

# **GOSPEL OF MATTHEW**

## **CHAPTER I**

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# INTRODUCTION

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- Context: OT complete some 400 years earlier. Roman's are occupying Israel Palestina ruled by Herod. Jewish people waiting hundreds of years for their promised Messiah
- Written by: guess who? Also called Levi ('gift of God'), tax collector and one of the twelve
- Date: 55-65 AD
- Why? Primarily to prove that Jesus was and is the Jews promised Messiah

## **Isaiah 11:1-5:**

There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots.

The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.

His delight is in the fear of the Lord, and He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes, nor decide by the hearing of His ears;

But with righteousness He shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, and with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked.

Righteousness shall be the belt of His loins, and faithfulness the belt of His waist.



# GENEALOGY – VERSES 1-17

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- 46 names in 42 generations mentioned
- Why important?
  - Family tree establishes the person
  - Shows Jesus as a descendant of Abraham
  - Shows Jesus as a descendant of David, the royal line, fulfilling prophecies about the Messiah:

**Psalm 110 v1-2** David writes

The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool.”

The Lord shall send the rod of Your strength out of Zion. Rule in the midst of Your enemies!

**Jeremiah 23:5**

5“Behold, the days are coming,” says the Lord, “That I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; A King shall reign and prosper, and execute judgment and righteousness in the earth.

**Revelation 22:16** Jesus himself says in His revelation to John

16“I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star.”



# GENEALOGY

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- **Why important?**

- Through the male line – providing a legal claim to David's throne through Joseph.
- Although conceived by the Holy Spirit, Jesus is adopted by Joseph when he marries Mary and is therefore part of his family tree. v16 – Joseph is listed as the husband of Mary, not Jesus' father.
- Adoptive relationships very important – as real as biological relationships.

# GENEALOGY

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- Mary's lineage in Luke's gospel, also a descendant of David.
- Jesus both legal descendant of David through Joseph and biological descendant of David through Mary.
- Who do we see in this genealogy?

Heroes, shady characters, ordinary people, kings, evil-doers
- Starts with Abraham – all peoples of the world will be blessed through him

# GENEALOGY

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- Other significant people include Ruth and Boaz – great-grandparents of David. Story told in book of Ruth.
- Boaz is the prime example of a kinsman-redeemer, modelling Christ and His church.



# GENEALOGY

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## **Curse on Jehoiachin – a problem for David’s descendants:**

2 Kings 24:9 says

Jehoiachin did what was evil in the Lord’s sight, just as his father had done.

Jeremiah 22:30 speaking of Jehoiachin says

Thus says the Lord: ‘Write this man down as childless, a man who shall not prosper in his days; For none of his descendants shall prosper, sitting on the throne of David, and ruling anymore in Judah.’

# GENEALOGY

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## **Curse on Jehoiachin – a problem for David’s descendants:**

If Jesus is to be a descendant of David and therefore Jehoiachin, how can He be the Messiah since the curse bars any of Jehoiachin’s biological descendants assuming David’s throne?

Answer: Legal adoptions and the virgin birth

Matthew proves Jesus’ legal claim to be a son of David by Joseph adopting Him and through the virgin birth Joseph is not his biological father.

# CHRIST IS BORN OF MARY (V 18-25)

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*{Let us read verses 18-25}*

## **Why was the virgin birth necessary?**

Jesus had to be free from the sinful nature in all mankind passed down from Adam since the fall

Born of woman – fully human

Conceived by Holy Spirit as God's only Son – fully divine

# CHRIST IS BORN OF MARY

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## **Fully human:** Hebrews 4:15

For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.

## **Fully divine:** Colossians 2:13-15

You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins. He cancelled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross. In this way, he disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross.



# CHRIST IS BORN OF MARY

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**Without sin:** Hebrews 4:16

Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

# CHRIST IS BORN OF MARY

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**A man was needed:** Genesis 3:15

And I will cause hostility between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring. He will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.”

**Isaiah’s virgin birth prophecy explained and quoted:** Mt verses 22 and 23:

So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: “Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,”

# CHRIST IS BORN OF MARY

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**Joseph and Mary are betrothed** – more than engagement

**Consequences of unfaithfulness:** Deuteronomy 22:23-24

If a young woman who is a virgin is betrothed to a husband, and a man finds her in the city and lies with her, then you shall bring them both out to the gate of that city, and you shall stone them to death with stones.



# CHRIST IS BORN OF MARY

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## **Joseph's story:**

He demonstrates qualities of righteousness and mercy, discretion and sensitivity – verse 19: Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly.

He considered his two options, but God has a better option: Marriage (v20-21)

But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.”





# CHRIST IS BORN OF MARY

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## **Joseph's story:**

Joseph demonstrates other qualities:

Obedience (v24)

Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife

Self-control (v25)

and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name Jesus.

# SUMMARY

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God uses a wide variety and sometimes the most unlikely people in very surprising ways in His plans. He can use you and I if we let Him!

In this first chapter, Matthew demonstrates that Jesus is the Messiah and Saviour promised over thousands of years from Genesis to the prophets.

The conception and birth of Jesus are supernatural events beyond our understanding, logic or reason. God's ways are higher than our ways.

# SUMMARY

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The angel declared to Joseph that Mary's child, Jesus was miraculously conceived by Holy Spirit and would be a son, revealing he was both man and God. The infinite, unlimited God took on the limitations of human form so that he could live and die for the sins of the world and the salvation of all who would believe in him.

Jesus will, one day, return in glory as King of all the Earth and sit on David's throne!

***And we can know Him! Do you?***

