

The Gospel of Matthew

The gospel of the Messiah, His Kingdom and His People

LESSON 1

MATTHEW 1 – 2

I. Introduction

Our study of the gospel of Matthew will focus on the apostle's purpose in proving that Jesus was the prophesied Messiah. Two additional themes follow Matthew's proof of Jesus as the Messiah: the Lord's teachings concerning His kingdom and His teachings concerning the citizens of His kingdom. We will focus each lesson on these three themes to guide our study.

II. Chapter 1

Matthew begins his gospel setting forth a genealogy of Jesus and then his account of the Lord's birth.

- **vv. 1-17**

Question 1: Matthew describes his genealogy of Jesus as “the book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.” What is the significance of Jesus as the “son of David” and “the son of Abraham” to His status as the Messiah? (See Ps. 132:11; Is. 11:1; Jer. 23:5; Gen. 22:1; Gal. 3:16, 29).

Question 2: Matthew only mentions four women in his genealogy of Jesus. What may be the significance to Matthew mentioning Rahab and Ruth in v. 5? (See Matt. 12:18-21).

Question 3: Matthew begins by noting that Jesus was “the son of David”, but then mentions in v. 6 that Solomon was the son of David “by the wife of Uriah”, bringing to mind the most grievous sin David committed. What might have been Matthew's purpose by that reference? (See Matt. 22:42-45; Mk. 12:35-37).

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- **vv. 18-26**

Matthew then recounts the beginning of the incarnation—showing the divine influence surrounding Jesus' birth.

Question 4: What does Matthew identify as the significance of the events surrounding Jesus' birth? v. 23 (Isa. 7:14).

III. Chapter 2

Matthew continues his evidence of the incarnation with an account of events following Christ's birth. In his account of the "visit of the Magi", Matthew relates the fulfillment of prophecy in Christ's birth. He continues to show the fulfillment of prophecy in Joseph and family's flight to Egypt to escape Herod.

Question 5: What does Matthew present as significant about Jesus' birth in Bethlehem? v. 6. Why might Matthew have noted that it was the chief priests and scribes who identified Micah's prophecy?

Question 6: How does the visit of the Magi to Jesus provide evidence of his status as Messiah? (See Ps. 72:10; Isa. 60:1-6; Ps. 45:6-8)

Question 7: What prophecy was fulfilled by Joseph's flight to Egypt with Mary and Jesus? v. 15. (Hosea 11:1)

Question 8: What parallel does Matthew draw to Jesus in recounting the angel's instruction to Joseph to return from Egypt in Matt 2:20? (Exo. 4:19). Given Peter's statement in Acts 3:22-23, why may this parallel have been significant to Jesus' status as the Messiah?