful, saving and using imperfect people.

- Consider the ministry of Jesus and the people He chose to serve beside Him: Peter (fisherman), Mary Magdalene (formerly demon possessed), Matthew (tax collector) and Paul (persecutor).
- We must view other believers without prejudice and see them as God does – redeemed and set apart for His glory.
- We are all new creations thanks to the Promised One.



God is faithful, saving and using imperfect people.

- Jesus ignored societal barriers, instead He came to reach sinners and the marginalized and offer them the good news of salvation.
- The Church is called to reach all nations with the Gospel (Matthew 28:19–20), to mirror the cause of pursuit of Jesus in seeking and saving the lost (Luke 19:10).



Matthew 1:18-25

God is with us

MATTHEW
The Upside down Kingdom



God is with us.

- Mary is the fifth woman listed in the genealogy of Christ.
- Matthew notes with precision that Jesus is a biological descendant of Mary.
- Joseph is the legal father but had no role in Jesus' conception.
- Being of Mary and the Holy Spirit, Jesus is both 100-percent man and 100-percent God.



God is with us.

- Joseph was righteous. He was law-abiding, of good character, obedient and seeking to be faithful to God's commandments.
- Joseph could not go through with the marriage ceremony. He would have had every right to assume Mary had not been faithful.
- Joseph decides to protect Mary and divorce her quietly to spare her the shame of a public divorce.



God is with us.

- An angel of the Lord appears to Joseph in a dream, addressing Joseph as the “son of David,” tying this event back to the genealogy and making Joseph aware of the significance of his role.
- The angel shares that Mary has remained faithful.
- The marriage between them would legally make the child a “son of David” as well.



God is with us.

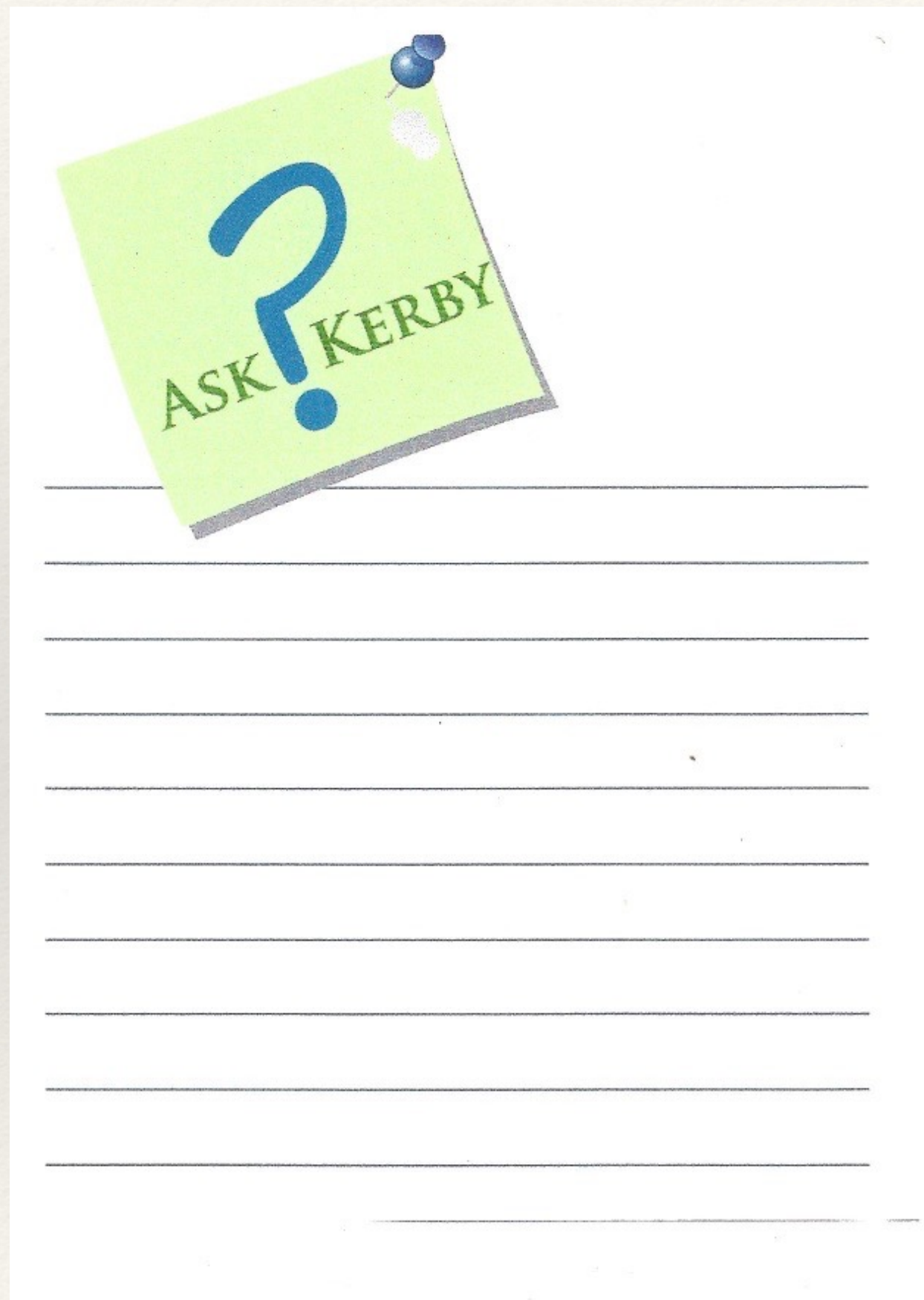
- This boy's name will be Jesus, meaning "the Lord saves."
- This Messiah would indeed liberate His people, not from an earthly enemy but from their sin.
- This king was expected to liberate the people from the Romans, not give his life as a ransom for many (Matthew 20:28).



God is with us.

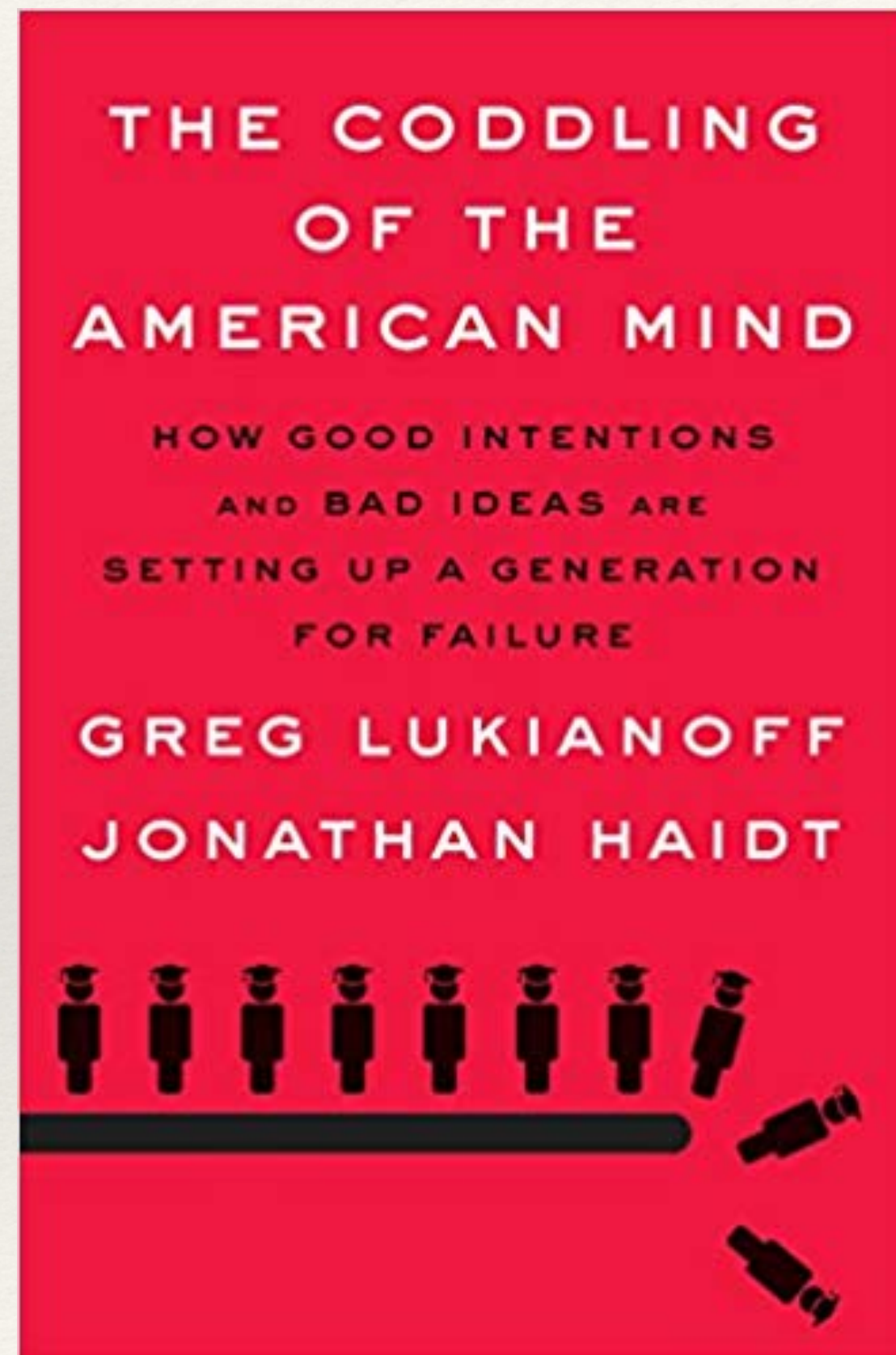
- Verses 22 and 23 remind the reader that the virgin conception is a fulfillment of a prophecy from the prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 7:14).
- Jesus is Immanuel, God with us. God is not far off, an aloof deity or king. He is present with His people.
- Matthew's gospel ends with: "And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (Matthew 28:20).

Ask Kerby



Why is there conflict on campus and in the streets?

Coddling of the American Mind



- The authors noticed something happening on campus.
- We now see this mindset spreading to society and even into the streets.
- First Amendment expert Greg Lukianoff and social psychologist Jonathan Haidt had some possible explanations they first published in *The Atlantic* and then expanded in this book.

First Untruth

- The untruth of fragility: What doesn't kill you makes you weaker.
- Nietzsche said, "What doesn't kill me makes me stronger."
- Kelly Clarkson also sang that, but millennials don't believe it.
- Antifragility - is different from fragile and resilient. An antifragile system requires stressors and challenges. Otherwise they become rigid, weak, and inefficient.
- The rise of safetyism - students can feel unsafe if you use the wrong pronoun.

First Untruth

- Safe spaces - this developed from “concept creep” where safety also included not having to face contrary ideas.
- Trigger warnings - these are issued in order to allow students to avoid anything that might be a trauma to them. They are counter-therapeutic.
- The iGen generation (internet Generation) suffers from far higher rates of anxiety and depression than the Millennial Generation.
- Jean Twenge says they believe “one should be safe not just from car accidents and sexual assaults but from people who disagree with you.”

Second Untruth

- The untruth of emotional reasoning: Always trust your feelings.
- Cognitive behavioral therapy - patients tended to get caught in a feedback loop in which irrational negative beliefs causes powerful negative feelings.
- Triad - “I’m no good,” “My world is bleak,” and “My future is hopeless.”
- Microaggressions - brief and common daily verbal indignities, whether intentional or unintentional.
- The slights are defined entirely in terms of the listener’s interpretation.

Third Untruth

- The untruth of us versus them: Life is a battle between good people and evil people.
- We may excuse the actions by someone in our tribe, but vilify actions by someone else in a different tribe.
- Attribute a bad motive to others and never cooperate with them. In fact, you should “cancel them.”
- Identifying a common enemy is an effective way to enlarge and motivate your tribe.

Resources

