

Jesus' Genealogy, Birth, and Infancy

1. How do 1:1 and 1:17 summarize the whole genealogy of Jesus the Messiah? How does starting with Jesus' genealogy support Matthew's key theme of Jesus as King?
2. It is unusual for Bible genealogies to list mothers. All the women in verses 3-6 were either Gentiles or had been married to Gentiles. Why do you think Matthew included them here? What kind of difficult circumstances had each of these four women been through in life?
3. What is different about the way Joseph and Mary are described in v. 16? What is Matthew saying by the way he describes this couple? Whose genealogy is this – Joseph's or Mary's?
4. Discuss these details found in the brief passage of 1:18-25 about the birth of Jesus Christ:
 - A. Who got Mary pregnant?
 - B. What did Joseph assume had happened?
 - C. What changed Joseph's mind about what he planned to do?
 - D. What was Jesus' mission on earth to be?
 - E. In what ways did Joseph obey the Lord?What kind of man does all this lead you to believe that Joseph was?
5. 1:22-23 gives us the first of many instances where Matthew quotes an Old Testament (OT) prophecy that Jesus fulfilled. What was this prophecy, where is it found in the OT Scriptures, and how did Jesus fulfill it? Why does it matter that Jesus was born of a virgin?
6. Skim chapter 2 to find four more OT prophecies that Matthew quotes. Why do you think Matthew places so much emphasis on these prophecies? What do you find interesting about how these Scriptures are applied to the circumstances surrounding Jesus' birth?
7. Why did the magi come to Jerusalem? (2:1-2) How did King Herod and the people respond? (2:3) Why do you think they all felt this way? Did the magi accomplish their goal? If so, how and where? (2:8-11) What significance do you see in the three gifts they brought?
8. What do you learn about worship from the examples of the magi in 2:1-11? How can your worship be improved by applying these examples to your life?
9. How did the Lord use dreams in these chapters? (1:20; 2:12-23) Do you think He still uses dreams to guide people today, or was this only because of Jesus' arrival on earth? Besides dreams, what two supernatural events took place in these chapters? (1:18,20; 2:2,9)
10. How do you feel when you read what happened in 2:16? Why do you think the Lord allows this kind of thing to happen, even today, in our world?