

Matthew 1
The birth of the Christ

- I. The genealogy of Christ. (1-17)
 - A. Matthew immediately begins the earthly record of Christ. (1)
 - 1. This is not done in any other New Testament book.
 - 2. Many notable characters in Christ's past.
 - 3. The two most notable are shown in verse one. David, Abraham.
 - B. The phrase "son of David" emphasizes the kingly descent of Jesus. (cf 21:9, 15)
 - 1. It is also used as a Messianic title. (cf 22:41-45)
 - 2. David was the greatest king of all Israel's kings.
 - 3. Matthew uses "son of David" more than any other New Testament writer.
 - C. The phrase "son of Abraham" emphasizes the "promised" descent of Jesus. (cf. 3:9)
 - 1. It was with Abraham that God made the special covenant. (cf Gen 12:2, 3: 15:17, 18: 17:1-8)
 - 2. God promised that through Abraham all people would be blessed. (cf Gen 12:3; Gal 3:16)
 - 3. The universal blessing promised to Abraham is fulfilled in Matthew's account of the Gospel. (cf 3:9: 28:19, 20)
 - D. The genealogy from Abraham to Christ. (2-17)
 - 1. The Jews valued these histories. (cf. 1 Chr. 1-8; Ruth 4:18-22)
 - 2. We notice one notable name after another, showing the progress of God's plan.
 - 3. Organized in three groups of fourteen. (1:17)
 - E. Some women of questionable character are mentioned.
 - 1. Four women mentioned in these verses. (Tamar, Rahab, Ruth and Bathsheba)
 - 2. All were probably Gentiles.
 - 3. Three of the four are of questionable moral character.
 - a. Tamar. Gen 38. Involved in incest.
 - b. Rahab. Joshua 2. Classified as a harlot or prostitute.
 - c. Bathsheba. 2 Sam 11. Adultery.
- II. Jesus is born into the world. (18-25)
 - A. Mary is pregnant without sexual contact. (18, 19)
 - 1. Matthew emphasizes Christ's birth from Joseph's standpoint. Luke possibly may emphasize Mary's side or from the lineage of the priests.
 - 2. Joseph is surprised to learn of Mary's pregnancy.
 - 3. The angel's explanation seems to be geared toward a Jewish attack on Jesus' supposed illegitimate birth.
 - B. Mary and Joseph's arranged marriage began with a year of betrothal.
 - 1. This period was as binding as the real marriage.
 - 2. They were considered married, but the woman would live with her parents. (cf. Gen 29:21; Deut 20:7)
 - 3. Only death or divorce, as in a full marriage, terminated this espousing.

4. A betrothed woman could be punished as an adulteress. (cf. Deut. 22:23, 24)
- C. While Joseph plans to put Mary away, God informs him concerning the child. (20, 21)
1. Joseph is informed through an angel, which is not uncommon in bible history. (cf. Gen. 16:7-11: 31:11-13)
 2. Joseph is told his wife is still pure and acceptable as a wife.
 3. Joseph is told what to name the child. (21)
 - a. By naming Jesus, Joseph would be accepting Him. (cf. Isa. 43:1)
 - b. The child's purpose is expressed in His name.
- D. These events happened to fulfill OT prophecies. (22, 23)
1. The prophecy fulfilled is Isaiah 7:14.
 2. "Emmanuel" is only found here in the New Testament. It means "God with us."
 3. The era of God being with us began with His Son's birth.
- E. Joseph accepts Mary and the Child. (24, 25)
1. Joseph did not delay after hearing God's word.
 2. Joseph and Mary had no sexual intercourse until after the birth. "Knew her" = sexual intercourse. (cf Gen 4:1)
 3. Destroys the idea of "perpetual virgin". (cf 13:55, 56)
 4. Joseph calls His name "Jesus."

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