

Bible Readings

Old Testament Readings

Isaiah 7:14

Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

Matthew 1:1-25

The Genealogy of Jesus the Messiah

1 This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham:

2 Abraham was the father of Isaac,

Isaac the father of Jacob,

Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers,

3 Judah the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar,

Perez the father of Hezron,

Hezron the father of Ram,

4 Ram the father of Amminadab,

Amminadab the father of Nahshon,

Nahshon the father of Salmon,

5 Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab,

Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth,

Obed the father of Jesse,

6 and Jesse the father of King David.

David was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been Uriah's wife,

7 Solomon the father of Rehoboam,

Rehoboam the father of Abijah,

Abijah the father of Asa,

8 Asa the father of Jehoshaphat,

Jehoshaphat the father of Jehoram,

Jehoram the father of Uzziah,

⁹ Uzziah the father of Jotham,

Jotham the father of Ahaz,

Ahaz the father of Hezekiah,

¹⁰ Hezekiah the father of Manasseh,

Manasseh the father of Amon,

Amon the father of Josiah,

¹¹ and Josiah the father of Jeconiah and his brothers at the time of the exile to Babylon.

¹² After the exile to Babylon:

Jeconiah was the father of Shealtiel,

Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel,

¹³ Zerubbabel the father of Abihud,

Abihud the father of Eliakim,

Eliakim the father of Azor,

¹⁴ Azor the father of Zadok,

Zadok the father of Akim,

Akim the father of Elihud,

¹⁵ Elihud the father of Eleazar,

Eleazar the father of Matthan,

Matthan the father of Jacob,

¹⁶ and Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, and Mary was the mother of Jesus who is called the Messiah.

¹⁷ Thus there were fourteen generations in all from Abraham to David, fourteen from David to the exile to Babylon, and fourteen from the exile to the Messiah.

Joseph Accepts Jesus as His Son

¹⁸ This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

²⁰ But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³ "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").

²⁴ When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵ But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

Sermon**Jesus, the Messiah (Isaiah 7:14 & Matthew 1:1-25)****25-Dec-20**

It would be great to have your Bibles open to Matthew 1:1-25

Let me pray before we have a look at this passage.

Let's pray.

Intro/Recap

There's **no doubt** that **this year** has been very unpredictable and uncertain.

Every time we've **made plans**, this year, we've had to cancel or change them.

So isn't it great that **when it comes to God's plans** - nothing can stop them!

Isaiah 14:27 says this about God:

For the LORD Almighty has purposed, and who can thwart him? His hand is stretched out, and who can turn it back?

Throughout December, we've been **counting down to Christmas Day** and the birth of **Jesus, The Messiah**.

Remember what the word **Messiah** means [\[Explain Messiah/Christ\]](#)

[\[PowerPoint 1-Messiah\]](#)

Messiah = Hebrew = Anointed/Chosen One

Christ = Greek for Messiah

In week 1 of December - we saw why we all need a Messiah - because of our sin - inherited by Adam and Eve - and because of that sin - the consequence was that humankind's relationship with God was broken (we call that a spiritual death) - and the consequence of sin was also that the planet was broken. And we also saw the punishment for sin was physical death - we all die.
And so, the conclusion was - we need someone to come and fix our sin and fix our death. So, God promised to send a Messiah - a Saviour - and we said that Saviour was Jesus.

In week 2 - We looked at some signs from the Old Testament, part of the Bible, which gave us clues about what the Messiah, would come and do - and even details on His birth and where He would be born.

Then last week - we saw how the Messiah would be a forever King. We heard about an angel that came and told a virgin, named Mary, that she would conceive and give birth to a son - and this son will be the Son of God and will be a forever king of a forever kingdom.

Now today - Christmas Day - the day has arrived for this child to be born!

In our NT reading from Matthew 1 - v1 leaves us in no doubt that Jesus is this promised Messiah

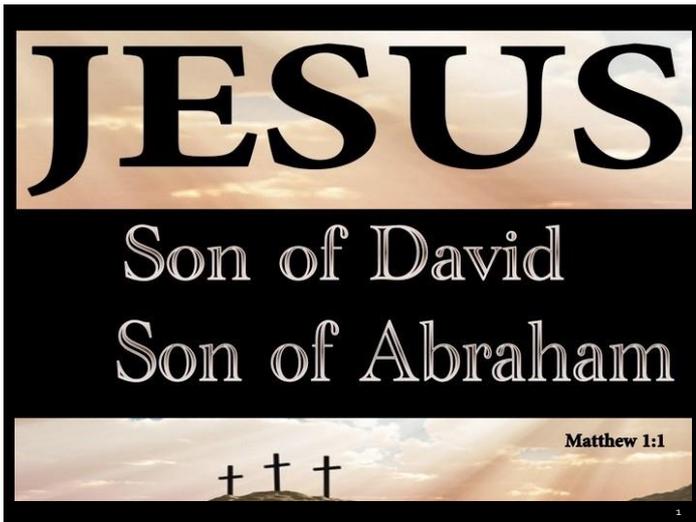
Matthew gives us the genealogy - family tree - of Jesus the Messiah

Jesus, The Messiah's, Family Tree (Matthew 1:1-17)

That **first verse** is so important - as it **summarizes many of the promises** that **God made** in the OT - about the Messiah coming

[PowerPoint 2-v1]

V1 says - This is the genealogy of **Jesus** the **Messiah** the **son of David**, the **son of Abraham**:



Verse 1:

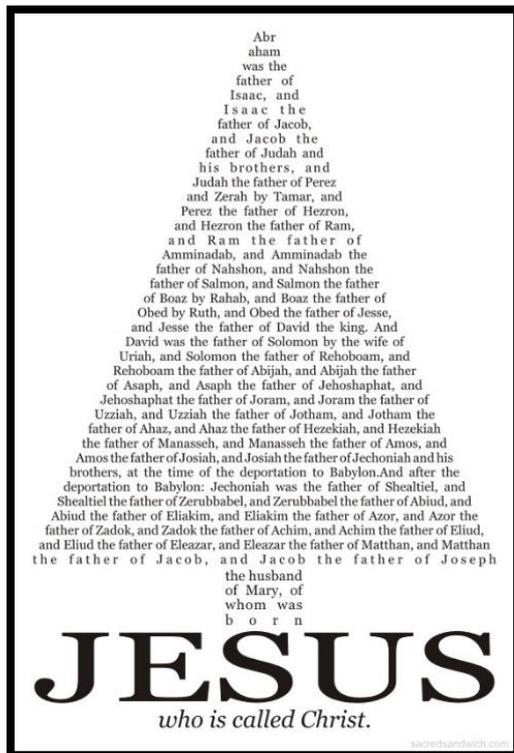
- Shows that Jesus - as the Son of David - is a descendant of King David - and it was to King David - that God made a promise that one of David's descendants would reign on His throne forever
- V1 also shows that Jesus - as the Son of Abraham - is a descendant of Abraham as well - and it was to Abraham - that God made a promise that through one of Abraham's descendants all nations in the world would be blessed (Gen 22:18) - and this of course - is Jesus - He is **available to all nations** - if they care to believe in Him

Then verses 2-16 give us the **family tree of Jesus** - all the way from Abraham to Joseph - Jesus' earthly father.

The question we have to ask ourselves is why this family tree is given?

And there's a few reasons for that:

[PowerPoint 3-Tree]



- 1st as we've seen it shows that **God keeps His promises - and His promises are fulfilled in Jesus' birth.** As God promised in the OT - Jesus, the Messiah, is from King David's family - the family tree here in Matthew proves it.
Even the family tree in the Gospel of Luke - chapter 3 -shows Jesus' family line on his mother's side, also traces back to King David.
- 2nd reason for the family tree - is to show there are some unlikely people in Jesus' family tree

- See v4 there is a woman called **Tamar** - she **sold herself as prostitute** to her father in-law, Judah (Genesis 38), and **gave birth to twin boys, Perez and Zerah** - and Perez is part of Jesus' family tree.
- Then in v5 - there is a woman named **Rahab** who was a prostitute
- Also, in v5 - there is a woman named **Ruth** who wasn't even a Jew - she's was a **Gentile** - from Moab
- And v6 - there is the wife of Uriah - that's **Bathsheba** - with whom David committed adultery - and David and Bathsheba had a son called **Solomon** - who is also Jesus family tree
- In v10 - even King Manasseh is mentioned in Jesus' family tree - and Manasseh was the **most evil of Kings** (1 Kings 21)
- And that's not counting others in the family tree that did some **dodgy things** in their lives - people like - **Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and David**.
- This shows God uses the most unlikely people: dysfunctional people - broken people - blatantly sinful people; God uses them all - to **accomplish His plans**
- 3rd reason for the family tree - is to **show us God didn't choose to save us through "good people" or through "good behaviour"**
 Instead, God showed grace - and **chose to save us through Jesus**, the Messiah.
 These unlikely characters are in Jesus' family tree - to show us that **they are just like us** - and to show us - they can't save themselves from sin and death - any more than we can.

So, we all must come to the ONE who can save us - AND - no one is too bad that they can't come to Jesus.

The Birth of Jesus, The Messiah (Matthew 1:18-25)

Having given us Jesus' earthly family tree

From v18 - we have the birth of Jesus, The Messiah

Mary and Joseph were pledged to be married to each other

We need to understand what it means by pledged

It's more than being engaged to be married - normally couples in Jewish culture were **engaged** and **promised** to each other from when they were young - the custom was that this was **arranged by their parents**

Mary and Joseph were actually betrothed - this **made** their **engagement official and binding** - and this betrothal could only be broken by divorce.

Betrothal usually **lasted** about a **year** - after which time - **they got married**.

Mary and Joseph **hadn't slept together**

Yet - **Mary** - a **virgin** - is pregnant

How?

By a **miracle!**

Through **God's Holy Spirit**

This **fulfils the promise** made in our OT passage from **Isaiah** (made some 700 years before Jesus was born) that a **virgin** would **conceive** and give **birth** to a **son**

The virgin birth is critical - as it **means Jesus** will not be **born sinful** - but sinless

As Charles Spurgeon puts it:

"There was no other way of Jesus being born; for had he been born of a sinful father; how should he have possessed a sinless nature? He is born of a woman, that he might be human; but not by man, that he might not be sinful."

We can only imagine how Joseph may have felt when he heard the news that Mary was pregnant - knowing the child was not his

Yet - look at the measure of the man - he didn't want Mary to be a public disgrace - he had in mind to call off the betrothal by divorcing Mary quietly

But Joseph need not have worried

An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream to explain that this child to be born was actually born of the Holy Spirit

[PowerPoint 4-Birth]

And this child will have the name - Jesus - which means - "*the Lord saves*" - or "*salvation*"

This child will grow up - as v21 says - to **save people from their sins**

What does that mean?

It means Jesus will grow up to **die on a cross** and **take the punishment for people's sins** off them - and put it on Himself. So, what **Jesus does on the cross** - is to **save people from being punished for their sins** - and instead, they get forgiveness

He will also save people from the **consequence of sin** - by that we mean - He **saves people from spiritual death** - he **fixes their broken relationship between humankind and God** - and He **saves people from actual death**. He is able to do this because He was **raised to life after His death** - and He **offers people everlasting life in Heaven** too.

There is one thing people have to do though - they must believe Jesus died for their sins to be forgiven and that He rose from the dead.

(pause)

Notice also - v23 - **at His birth - Jesus was given the title Immanuel - God with us** - This shows that as well as having an Earthly Family tree - Jesus has a **heavenly origin** - He has God as His Father - and **He is God's Son** - AND also, **He is fully God**. He has to be fully God to take on the role of saving people from sin.

Notice also - how accepting Joseph is of this information that this **child to be born is from the Holy Spirit**.

Joseph heard what the angel of the Lord said - and he believed it - and he walked in faith

Our Response (Hebrews 11:1 & 2 Corinthians 5:7)

How are we to respond to Jesus, the Messiah - this Christmas Morning?

We've had a **shocker of a year!**

And I think it's fair to say - we are all a bit **edgy and uncertain** - and **don't quite know what will happen next.**

I'm sure Joseph felt more than a little uncertain and edgy - at the **news his wife-to-be** - was to have a baby that wasn't his?

But he simply trusted God - and walked in faith

What is faith?

The **Bible** gives us a **definition** - in **Hebrews 11:1**:

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.

[PowerPoint 5-Faith]



So, faith is having confidence in what God promises

God promised a **Messiah** would come - **Jesus** the **Messiah** came

God promised a **virgin** would give birth - and **she did**

God promised The **Messiah's** name would be **Jesus** - and He was named **Jesus**

God promised He himself would give a sign and that the child would have the title **Immanuel** - And that's what God did - **He stepped into time and history** - and **Jesus became God with skin on** - "God with us" - Immanuel

God promised Jesus would **save His people from their sins** - and that's what **He did on the cross**

So, we can have confidence that **our sins are forgiven**

And God promised that whoever believed in His Son - would not perish but have **eternal life**

So, we can have confidence that we have **eternal life** (if we believe in Jesus) and are **saved for Heaven**

So, as we continue to live in this uncertain world - which has our confidence rattled

We need to practice what the Apostle Paul told the people of Corinth

[PowerPoint 6-walk by faith]

**WE WALK
BY FAITH
NOT BY
SIGHT**

2 Corinthians 5:7



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We must **live by faith** - in God's Word and in His Son Jesus - **and not live by sight** - don't live by what we see in this crazy uncertain world.

Let's pray