

Assignments on Matthew 1

Please read Matthew 1 (note parallels in other accounts) and answer these questions.

1. Skim the book of Matthew and state its theme.
2. List some things we know about the man Matthew.
3. What advantages would Matthew have to qualify him to write this record?
4. What subject is discussed in 1:1-17? Why is this genealogy important?
5. How is Joseph described in 1:16? How does this differ from other men who are listed? What is the significance?

6. Special Assignment: How does Matthew's genealogy differ from Luke chapter 3? Study various Bible helps and discuss possible explanations for the differences.

7. What subject is discussed in 1:18-25? What was Joseph's relationship to Mary – 1:18?
8. What was unusual about Jesus' conception according to 1:18? How was this explained to Mary in Luke 1:26-38?
9. How did Joseph react to this news about Mary, and what did he seek to do – 1:19? Explain why he would react in this way.
10. How did Joseph learn the truth about Mary's conception? What explanation was given to him? (Think: How would this solve the concerns that Joseph had?)

11. **Special Assignment:** Compare what Joseph was told here about the conception of Mary to what she herself was told in Luke chapter 1. How do the accounts compare?

12. What did the angel predict about the child that had been conceived – 1:21? What name would He be given?

13. Explain the meaning of the child's name. Why was this name appropriate?

14. List other passages confirming that Jesus is the One sent by God to save men from sin.

15. According to 1:22,23, what Old Testament prophecy would be fulfilled by the birth of Jesus? Where in the Old Testament is this prophecy found?

16. **Special Assignment:** Explain why Jesus' birth would be unusual according to this prophecy and the context of Matthew 1. What should we learn about Jesus' character?

17. What special name would Jesus be given? What is the meaning of this name? (Think: How would this name accurately describe Jesus according to the teaching of the context?)

18. How did Joseph react to the message he received – 1:24,25? What was the child named?

19. What relationship did Joseph and Mary have, and how long did that relationship last according to 1:25?

20. **Case Study:** Some people believe that Mary remained a virgin all of her life. Explain what the Bible teaches about this here and elsewhere.

21. **Special Assignment:** Summarize the evidence that Jesus was born of a virgin.