

THE BOOK OF MATTHEW

JESUS IS KING



The Genealogy and Birth of Jesus Christ

Text: Matthew 1:1-25

1. Jesus fulfilled prophecy. - Matthew 1:1

Matthew begins his account of the life of **Jesus Christ** with the record of the lineage of Jesus from the patriarch **Abraham**.

Son of David: Throughout his work, Matthew presents Jesus as the kingly Messiah promised from David's royal line

See 2 Samuel 7:12-16

The Old Testament prophesied that the Messiah would be the **Son of David**; in the very first sentence, Matthew points to Jesus as the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy.

Son of Abraham: Matthew not only connected Jesus to David, but back yet further to **Abraham**. Jesus is the Seed of Abraham in whom all nations would be blessed

See Genesis 12:3

2. Jesus' Genealogy through Joseph. - Matthew 1:2-16

Joseph: This genealogy establishes Jesus' claim to the throne of David through his adoptive father Joseph.

The Jews placed great values on genealogies, and to Jewish Christians the truth of Jesus as the Messiah depended on its being proved that he was a descendant of David.

Here are some important points.

- The Jews kept extensive genealogical records, and so it is wise to trust these records.
- We should also remember Paul's warnings about striving over genealogies and not get into arguments about them (1 Timothy 1:4 and 6:4; Titus 3:9).
- If the Jewish opponents of Jesus could have demonstrated that He was not descended from David, they would have disqualified His claim to be Messiah; yet they did not and could not.

Tamar... Rahab... Ruth... her who had been the wife of Uriah:

This genealogy is noted for the unusual presence of four women. Women were rarely mentioned in ancient genealogies, and the four mentioned here are worthy of special note as examples of God's grace. They show how God can take unlikely people and use them in great ways.

3. Matthew's Organization of the Genealogy. - Matthew 1:17

Here Matthew made it clear that this genealogy is not complete. There were not actually fourteen generations between the points

indicated, but Matthew most likely edited the list to make it easy to remember and memorize.

The practice of skipping generations at times was common in the listing of ancient genealogies. Matthew did nothing unusual by leaving some generations out. What was important was being able to trace the line back to David, and Matthew does that.

4. Mary is with Child - Matthew 1:18

Matthew doesn't really tell us about the *birth* of Jesus; Luke does that. Matthew instead tells us *where Jesus came from*, and it tells the story through the eyes of Joseph.

When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph: There were essentially three steps to marriage in the Jewish world of Jesus' time.

Matthew plainly (without the greater detail found in the Gospel of Luke) presents the virgin conception and birth of Jesus. However, the virgin birth was difficult for people to believe back then, even as it is also doubted now by some.

5. Joseph seeks a quiet divorce. - Matthew 1:19

The previous verse told us that *Mary was betrothed to Joseph*. This comment shows that even though they were not formally married, Joseph was still considered Mary's **husband** by betrothal.

3. An Angel Intervenes - Matthew 1:20-21

The dream came **while he thought about these things**. Joseph was understandably troubled by Mary's mysterious pregnancy, her future, and what he should do towards her. Though he had

decided to *put her away privily*, he was not comfortable with that decision.

Thou shalt call his name Jesus: The name **JESUS** (“The Salvation of Yahweh”) was fairly common in that day (Josephus mentions 12 different men named “Jesus” in his writings), but it is very blessed in our day.

For he shall save his people from their sins.: The angel simply stated the work of the coming Messiah, Jesus. He will come as a *savior*, and come to **save His people from their sins**.

This description of the work of Jesus reminds us that Jesus meets us *in* our sin, but His purpose is to save us **from** our sins. He saves us first from the *penalty* of sin, then from the *power* of sin, and finally from the *presence* of sin.

4. The virgin birth is a fulfillment of prophecy. - Matt 1:22-23

That it might be fulfilled: This is the first use of this important phrase which will become a familiar theme throughout Matthew.

Immanuel: This title of Jesus refers to both His deity (**God with us**) and His identification and nearness to man (**God with us**).

5. Joseph marries Mary - Matthew 1:24-25

Joseph’s obedience is notable. He did not doubt nor waver; he instantly understood the truth and the importance of the angelic messenger that came to him in the dream.

And he called His name JESUS: They did what God told them to do. Though it was a fairly common name, it had a genuinely great meaning and would come to be the greatest name, the name above all names.



GROWTH GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Why do you think Matthew mentioned both David and Abraham in verse 1 of Matthew?
2. Do you trust the Matthew's genealogy?
3. How do you reconcile the differences between Matthew's genealogy, Luke's genealogy and the Old Testament genealogies?
4. What does the mention of four women in Matthew's genealogy mean to you?
5. Why did Matthew make it clear that Joseph was not the biological father of Jesus?
6. How could Jesus be an heir from the kingly line of David if he was "made of a women" and not Joseph's firstborn son?
7. Why do you think Matthew leaves out some people and includes exactly three sets of 14 generations in his genealogy?
8. Do you think Mary tried to explain that she was supernaturally pregnant to Joseph?
9. What does the name JESUS mean to you?