

**I. THE PRESENTATION OF THE KING**  
**Matthew Chapter 1 - 2**  
**by Pastor Richard H. Jones**

**A. TO PRESENT THE KING, MATTHEW GIVES THE GENEALOGY OF JESUS CHRIST (1:1-17).**

1. In this genealogy Matthew used three historical periods and fourteen generations in each period descending down to Christ. Note the fourteen names in the first period (Matt. 1:2-5), the second period (Matt. 1:6-11), and the third period (Matt. 1:12-16). It should be noted that this list does not include all the descendants of those periods but these particular ones may have been chosen as an aid in memorization.
2. This genealogy traces the ancestry of Jesus Christ through Solomon's kingly line (Matt. 1:6,7). Luke, on the other hand, traces Christ's physical ancestry and blood line through David's son Nathan down to Mary (Lk. 3:23-38). Note Luke 3:31. Jesus is the actual seed of David through Mary.
3. Matthew's genealogy includes the mention of four Gentile women which is unusual for Jewish genealogies (Matt. 1:3,5,6). This may intimate, as Gentiles were used in God's plan before, that God's plan would now also include Gentiles. The important truth to see is that Matthew's genealogy shows that Jesus Christ is the legal heir to the throne of David. Note what the angel said to Mary in Lk. 1:32,33. Matthew's genealogy then is indispensable because in order to prove that Jesus is the Messiah and King of Israel, it must be proved that Jesus is the legal descendant of David.

**B. TO PRESENT THE KING, MATTHEW GIVES AN ACCOUNT OF THE VIRGIN CONCEPTION AND BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST (Matt. 1:18-25).**

1. Matthew testified that Mary was found with child during her Jewish betrothal period (Matt. 1:18).
2. Matthew recorded that Joseph was minded to put her away privately rather than to make her a public example (Matt. 1:19). According to the law he had the right to have her publicly stoned (Ex. 20:10; Dt. 22:19).
3. Matthew stated, while Joseph thought on these things, an angel appeared to him and told him how Mary had conceived and what he was to do. He was to take Mary as his wife and told what to call the child (Matt. 1:20-21).
4. Matthew records that this miracle of the virgin birth was a fulfillment of prophecy (Matt. 1:22,23). He recorded also that Joseph was obedient to what the angel said (Matt. 1:24,25).

**C. TO PRESENT THE KING, MATTHEW GIVES THE RECORD OF HOW THE WISE MEN CAME TO WORSHIP HIM (Matt. 2:1-12).**

1. Matthew states, after Christ was born in Bethlehem, wise men came from the east to Jerusalem and asked to see the one who was born King of the Jews (Matt. 2:1,2).
2. Herod, the King of Judaea, being troubled, gathered all the chief priests and scribes and demanded where the Christ would be born. They answered Herod according to what Micah the prophet had said (Matt. 2:5,6). Note Mic. 5:2.
3. Matthew said after Herod had asked the wise men about the time the star appeared, he sent them to Bethlehem and charged them to return when they had found the Christ-child (Matt. 2:7-8).
4. As the wise men departed they were led by the same star which they had seen in the east and it led them to where the Christ-child was (Matt. 2:9-10).
5. When the wise men saw the Christ-child they worshipped Him and presented gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Afterwards they were warned of God not to return to Herod and they went another way into their own country (Matt. 2:11,12) Notice once again Matthew has shown that Christ is the King of the Jews. The wise men had come to worship this one and the place of His birth was also a fulfillment of O.T. prophecy.

**D. TO PRESENT THE KING, MATTHEW GIVES THE DETAILS OF HISTORICAL EVENTS FOLLOWING JESUS' BIRTH AND HOW THEY FULFILLED THE SCRIPTURES (Matt. 2:13-23).**

1. Following the birth of Christ, Joseph was warned in a dream by an angel to flee to Egypt to escape King Herod's wrath (Matt. 2:13-14). Joseph obeyed the angel and took Mary and the Christ-child down to Egypt and was there until the death of Herod (Matt. 2:15). Matthew stated that this also was a fulfillment of the Scriptures concerning God's son (Matt. 2:15). Note this was prophesied in Hos. 11:1.
2. Following the birth of Christ, Herod slew all the children from two years and under in Bethlehem and all its borders. This was because the wise men had not returned to him and he sought to destroy the Christ-child (Matt. 2:16). Matthew stated that this was a fulfillment of Jeremiah's prophecy (Matt. 2:17,18). Note this was prophesied in Jer. 31:15.
3. Following the death of Herod, Joseph was commanded by an angel in a dream to return to the land of Israel with Mary and the Christ-child. Joseph obeyed but was afraid to return to Judaea when he heard that Herod's son, Archelaus, reigned in Judaea. Being warned of God, he went into Galilee and dwelt in a city called Nazareth (Matt. 2:19-23). Matthew stated that this event was also a fulfillment of prophesy concerning the Son of God (Matt. 2:23). Note this may have been prophesied in Isa. 11:1 where Christ is called a "rod." Matthew has shown that all the events following Christ's birth were fulfillments of prophecy concerning God's Son who is the King of Israel.

## EXPOSITORY NOTES

- 1:11 Notice that Jeconiah is called Coniah in Jer. 22:24-30. For some reason God pronounced a curse upon him that his seed would not prosper upon the throne of David. If Christ had been the natural son of Joseph He could not reign upon David's throne because of this curse. Christ came, however, through Mary's line physically. As Joseph's adopted son, the curse upon Coniah's seed did not apply to Christ and He still is the legal heir to David's throne.
- 1:16 It is significant to note that the Greek verb translated "begot" from verses Matt. 1:2-16 is in the active voice, meaning the subject is producing the action of the verb. But notice in verse 16, when speaking of Christ's birth, the verb changes to the passive voice stating of whom Christ "was born." Hence, Christ was not begotten through the process of natural generation and was not Joseph's begotten son. Notice also the preposition and pronoun "of whom" is a feminine genitive singular indicating that Jesus was born of Mary but not of Joseph. The "of whom" applies to Mary only and not to Joseph and Mary.
- 1:18 This verse states that Mary was found with child "of" the Holy Spirit. Here and in verse 20 "of" the Holy Spirit means "out from." This preposition is used with the ablative case of the nouns (Holy and Spirit) and becomes an ablative of source. In other words, the Holy Spirit was the Agent in Mary's conception. It came about "out from" or "by" the Holy Spirit.
- 1:18 Oriental marriage was comprised of three different stages. The first betrothal stage was like a form of engagement. The couple betrothed did not live together until the marriage ceremony would take place, but their relationship was binding and unfaithfulness was treated as adultery and it was punishable by death. It was during this first stage that Mary was found with child.

## QUESTIONS WE CAN APPLY TO OUR LIVES

(1) What is significant about Christ being listed first in Matt. 1:1?

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(2) What can we gather from the mention of the four Gentile women in Matt. 1:3,5,6?

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(3) What lesson is there for us to learn in the curse upon Jeconiah mentioned in Matt. 1:11?

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(4) What does the verb change in verse Matt. 1:16 point out?

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(5) What two names are prominent in this genealogy and with what are they associated?

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(6) How many verses in chapter 1 and 2 show how Christ fulfilled the Scriptures?

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(7) What lesson can we learn from the gifts of the wise men?

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(8) What can we learn from Herod's attempt to slay the Christ-child?

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(9) What virtues did Joseph display that we would do well to acquire?

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(10) How should the names ascribed to Christ such as Jesus and Immanuel apply to our lives?

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