

Matthew 1

Background:

The book of Matthew is believed to be penned in the last quarter of the first century by Matthew who was a disciple of Jesus Christ. It is one of 4 gospels that describe the life and times of Jesus Christ.

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11 And Josias begat Jechonias and his brethren, about the time they were carried away to Babylon:

12 And after they were brought to Babylon, Jechonias begat Salathiel; and Salathiel begat Zorobabel;

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15 And Eliud begat Eleazar; and Eleazar begat Matthan; and Matthan begat Jacob;

16 And Jacob begat Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ.

***Here we get the the earthly parents of Jesus the Christ in Joseph and Mary. It should be noted here that Luke 3 also gives a generational lineage as well but it goes from the first man Adam all the way to Jesus, the last Adam. See 1 Cor 15:45-47

17 So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; and from David until the carrying away into Babylon are fourteen generations; and from the carrying away into Babylon unto Christ are fourteen generations.

*** Matthew lays out for us the number of generations from Abraham to Jesus. The Word 'generations' is used 75 times in the OT Word and only 5 times in the NT Word. This shows us that God, in the OT, was using the passing of time and men's lives as a foundation to reveal His will and plan in the holy Messiah to come. See

Genesis 3:15. Today we do not understand that knowing our past generations is all that important. "*Who cares*" most would say! The truth, is few people even know their own history beyond their great grand parents. The idea of "*who we came from*" is far less important today then of whom do we believe! The reason these past generations matter was to reveal Jesus the Messiah and PROVE He was who he said He was so we could trust in His finished work to the saving of our soul! His past is so VERY relevant compared to yours or mine.

18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.

***Here we learn of the planned marriage of Mary to Joseph. Espoused "*mnesteuo*" in Greek means to be promised in marriage. It is similar to what we call an "engagement" today but they were considered married with the consummation to make it official and complete. This is an archetype of us as a bride and for Jesus to come get us as the Bridegroom. See 2 Cor 11:2 We are promised, but it is yet to be completed. In a critical point in God's Messiah plan, Mary is made "*with child by the Holy Spirit*" and we see this was predicted in Isaiah 7:14. This assures us of the fact that Christ has a **duel nature** in that he was both fully man and fully God. He could now live as we must live in the flesh (see John 1 as he is the Word made flesh) being tempted yet he could be perfect and over come for us. See Luke 9:62. You may ask how was Jesus really the son of Joseph if he was conceived by the Holy Spirit? (Joseph was NOT his real father) A very interesting point must be understood here. If at any time a child was adopted into a family, he would gain the standing as an heir of the man who adopted him as if he was really born of him. This matters as we ourselves **get to be adopted into Christ** by faith and His work so we get to share an inheritance of heaven/eternal life. Isn't that beautiful and so hopeful?

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20 But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.

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learn from Joseph as we are called to act in wisdom never in the flesh. See Matt 10:16 and Roman 8:1. An angel appears to Joseph in a dream and fills him in as to God's plan. Note: we do not have angels appearing nor is God speaking to us in this way today, as God is DONE revealing His Word and we have the finished Word in the bible. See Hebrews 1. The angel goes on to reveal things to Joseph.

21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins.

***Here we learn the name God gave His Son, Jesus, and that name means Jehovah is Salvation. Jehovah is the name the Jews understood from the Torah law. His name foretells His very destiny to save men from their sins. It is in these words we see revealed one of the main goals of Jesus the Christ. He is coming to rescue a people for the Father's glory. He will save us from our sins and be the Lamb of God for us. See John 1:29. Jesus said Himself; **"I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."** in Luke 5:32

22 Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying,

*** Notice the words *'that it might be fulfilled'* from the prophets via the Lord. Jesus the Christ is the culmination of all the prophets proclaiming His coming and it must be noted that He ends His life with these words in John 19:30 *"It is finished!"*. In the Greek finished *"teleo"* means fulfilled. The scripture had to be fulfilled and he came to fulfill the plan of salvation for us. While many may find the in-depth word for word study (called expository) of God's Word to be boring or mundane, it is far from it. It is the only way to lay the eternal bricks in our foundation (Eph 2:20-21) of a saving faith in Christ. It shows the proof of who He is and how He was always predicted to come. In fact, it is so exacting it tells us WHO He will come through, it shows HOW he came into the world and it tell us WHAT he is going to do. It also reveals exactly how He will RETURN one day. See Matt 24 & 2 Thess 1:8-9. What a glorious God, Word and Savior we do have!

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