

THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW PART 1

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One of the four biographies of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. We should be familiar with His life.

Matthew was originally called Levi ... one of the tax collectors. As an Apostle ... he was an eye witness.

Matthew's book is largely addressed to a Jewish audience ... and to people who were already believers.

In those days, there were many Jews who were familiar with the Old Testament and they were familiar with the prophecies telling them that one day there would come a King who would reign for ever ... and this book emphasises that Jesus is the one prophesied.

Matthew 1:1

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

This is fundamentally important if you were writing to Jews. He has to be of the lineage of Abraham and David.

Matthew 1:6-7

and Jesse begot David the king.

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

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

Matthew 1:16 This is the lineage of Jesus' "stepfather" Joseph.

And Jacob begot Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus who is called Christ.

Both of Jesus parents "meet the criteria" ... descended from Abraham and David.

Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother **Mary was betrothed** (in these days ... it was a legal contract before they were actually married) to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. Then **Joseph her husband**, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. 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. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for **He will save His people from their sins.**" (saved from the power of our sins)

So all this was done **that it might be fulfilled** (appears about 16 times relating back to the prophecies) which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us." (NOT the first of The Father's creation)

Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, and did not know her till she had **brought forth her firstborn Son.** (The Roman Catholic teach that **Mary was a "perpetual" Virgin ... but the scriptures teach us that Jesus had four brothers ... James, Joses, Simon and Judas ... and at least 2 sisters**) And he called His name Jesus.

Matthew 2:1-2 This event was AFTER Jesus was born.

Now **after Jesus was born in Bethlehem** (maybe 1 or 2 years after Jesus birth) of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is He who has been born **King of the Jews?** (here are wise men who have come from a long way away ... to worship the King of The Jews ... the prophesied King) For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him." (Why aren't hundreds of Jerusalem inhabitants coming to look for "their King")

Matthew 2:3-10

When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where (exactly) the Christ (Mashiach ... Messiah) was to be born.

So they said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet:

'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
Are not the least among the rulers of Judah;
For out of you shall come a Ruler
Who will shepherd My people Israel.' "

Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found Him, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also." When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy.

(It could well be that they diverted from God's guidance ... the star ... and went to Jerusalem ... thinking Jesus was there ... in the capital. And then they saw the star again and continued to follow it to Bethlehem).

Matthew 2:11

And when they had come into the house, (not a stable) they saw the young Child (Greek: Paidion ... toddler) with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. (knowing He was God) And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. (There could have been several wise men. Tradition says there were 12)

Matthew 2:12

Then, being divinely warned (perhaps they had asked a question about their return and were guided) in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way.

Matthew 2:13-15

Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him."

When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt, and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, "Out of Egypt I called My Son."

Why did they have to leave the country? Couldn't God have protected them where they were? Yes ... He could have done that. It's a question of what God actually said. Maybe it will be the same when the tribulation comes. Some people will be asking "can't we stay where we are and be protected".

Matthew 2:16-18 The slaughter of the Innocents

Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying.

"A voice was heard in Ramah,
Lamentation, weeping, and great mourning,
Rachel weeping for her children,
Refusing to be comforted,
Because they are no more."

Matthew 2:19-23

Now when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream (a response to a question from Joseph) to Joseph in Egypt, saying,

"Arise, take the young Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the young Child's life are dead." Then he arose, took the young Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel.

But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea instead of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And being warned by God in a dream, he turned aside into the region of Galilee. And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

Matthew 3:1-2

In those days John the Baptist (untranslated ... means "the immerser") came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" (The other Gospel writers normally talk about The Kingdom of God. But Matthew only uses the term "God" a few times).

A Kingdom needs:

Territory

Laws

Subjects

King

Matthew tells people to get ready ... to repent ... change your attitude and conduct!! Also the Greek word has within it ... to yield or submit to God. (This was the Apostle John's Gospel).

(The Greek word for Baptism means to "immerse" ... "to plunge into")

Matthew 3:3

For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, saying:

"The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord;

Make His paths straight.' ". (John the Baptist is on a mission)

Matthew 3:4-7

Now John himself was clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem, all Judea, and all the region around the Jordan went out to him and were baptised by him in the Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? (If these people had been humble and teachable John would have baptised them. He knew they were hypocrites ... a bunch of poisonous snakes).

John preached about repentance and the wrath to come. He said they were to bear fruit consistent with repentance.

Matthew 3:8

Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance,

Matthew 3:9-10

and do not think to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones. And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees.

Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. **(There is wrath to come ... a fiery end to those who "don't get with the plan")**

Matthew 3:11-13

I indeed baptise you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. (Baptised with the Holy Spirit ... Yes!!! Not the fire ... that's for the chaff!!) His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire." (You don't want that baptism)

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptised by him.

Matthew 3:13-17

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptised by him.

(As an example to us of how important it is. He didn't need to be baptised for His sins)

And John tried to prevent Him, saying, "I need to be baptised by You, and are You coming to me?"

But Jesus answered and said to him, "Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed Him.

When He had been baptised, Jesus came up immediately from the water; (Jesus came up OUT OF THE WATER) and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

A big event for John to baptise his own Saviour.

Matthew 4:1-3

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. Now when the tempter (Greek: *Pierazo ... to test and tempt with a view to destroy you) came to Him, he said, "If You are the Son of God, (maybe satan wasn't sure if Jesus was The Son of God) command that these stones become bread."

God is fighting here "as a man" and showing us how we can take on satan with the strength of God ... by "falling back" on the Word of God.

Matthew 4:4

But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.' "

Matthew 4:5

Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, (interesting that the devil is quoting scripture ... so we should be aware ... his ministers are very good at quoting scripture ... out of context ... bending and twisting it!!)

Matthew 4:7

Jesus said to him, "It is written again, 'You shall not tempt the Lord your God.' "

Matthew 4:8-11

Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me."

Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.' "

Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him.

Jesus is extremely weak at this stage. He had "put Himself on the line" for us. If Jesus was immune to temptation ... then this would have been a bit of a farce. Jesus COULD have yielded ... COULD have been tempted.

Matthew 4:12-17

Now when Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, He departed to Galilee. And leaving Nazareth, He came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the regions of Zebulun and Naphtali, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying:

"The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali,

By the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan,

Galilee of the Gentiles: (what good could come out of Galilee?)

The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light,

And upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death

Light has dawned."

From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Compare: Matthew 3:2:

and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" Jesus and John The Baptist preached the same Gospel.

* In other parts of the New Testament a different word is used ... Dokimazo which means ... "to test with a view to strengthen you"

