

THE NAME & MISSION OF JESUS

THE MESSIAH-KING

MATTHEW 1:1-25

But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us).

Matthew 1:20-23

THE ROYAL LINEAGE OF JESUS

THE MESSIAH-KING

MATTHEW 1:1-17

[1:1](#) ¹The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

A. Matthew opens his Gospel with the family record of *Jesus the Messiah*.

B. SIX OBSERVATIONS FROM THIS GENEALOGY:

1. FIRST – Jesus was born into the RIGHT FAMILY.

a. In the Old Testament, God indicated which family the Messiah would come from.

- **Genesis 12:2** – He will come from the family of *Abraham*.
- **Genesis 21:12** – He will be a descendant of *Isaac*.
- **Numbers 24:17** – He will be a descendant of *Jacob*.
- **Genesis 49:10** – He will be a descendant of *Judah*.
- **2 Samuel 7:12-13** – He will be a descendant of *King David*.

b. This Genealogy confirms that Jesus the Messiah was born into the world through the *right* family – the *Messianic* family-line.

2. SECOND – Jesus was born into a HUMAN FAMILY.

a. There are 41 *men* mentioned in this genealogy.

b. There are 5 *women* mentioned in this genealogy – *Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba, and Mary*.

c. God the Son was born into a *human* family as a *truly human* being.

i. This is clearly affirmed in **1 Timothy 3:16** – “God was manifested in the flesh...” NKJV

ii. THINK ABOUT THIS – The *infinite God* became finite; the *eternal God* became confined to time; the *Sovereign God* became a servant to others; the *immortal God* became a human who could be slain as the atoning sacrifice for our sins on the cross.

iii. **Charles Wesley** – Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; Hail the incarnate deity!

3. THIRD – Jesus was born into a HEBREW FAMILY.

a. In **Genesis 14:13**, Abraham is called “the Hebrew,” and all his descendants are called Hebrews – This includes Jesus of Nazareth, “the son of Abraham.”

b. Romans 9:5 (NLT) – Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are their (Israelites) ancestors, and Christ himself was an Israelite as far as his human nature is concerned.

4. FOURTH – was born into a ROYAL FAMILY.

a. Jesus is a descendant of the royal line of King David – He is “the son of David.”

b. This Genealogy confirms He is the rightful heir of the Throne of King David.

i. In **2 Samuel 7:12-13**, through the *Prophet Nathan*, God announced to King David that his future descendant would sit upon his throne and establish his kingdom forever.

ii. In **Luke 1:31-33**, through the *Angel Gabriel*, God announced to the Virgin Mary that the promised heir and King is Jesus the Messiah.

5. FIFTH – Jesus was born into an IMPERFECT FAMILY.

a. Jesus was not born into a perfect and pristine family-lineage; instead, it is a sinful and scandalous one.

i. Except Jesus, everyone listed in this genealogy were sinners who needed a Savior.

ii. Jesus' family tree includes –

- **Abraham** – He lied two times about his wife, telling godless people that she was his sister, risking her life to preserve his own from danger and harm.
- **Judah** – He sold his younger teenage brother, Joseph, to human traffickers for financial profit, then later, impregnated his daughter-in-law, Tamar, with their son, Perez.
- **Rahab** – A former Canaanite prostitute in the city of Jericho.
- **King David** – He stole Bathsheba from Uriah, one of his most-trusted soldiers, then murdered Uriah to cover-up his adultery with his wife.
- **King Solomon** – He had 700 wives and 300 concubines, and he worshipped the pagan gods introduced by his foreign wives.
- **King Manasseh** – He worshiped false gods, led the Kingdom of Judah into idolatry, desecrated God's temple, and murdered innocent people, including children.

iii. This is a short-list of the deep stains in this Genealogy.

b. Jesus entered our sinful world through this *imperfect* family to redeem and rescue sin-trapped humans, to bring us into a right, forever relationship with God as members of His family.

i. In **Luke 7:34**, Jesus was accused of being “a friend of tax collectors and other sinners,” and in **Mark 2:16**, someone who shares meals with “sinners and tax collectors.” ^{NLT}

ii. In **Luke 5:31-32**, Jesus said – “Healthy people don’t need a doctor—sick people do. I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners and need to repent.” ^{NLT}

iii. In **Luke 19:10**, Jesus said, “The Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.” ^{NLT}

6. SIXTH – Jesus introduces a NEW BEGINNING.

a. In Greek, the word translated “**genealogy**” in **Matthew 1:1** is “*genesis*” – “*beginning*.”

b. God sent His Son to the world to inaugurate a *New Beginning* for His people and His created world and universe.

i. King Jesus *makes us a New Creation*; this includes a new start, a new way of thinking and living, a new identity, a new purpose, and a new forever future.

2 Corinthians 5:17 – If anyone is *in Christ*, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

ii. King Jesus *will renew the created world and universe*; this includes a new heaven, a new earth, and the New Jerusalem.

Revelation 21:1-5 – I saw a new heaven and a new earth ... And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God ... And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.” And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.”

d. Believe in Jesus the Messiah-King this morning, and He will transform you into a New Creation with a new beginning for the rest of your life.

1:17 ¹⁷ So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations.

A. There are **41 names** listed in this genealogy, with King David’s name appearing twice, bringing the **count of names to 42**.

B. These 42 names are arranged in three sets of “**fourteen** generations.”

C. The *double usage* of the name “**David**,” and the *triple mention* of the number “**fourteen**” is intentionally designed to shine a spot-light on the connection between *Jesus* and *King David*. *Here’s what I mean* –

1. In Hebrew, “**David**” is spelled with three letters – “**Dalet, Vav, Dalet;**” in English, “**D, V, D.**”

2. In Hebrew, each letter carries a numeric value; “**Dalet**” is **4**, and “**Vav**” is **6**.

3. The total value of David’s name – **D=4, V=6, D=4** – is “**fourteen.**”

D. God the Holy Spirit structured this Genealogy in **Matthew 1:1-17** to demonstrate that Jesus of Nazareth is a *descendant of King David* and the *true, eternal heir of the Throne of King David*.

1:16¹⁶ ... and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ.

A. “Jesus ... who is called Christ.”

1. Matthew identifies Jesus as “**Christ**” (“*Messiah*”) multiple times in this Gospel, starting with the 4 times in this first chapter – **1:1, 16, 17, 18.**

2. Matthew aims to show his audience that Jesus is God's promised *Messiah* – the *Redeemer* that Israel has been waiting for – the *Savior* that the world desperately needs.

B. Jesus was miraculously born to a virgin.

1. In the original language, “of whom” refers to Mary, not Joseph.

2. Matthew points out that Jesus was not Joseph's *biological* son, but the *miraculous* son born to a virgin named Mary.

3. Jesus' virgin birth testifies that He is the “Christ.”

4. **Matthew 1:16** introduces us to the story in **Matthew 1:18-25**, and **Matthew 1:18-25** expands our understanding of **Matthew 1:16**.

THE BIRTH-ANNOUNCEMENT OF JESUS THE MESSIAH-KING

MATTHEW 1:18-25

1:18 ¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way.

A. FIRST – This story takes place during *Roman occupation and rule* (Luke 2:1).

1. The year is sometime between 6 *B.C.* and 4 *B.C.*

2. *Gaius Octavius*, the grandnephew and adopted heir of Julius Caesar, also called *Caesar Augustus* – “*Emperor of the gods*,” was reigning over the Roman Empire.

3. The Roman Empire covered 2 million square miles in the world, stretching *from Britain through Europe, from Mesopotamia (Iraq) into Africa, from Israel and Syria to parts of Asia*.

4. The Roman world was under *Pax Romana*; that is, “*Roman Peace*” under the brutal control of the Roman Emperor and his military.

B. NEXT – This story takes place during the *rule of Herod the Great* (Luke 2:5).

1. *Herod I*, most well-known as “*Herod the Great*,” was an Idumean (Edomite – a descendant of Esau) of the Hasmonean Dynasty, belonging to the Herodian family.

2. He was granted the title “king of the Jews” by the Roman Senate and positioned in Israel as a client king submitted to the Roman Emperor.

3. He ruled in Israel from 37 B.C. - 4 B.C.

C. NEXT – This story happens in a town called *Nazareth* (Luke 1:26).

1. *Nazareth* is in Israel’s northern region called Galilee, situated between the Sea of Galilee and the Mediterranean Sea.

2. Historians and archaeologists estimate that the population of Nazareth, at this time, was *between 100 – 400 people. Everybody knew everyone in Nazareth!*

D. NEXT – The characters in this story are “Joseph, Mary, and an angel from the Lord.”

1:18-19 ¹⁸ When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly.

A. Mary and Joseph were *betrothed*.

1. During this time, the *betrothal* was a legally binding agreement that marked the beginning of marriage for a man and woman.

a. Following the betrothal was (1) the *ceremony* of marriage, (2) the *cohabitation* of husband and wife, and (3) the *consummation* of their union.

b. During the betrothal, the couple would not be fully married; would not be living together; would not engage in sexual union.

2. Breaking a betrothal required a formal divorce.

B. Mary was *pregnant*.

1. Since Mary and Joseph were not fully married, Mary’s pregnancy was scandalous – she bore the appearance of infidelity.

This would bring Mary public disgrace, shame to her family, and possibly public execution.

2. Matthew, however, tells us that Mary did *not* become pregnant by Joseph or another man; instead, “[she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.](#)”

a. Mary was a virgin, and God the Spirit supernaturally, miraculously caused her to become pregnant with Jesus the Messiah.

b. In his Gospel, Dr. Luke tells us what happened:

Luke 1:26-35 (NLT) – God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a village in Galilee, to a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of King David. Gabriel appeared to her and said, “Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you!”

Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean. “Don’t be afraid, Mary,” the angel told her, “for you have found favor with God! You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. And he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end!”

Mary asked the angel, “But how can this happen? I am a virgin.”

The angel replied, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the baby to be born will be holy, and he will be called the Son of God.

c. Everything happened to the virgin Mary just as the angel Gabriel announced to her.

3. BUT JOSEPH did not know or believe the true details of Mary’s pregnancy; so, he sought to divorce her privately, not publicly, to protect her from disgrace, shame, and harm.

1:20-23 ²⁰ But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ²³ “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us).

A. God sent an angel to reassure Joseph of Mary’s innocence of infidelity.

1. She was innocent of sexual sin – even though pregnant, she was still a virgin.

2. Her pregnancy was miraculous – it was a supernatural work of God.

B. God sent an angel to reveal to him who the child in Mary’s womb is.

1. His name is *Jesus*; in Hebrew, *Yeshua*.

2. He is the *Savior* of God's people.

3. He is the promised *Messiah* whose virgin birth was foretold 700 years earlier by the Prophet Isaiah in **Isaiah 7:14** – “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”

1:24-25 ²⁴ When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵ but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

A. This was a *humble and bold obedient act of faith*.

Joseph and Mary would have to deal with a lifetime of soiled reputation, condemning stares, and judgmental gossip in their community YET “he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him.”

B. Jesus was born into the world through *Mary* and *legally adopted* into the royal line of King David through *Joseph*.

THE NAME AND MISSION OF JESUS

THE MESSIAH-KING

MATTHEW 1:21-23

1:21-23 ²¹ ... you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ²³ “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us).

A. FIRST – HIS NAME

1. “You shall call his name Jesus”

a. In Hebrew, “Jesus” is YESHUA, which means, “YHWH is salvation.”

b. His name informs us of His mission: “He will save his people from their sins.”

c. In **Acts 4:12**, the Apostle Peter testified – “There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

2. “They shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us)”

a. In world religions, people attempt to reach God through rituals and deeds.

b. In Christianity, God came to us and made His dwelling among us. Jesus the Messiah is “God with us.”

i. **John 1:1, 14** – In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. ... The Word became human and made his home among us.

ii. Being “God with us,” Jesus entered our fallen world and our broken human experiences in life –

He fully experienced hunger and exhaustion, weariness and fatigue, abandonment and betrayal, sadness and tears – He was “a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief” (**Isaiah 53:3**, NKJV).

iii. “God with us” knows and understands us. “God with us” loves and cares about us. “God with us” came near to us.

B. NEXT – HIS MISSION

1. “He will save his people from their sins.”

2. This statement identifies Jesus as God in **Psalms 130:7-8** –

Israel, put your hope in the LORD, for with the LORD is unfailing love and with him is full redemption. *He himself will redeem Israel from all their sins.* ^{NIV}

3. God the Father sent God the Son, named Jesus, to be our Savior from sin and its consequences.

a. During Christmas, a popular Christmas card gets circulated; it says,

If our greatest need had been information, God would have sent an educator. If our greatest need had been technology, God would have sent us a scientist. If our greatest need had been money, God would have sent us an economist. But since our greatest need was forgiveness, God sent us a Savior!

b. Jesus saves His people from their sins.

i. He *has saved* us from the *penalty* of sin.

aa. The whole world is guilty of sin, and everyone under the rule and active-service of sin is under God's wrath.

John 3:36 – Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.

- *God's wrath* exists because sin exists.
- *God's wrath* is God's holy and right and just response to evil and injustice – to crime and rebellion – to sin and God-defying sinners.
- *God's wrath* is His settled and steady burning anger against those who abandon and rebel against God.

bb. On the cross, Jesus suffered and died as the atoning sacrifice for sin, and He “drank the full-cup of God's wrath” in our place, to deliver us from God's wrath.

cc. By faith in Jesus the Messiah, we are forgiven of all our sins, declared in-right-standing with God, reconciled to God, and in forever right-relationship with God.

Romans 5:1, 9 – Since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ ...

Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.

ii. *He is saving us from the power of sin.*

aa. *God the Son* is actively working with *God the Father* and *God the Spirit* to transform us into the likeness of Jesus, and to daily enable us to choose and live victoriously over indwelling sin.

bb. Jesus is *our High Priest* who intercedes for us. He is *our Mediator* who represents us. He is *our Advocate* who defends us. He is *our Savior* who delivers us.

cc. In Christ, the more we progress in our relationship with God, *the more sin is losing its grip on us.*

dd. In **Romans 7:21-25**, the Apostle Paul declared,

I have discovered this principle of life—that when I want to do what is right, I inevitably do what is wrong. I love God’s law with all my heart. But there is another power within me that is at war with my mind. This power makes me a slave to the sin that is still within me. Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death? Thank God! *The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord.*

iii. He *will save* us from the *presence* of sin.

aa. During our life, nothing will separate us from God's love.

Romans 8:38-39 (NLT) – I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

bb. Beyond our vapor-length mortal life is our future—forever—glorious—resurrected life without sin. *We* will be forever then as *Christ* is eternally now.

Philippians 3:20-21 (NLT) – We are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Savior. He will take our weak mortal bodies and change them into glorious bodies like his own, using the same power with which he will bring everything under his control.

CONCLUSION

A. Do you recognize your need for Jesus the Savior this morning? He calls and invites you to come to Him right now –

1. Matthew 11:28-30 (NLT) – Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light.”

2. John 6:37, 40 (NLT) – Those the Father has given me will come to me, and I will never reject them. ... For it is my Father’s will that all who see his Son and believe in him should have eternal life. I will raise them up at the last day.”

3. Luke 19:10 (NLT) – the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost.

B. Believe and receive Jesus the Messiah-King right now.

1. Romans 10:9-10 (NLT) – If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved.

2. Acts 16:31 – Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved...