

The book of **Matthew** introduction

We have four gospels listed in the bible. They are Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Each one written for a specific purpose to a specific audience.

- *Matthew is written to the Jewish listener. It is believed it was first written in Hebrew for Jews who spoke Hebrew. It presents Jesus as the Messiah, the king. In order to have a king you must have a kingdom. Matthew presents the Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of Heaven.*
- *Mark was written to the Jewish Roman citizens, who spoke the common language Aramaic. It presents Jesus as a Savior.*
- *Luke was written to the educated Greek. Luke and Acts are the only books written by a gentile, Luke. Luke presents as the heir of David, but through the legal line of Bathsheba's older son Nathan.*
- *John was written for believers in Christ. John presents Jesus in the fullness of God. God in the flesh who dwells with man.*

Matthew presents Jesus as the king. Because it presents Jesus as a king; it starts out to establish he is of royal bloodline. This is why the book starts with a genealogy; to prove Jesus has the blood line to be a legitimate heir to the throne of David. It continues to show Jesus is the Messiah.

There are two covenants the Messiah must fulfill. The first is the Abraham covenant. This is the promise God made to Abraham.

Genesis 12:1 Now the Lord had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, From your family And from your father's house, To a land that I will show you.

2 I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing.

3 I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." (NKJV)

The second promise was to King David. God spoke to David, through the prophet Nathan.

2 Samuel 7: 12 "When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. 13 He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. 14 I will be his Father, and he shall be My son. If he commits iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men and with the blows of the sons of men. 15 But My mercy shall not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I removed from before you. 16 And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever." (NKJV)

Through Abraham all the world would be blessed.

Galatians 3:15 Brethren, I speak in the manner of men: Though it is only a man's covenant, yet if it is confirmed, no one annuls or adds to it. 16 Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, "And to seeds," as of many, but as of one, "And to your Seed," who is Christ. 17 And this I say, that the law, which was four hundred and thirty years later, cannot annul the covenant that was confirmed before by God in Christ, that it should make the promise of no effect. (NKJV)

Through David God will establish his kingdom forever.

Romans 1:2 which He promised before through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures, 3 concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh, 4 and declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead. (NKJV)

MATTHEW 1

1 The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham:

Why would the book of Matthew open with a genealogy? Matthew presents Jesus as the Messiah and as the king. In order to claim a person is a king, you must prove they are from a royal bloodline. This bloodline is very interesting, because it not only contains some women, but the women are Gentiles. It starts off with Abraham and goes to Jesus.

2 Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob, and Jacob begot Judah and his brothers. 3 Judah begot Perez and Zerah by Tamar, Perez begot Hezron, and Hezron begot Ram. 4 Ram begot Amminadab, Amminadab begot Nahshon, and Nahshon begot Salmon. 5 Salmon begot Boaz by Rahab, Boaz begot Obed by Ruth, Obed begot Jesse, 6 and Jesse begot David the king.

*We see the first few Gentile women listed in the bloodline. The first is **Tamar**. She was the daughter in law of Judah. She was married to Judah's son, Er, who was struck down by God for being evil. According to the law of the kinsman redeemer, she married the younger brother, Onan. He was also evil, and God killed him. Now the law of the kinsman redeemer is found in Deuteronomy 25: 5. Judah did not give her to the next brother. She tricked Judah and became pregnant by him. She gave birth to two sons and one, **Perez**, is in the royal bloodline. She is the first woman and the first gentile to be listed in the royal bloodline.*

*The next gentile woman is **Rahab**. (see Joshua chapter 6). She was a harlot that lived in the town of Jericho. She hid the Jewish spies and protected them. God blessed her for the act and she not only lived but was married to a Jewish man named Salmon. From the marriage of Salmon and Rahab came a child named Boaz.*

Boaz redeemed and married Ruth, (see the book of Ruth). Boaz and Ruth had a child named Obed. Obed is the father of Jesse, the father of David the king. Rahab and Ruth are the grandmothers of David the king. This first section of the genealogy covers Abraham to David the king.

David the king begot Solomon by her who had been the wife of Uriah.

7 Solomon begot Rehoboam, Rehoboam begot Abijah, and Abijah begot Asa.

8 Asa begot Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat begot Joram, and Joram begot Uzziah. 9 Uzziah begot Jotham, Jotham begot Ahaz, and Ahaz begot Hezekiah. 10 Hezekiah begot Manasseh, Manasseh begot Amon, and Amon begot Josiah. 11 Josiah begot Jeconiah and his brothers about the time they were carried away to Babylon.

David committed adultery with the wife of Uriah. She was a gentile named Bathsheba. She gave birth to Solomon the king. This section of the genealogy covers the time of Israel, from its greatest days under Solomon; to its fall and captivity in Babylon.

12 And after they were brought to Babylon, Jeconiah begot Shealtiel, and Shealtiel begot Zerubbabel. 13 Zerubbabel begot Abiud, Abiud begot Eliakim, and Eliakim begot Azor. 14 Azor begot Zadok, Zadok begot Achim, and Achim begot Eliud. 15 Eliud begot Eleazar, Eleazar begot Matthan, and Matthan begot Jacob. 16 And Jacob begot Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus who is called Christ.

This last section of genealogy covers the time of dispersion, when Israel came out of Babylon and scattered throughout the known world. They no longer had a home to come to. Their home was occupied by Romans, at the time of Jesus. The genealogy ends with Joseph, who was the husband of Mary, the stepfather of Jesus. Joseph was a direct descendant of Abraham and David. If Israel had continued to be under a king, according to the royal bloodline, Joseph would have been a king. As things turned out, there was no kingdom of Israel, there was only Rome. Joseph was only a carpenter, whom God chose to help Mary raise the only begotten son of God.

17 So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations, from David until the captivity in Babylon are fourteen generations, and from the captivity in Babylon until the Christ are fourteen generations.

The bloodline of Jesus has been established for men. This shows Jesus is in the direct bloodline of Abraham and David. It establishes Joseph in the line of royalty which would then transfer to his firstborn son, at the death of Joseph. Jesus

inherited the royal bloodline from his stepfather Joseph. Jesus is still alive and forever holds the royal bloodline and is the only person qualified to sit on the everlasting throne of David. The bloodline stops with Jesus. Later, we will study the book of Luke. It shows the legal bloodline through Nathan. Nathan was Solomon's older brother. The genealogy in Luke traces the bloodline down to May, the mother of Jesus. In Jesus the royal and the legal bloodlines of a king intersect and stop. Jesus fulfills both bloodlines and is the only person qualified to sit on the throne of David. Anyone who comes later and attempts to convince the world they are the heir of David to the throne of Israel, will be a fake.

18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit.

During this time, most marriages were arranged. Usually the man was a least ten years older than the bride, while the brides were usually in their young teens. The man usually was established in the community and had a means of supporting a family. Joseph was a carpenter. The couple were betrothed to each other for up to a year. They lived under the same roof but did not have sexual relations. This gave the young bride time to get to know and get use to the man. They weren't actually married, but it would take a divorce to end the relationship. During this time Mary got pregnant, but Joseph wasn't the father. This would be considered fornication and was punishable, under the Mosaic law, by stoning.

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.

Joseph knew he wasn't the father but didn't want to drag her before a Jewish court and make a spectacle of her and put her to shame. He would secretly give her a letter of divorce and release her to go her own way.

20 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. 21 And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."

Since the time of the prophets, there had been four hundred years of silence. There had been no written word of God. No prophet had proclaimed, "thus saith the Lord", for over four hundred years. Angels, God's messengers to the Jews, had been silent for four hundred years. During this time, nearing the birth of the Messiah, the angels are busy. An angel appeared to Zachariah.

Months later an angel appeared to Mary to let he know she would be with child, but not Josephs. Now, at just the right time the angel appears to Joseph.

The angel tells Joseph that Mary has been true to him. The seed within her is from the LORD and not from any man. This child will be the only begotten Son of God. Mary has been chosen, as the mother, for the child who would be born into this world as a human, weak and helpless. Joseph was honored to be chosen by God to be the earthly father figure for the child. The purpose for bringing the child into this world was to save His people from their sins.

22 So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: 23 “Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which is translated, “God with us.” *Prophecy found in the book of Isaiah, that Joseph would have been familiar with.*

24 Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, 25 and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name Jesus.

Joseph and Mary did not consummate their marriage until after the birth of Jesus. At the time of Jesus birth, his mother Mary was still a virgin. She later gave birth to several children, all fathered by Joseph.

Why was it necessary for Jesus to be virgin born? Back in Genesis, we saw Adam fall from grace when he ate the fruit of the knowledge of good and evil. Adam had one law given by God, don't eat that fruit. Eve had not been told by God not to eat the fruit she was told by Adam. When she ate of the fruit, she sinned against her husband, Adam. When Adam took a bite of the fruit, he sinned against God. God had told Adam, if he ate of the fruit, he would die. As soon as he took the first bite, death entered his body, he began to age. His seed was contaminated with death. If Jesus had been born of seed of a man, the seed would have been contaminated with death. Only a man has a seed, the woman has the egg, which is fertilized by the seed and life begins. Mary had a seed created within her by God. The seed created had DNA and everything else needed for life but wasn't infected with death. Jesus was not born of the fallen seed of man. Mary was the only woman who had a seed and an egg. The seed in Mary was created miraculously by God. Therefore the virgin birth was necessary. Any person that does not believe in the virgin birth of Jesus, can't be saved. Their form of Jesus couldn't save them. There are many doctrines Christians can disagree with and still have fellowship. There are doctrines and ideas that vary on many things. The age of the Earth, the Sabbath, circumcision, method of baptism, guardian angels, the rapture and many others. Faith in the virgin birth of Jesus; the death on the cross, the burial, the bodily resurrection can't be compromised. These are the cornerstones of our faith.

Without the virgin birth, you are believing on a Jesus that was not revealed by the prophets of old. Jesus the Christ is the only one that fulfills all the prophecies. The prophecies include a virgin birth. A person must come as a sinner and repent, believe on the death, burial and bodily resurrection of Jesus, to be saved.

The Bible says,

16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. 17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. 18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. 19 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. 20 For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd. 21 But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God. John 3:16-21

Jesus wasn't born into this world to condemn the world, everyone in it was condemned already.