

Matthew 1-2

Day 1

Jesus Christ's Genealogy. Read Matthew 1:1-17

"Matthew's gospel is the historical *link* between the Old and New Testaments. It is preeminently the gospel of fulfillment...that the Lord...was the Messiah of the Jew,' the King of the promised kingdom." - Irving Jensen (9)

1. What does Matthew immediately emphasize about Jesus? 1:1

For Your Information: "Christ/ the Messiah Strong's NT:#5547 *Christos* anointed

"The name "Christ," meaning "anointed," is the Greek equivalent of the Hebrew *Messiah*. Christ was not part of Jesus' name (though He is frequently called Jesus Christ), but His title. He is Jesus the Christ, properly speaking."
- Henry Morris

"Each of the gospels emphasizes a different origin of Jesus.

- **Matthew** shows Jesus came from Abraham through David, and demonstrates that He is the **Messiah** promised in the Old Testament (Matthew 1:1-17).
- **Mark** shows Jesus came from Nazareth, demonstrating that Jesus is a **Servant** (Mark 1:9).
- **Luke** shows Jesus came from Adam, demonstrating that Jesus is the **Perfect Man** (Luke 3:23-38).
- **John** shows Jesus came from heaven, demonstrating that Jesus is **God**. - David Guzik

2. What promises were David and Abraham given?

- Son of David (2 Samuel 7:12,13; Psalm 89:3,4)
- Son of Abraham (Genesis 12:3)

3. Compare the genealogies given in Matthew and Luke: (See the chart: "*Genealogy of Jesus.*")

	Matthew	Luke
Parent and grandparent named	1:16	3:23
Which of David's sons Is named	1:6	3:31
Beginning of lineage	1:1	3:38

FYI: Matthew gives the royal or kingly lineage through David's son Solomon; while Luke may be giving the legal line through Nathan, Solomon's elder brother.

It has been suggested that Nathan is the ancestor of Mary while Solomon is the ancestor of [Joseph](#). Some think Heli (Luke 3:23) was the father of Mary, although many other explanations have been given for the differences in the genealogies of Matthew and Luke.

4. What women are named in the genealogy in 1:3,5,6? (Contrast Luke 3:32,33) Why do you think these women are included rather than “great matriarchs” such as Sarah or Rebekah?

FYI: “It is significant that four women are mentioned in this royal genealogy of Jesus—Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, and the wife of Uriah (Matthew 1:3,5-6). All four were special trophies of God’s grace. Tamar may have been a Canaanite who posed as a harlot to seduce Judah (Genesis 38:13-18); Rahab was also a Canaanite and had been a prostitute (Joshua 2:1); Ruth was a Moabitess (Ruth 1:4), a member of a nation committed to idolatry and opposition to the people of God; and a Hittite woman, Bathsheba, Uriah’s wife, committed adultery with King David (II Samuel 11:2-5). All of these women could, by the law, have been excommunicated from Israel, executed, or both. God, however, not only redeemed them, bringing them to saving faith in Him, but even included (and mentioned) them in the human genealogy of the royal line leading to Jesus.” - Henry Morris

5. Where do the gospels of Mark, Luke and John begin their accounts of the life of Jesus? (See the chart “*Comparison of the Four Gospels*.”)

- Mark 1:1,9
- John 1:14-18
- Luke 1:26-33

FYI: “It is customary to think of Matthew as emphasizing His kingship, Mark His servant hood, Luke His humanity, and John His deity. Although these surely reflect the respective emphases in each book, all four aspects of His person (God and man) and His work (reigning and serving) clearly come through in each book... The purpose of the Gospels is not simply biographical, for not even all four together provide a full biography of Christ. None of them even describe Him; rather they narrate what He said and did, providing more than adequate reasons for their readers to accept Him as Savior and Lord, trust Him with both their present lives and their eternal destinies.” - Henry Morris

6. How does Matthew divide his list in 1:17? How does this historical background add to the meaning/significance of Christ’s coming?

- What reasons do you see for God devoting 17 verses of scripture to this genealogy?

Applying the Word: Who are some people you would list in your *spiritual* family tree (relatives and non-relatives)? Name some of the significant ways that they influenced you.

Day 2

Conception of Jesus Christ. Read Matthew 1:18-25

7. List the phrases given in 1:18 describing Mary's circumstances. (Compare the description in Luke 1:34-35)

8. What do you find out about Joseph's character in 1:19?

- Why do you think Mary, apparently, hadn't told him what had happened?

FYI: Jewish *betrothal* could be dissolved only by the man's giving the woman a certificate of divorce. A betrothal usually lasted for one year. During that year the couple were known as husband and wife...But the actual marriage took place only when the bridegroom took the bride to his home and the marriage was consummated in the sexual union."- Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary

"Under these difficult circumstances, a (public) *divorce* was a relatively easy way out, and would be sanctioned by both Roman and Jewish law...(In a private divorce) the husband would be putting his reputation at stake. He could be accused of violating the law, indisciplined, exploiting his wife, bringing reproach on his family, or impotence... He would also...not be able to demand the dowry back. Joseph was prepared to lose his honour, reputation and some economic benefit, in order to minimize the suffering of another person, even if that person had hurt him through sexual betrayal. In his mind, justice and mercy went together." - Africa Bible Commentary (1109)

9. How did the Lord reassure Joseph? 1:20 (Note how the angel addressed Joseph.)

Digging Deeper
Who was the angel that appeared to Zacharias and Mary? Luke 1:19,36

- What two instructions was Joseph given? 1:20b,21

FYI: "*Jesus* *iesous* Strong's NT:#2424 is a transliteration of the Heb. "Joshua," meaning "Jehovah is salvation," i. e., "is the Savior," "a common name among the Jews" - Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words

10. What purpose did Matthew give for Jesus' coming? 1:21b (See Psalm 130:7,8)

FYI: "There was much Jewish expectation of a Messiah who would "redeem" Israel from Roman tyranny and even purify his people...But there was no expectation that the Davidic Messiah would give his own life as a ransom (20:28) to save his people from their sins." - Expositor's Bible Commentary

"Most people agree that the Christmas story is beautiful, but many do not see the awesome significance of Christ's birth. He was *born to die*, so that He could save people from their sins. That is one of the great truths recorded in the opening lines of Matthew." - Irving Jensen (18)

11. Underline phrases from the other gospels defining Jesus' mission.

- Luke 1:77 to give his people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins, NIV
- John 1:29 The next day he saw Jesus coming to him and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! NAS
- John 3:17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. NIV
- Mark 1:14 After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. ` NIV

12. To what was Jesus' birth linked? 1:22,23 (Cf. Isaiah 7:14) (*Mark the words "to fulfill" in Matthew.*)

- What does this indicate about the timing of Jesus birth? (See also Galatians 4:4)

Food for Thought: "Everything about the Old Testament points to the New...the coming of Jesus was no afterthought, no isolated event, but rather the actual realization in history of the age-long plan and purpose of God."-
- Expositor's Bible Commentary

13. How is Jesus being "*Immanuel/God with us*" described in:

- John 1:14
- Philippians 2:6-8
- Hebrews 2:14

14. How did Joseph respond to this revelation? 1:24

- How did he honor Mary and her pregnancy? 1:25

15. Consider this young couple and the enormity of these events. What range of emotions do you think they may have experienced?

Applying the Word: When you hear the "Christmas story," how do you picture Joseph and Mary? Do these insights into their lives change that picture in any way for you?

Day 3

Christ's Birth and the Magi. Read Matthew 2:1-12

See Genesis
35:19; Ruth 1:22;
and 1 Samuel
17:12 for
interesting events
in Bethlehem.

16. Where and when was Jesus born? 2:1 (See Luke 2 for more details about Jesus birth and infancy.) *Mark all locations in Matthew.*

FYI: "Misconceptions and legends abound about these wise men. They were not kings, but **wise men**...There were not only three, but probably a great company. They seem to have not come on the birth night, but many days (or even months) later...These ancient scientists from Persia were on an important mission." - David Guzik

17. Why did the magi come? What were their intentions? 2:2

- What do you think there was about the star that made the wise men take notice? Why do you think they thought the star announced the birth of a King? (Do you think this was a natural or supernatural phenomenon?)

18. Why would they have gone to the city of Jerusalem? (What might they have been assuming about the interest of the Jewish leaders?)

- How did Herod react? 2:3 Why would a newborn "King" be a threat to Herod? To "all Jerusalem?"

FYI: King Herod: Herod the Great ruled from 37-4 B.C. "**Herod** the Great was famous for both his magnificent public building projects, and his ruthless, cruel paranoia. Herod was not a Jew at all, but an Edomite, and Rome recognized him as a vassal king over Judea. The Jews tempered their great hatred of him with admiration for his building projects, such as the magnificent improvements made to the second temple." - David Guzik

For interesting insights into the life of Herod see <http://yourmove.is> Click on "*Light of the World: Toddler King.*"

19. What did Herod find out from the chief priests and scribes? 2:4-6

- What did he find out from the wise men? 2:7

20. What reason did Herod give for searching for the child? 2:8 (What was the real reason? 2:16)

21. How did the star further guide the wise men? 2:9 What does this indicate about the nature of this star?

22. List the responses and actions of the wise men in 2:10-11

- 2:10
- 2:11a
- 2:11b

23. How did the Lord care for the wise men? 2:12 (Mark the word *dream* in 1:20; 2:12,13,19,22)

- How does the story of the wise men add to the story of God's love? (See Luke 24:47)

Applying the Word: What do you find most amazing about the wise men's actions toward Jesus?

Day 4

Flight to Egypt and Return to Nazareth. Read Matthew 2:13-23

24. How did the Lord protect Joseph, Mary and Jesus? 2:13-14

- How did Joseph respond? What does the phrase "at night" indicate about the danger they were in?

25. How long were they there? 2:15 (Note: Where might some of their financial resources have come from?)

FYI: "The prophecy (2:19) from **Hosea 11:1**, refers to the nation of Israel as God's son coming out of Egypt in the Exodus. Jesus...the genuine Son of God...gives fuller meaning to the prophecy." - The Nelson Study Bible (1578)

"Moses and Jesus both came from Egypt as great deliverers of their people, and both fled murderous rulers. God's people had been led down to Egypt by one Joseph; now another Joseph was to take God's son down to Egypt... Jesus will save His people from the greater bondage to sin and Satan." - Africa Bible Commentary (1112)

26. How did Herod react to the wise men's deception? 2:16

- What do Herod's actions indicate about his character? What does this tell you about the danger Jesus was in from birth?

FYI: Angry/enraged Strong's NT:#2373 *Thumoo*; to put in a passion, i.e. enrage:

"Because Herod commanded that all boys two and younger be killed in the area, we can assume that the wise men first saw the star, on the night Jesus was born, a year or so previously... Remember that the journey from Persia to Judea was not quick...Herod ordered the execution of children two and under just to be safe." - David Guzik

27. When and how had God told about this event? 2:17 (*What do all these difficult events in Joseph and Mary's lives reveal about the reality of evil and the battle going on in this world?*)

FYI: "This prophecy (2:18) comes from Jeremiah 31:15 in which **Rachel**, who had been entombed near Bethlehem [see Gen 35:19] some thirteen centuries before the Babylonian captivity, is seen **weeping** for her children as they were led away to Babylon in 586 B.C. In the slaughter of the male infants at the time of Christ's birth, Rachel once again is pictured as mourning the violent loss of her sons." - the Nelson Study Bible (1578)

"After the fall of Jerusalem to the Babylonians, the captives had been held at **Ramah** before they were sent off on a 400-miles journey into exile. " - Africa Bible Commentary (1112)

28. How did the Lord instruct Joseph again and how did Joseph respond? 2:19,20

- What danger did they face in Israel? 2:22a

FYI: "When Herod died, his kingdom was parceled out to his three sons...Like his father, Archelaus was violent and cruel. The Romans tolerated his savagery for ten years and finally deposed him in A.D 6, after a Jewish delegation took their protest to Rome." - The Nelson Study Bible (1578)

29. How did the Lord protect the family again? 2:22b

- How did this fulfill yet another prophecy? 2:23 What emphasis is Matthew giving by connecting all these prophecies to their fulfillment?

30. What other attempts had been made before this to destroy the nation of Israel or the Messianic line of David.

- Exodus 2:15,16
- Esther 3:5,6,11-13
- 2 Chronicles 22:10-12

31. Summarize the prophecies that were fulfilled so far.

	Prophecy
1:22,23	<i>The Messiah would be born of a virgin; God's son</i>
2:15	
2:17,18	
2:23	

32. What adjective would you use to describe the different responses to Jesus?

- Wise men
- Herod
- Chief priests and scribes
- Joseph and Mary

Applying the Word: What does this account tell you about how deeply the Lord wants to connect with mankind? What does it tell you about the Lord's ability to combat the darkness and evil in this world?

Suggested Memory Verse:

*"The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son,
and they will call him Immanuel"-which means, "God with us."
Matt 1:23 NTV*