



THE BIRTH OF JESUS

MATTHEW 1:1-25 & LUKE 1:1-25

This study guide explores the birth of Jesus. We will examine the genealogy, the announcement of Jesus' birth, the roles of Mary and Joseph, and the fulfillment of prophecies.



MATTHEW 1:1-25 SUMMARY

Genealogy of Jesus (1:1-17)

- **Key Points:**

- Begins with the genealogy of Jesus, linking Him to Abraham and David.
- Highlights the importance of lineage in Jewish culture.
- Shows God's faithfulness throughout generations.
- Synoptic Reference: Luke 3:23-28

Announcement of Jesus' Birth (1:18-21)

- **Key Points:**

- Joseph learns of Mary's pregnancy and plans to divorce her quietly.
- An angel appears to Joseph in a dream, clarifying that Mary conceived a child by the Holy Spirit and He will save His people from sin.
- Name Him "Jesus," meaning "God saves."
- Synoptic Reference: Luke 2:1-7





MATTHEW 1:1-25 (CONT'D)

Fulfillment of Prophecy (1:22-23)

- **Key Points:**
 - Joseph's action fulfills Isaiah's prophecy regarding the virgin birth and the name "Immanuel" ("God with us").

Joseph's Obedience (1:24-25)

- **Key Points:**
 - Joseph obeys the angel's command and takes Mary as his wife.
 - He refrains from consummating the marriage until after Jesus' birth, honoring the divine nature of his child's conception.

THINK ABOUT

- **Genealogy Importance:** Why is the genealogy significant to the narrative of Jesus' birth?
 - **Joseph's Response:** How does Joseph's reaction to the angel's message reflect his character?
 - **Fulfillment of Prophecy:** What does the prophecy about Jesus being named "Immanuel" reveal about His nature?
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LUKE 1:1-25 SUMMARY

Prologue (1:1-4)

- **Key Points:**
 - Luke addresses Theophilus, affirming the authenticity of the teachings about Jesus.
 - Emphasizes the importance of maintaining orderly accounts based on witness testimony.

Announcement of John the Baptist's Birth (1:5-25)

- **Key Points:**
 - Zechariah and Elizabeth, righteous but childless, are introduced as John's parents.
 - Angel Gabriel announces to Zechariah that they will have a son named John, who will prepare the way for the Lord.



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LUKE 1:1-25 (CONT'D)

- Zechariah's doubt leads to him being rendered mute until John's birth.

Prophetic Significance

- **Key Points:**

- John is to be filled with the Holy Spirit and will turn many hearts back to God (1:15-17).
- This emphasizes God's plan for redemption through both John and Jesus.

THNK ABOUT

- **Role of Angels:** What role do angels play in the announcements of both John's and Jesus' births?
- **Zechariah's Doubt:** What can we learn from Zechariah's initial disbelief? How does it compare to Mary's response in later verses?
- **Purpose of John's Birth:** What is the significance of John the Baptist's role in the context of Jesus' ministry?

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LIFE APPLICATION

- **Faith and Obedience:** Reflect on the faith displayed by Mary and Joseph. How can we apply their obedience to our own lives?
- **God's Timing:** Consider how God's timing is evident in the births of John and Jesus. How can we trust in God's timing in our own lives?
- **Preparation for Christ:** In what ways can we prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ this season?

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CONCLUSION

The birth of Jesus signifies the culmination of God's promises throughout history. Through the narratives in Matthew and Luke, we witness the fulfillment of prophecy, the obedience of key figures, and the establishment of a new covenant between God and His people. Let us reflect on the miraculous nature of Christ's coming and its implications for our lives today.

