

# The Gospel of Matthew

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## Session 2: Jesus: The Son of David, the Son of Abraham

**NEXT WEEK:** The King in Exile **Main Readings:** Matthew 2 **Additional Readings:** Numbers 24: 15-19; 1 Samuel 16:1, 16, 4-13; Isaiah 11, 60: 3-6; Jeremiah 23: 5-6; Micah 5: 2-4 **CCC:** 528, 530

### NOTES AND QUOTES

*Goal of every Bible study is to become more perfectly conformed to Christ, that we would live the life of Christ and that He would pour forth from us as result of our relationship with him.*

1. Last session was introduction to Matthew; Audience: Jewish Christians living in and around Palestine w/knowledge of Jewish customs/Old Testament; quotes/refers to OT 100+ times/explains Jesus' fulfillment of the OT

2. All Gospels are written with patterns woven into the story; Matthew's story begins same as Genesis 5: Genesis 5: This is the record of the descendants of Adam...

Matthew 1: The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham...

(Important when looking through eyes of 1<sup>st</sup> century Jews who knew OT/awaiting King through

Davidic line; Gen 12 = promise to Adam – upgraded to covenant with Abraham

(Gen 12 - 22)/David (2 Sam 7) = anchor covenants in OT)

3. God is showing that Jesus is a new beginning; just as Adam was new beginning; Gentiles were included in covenants

4. Prior to destruction of Temple, was important to understand who was your father (genealogy), so lineage was brought through the line of Joseph (through line of Solomon), Mary was also descended from Davidic lineage through David's son Nathan); NOTE: one argument is that Jesus could not be Messiah because He did not come through the Davidic lineage since Joseph was not His biological father but Mary was – women were not considered in the lineage at that time)

5. Matt 1:17 – *Thus the total number of generations from Abraham to David were 14 generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon 14 generations, and from deportation to the Christ – 14 generations.* Why 14? (God does not waste words). Numbers important to Jewish readers:

Three sets of 14 = Six sets of 7 (1. Abraham to David; 2. David to Deportation<sup>1</sup>; 3. Deportation to Christ) 7 = Number of completion; considered the number of the Covenant (Gal 4:4)

*Matt 1: 18 – birth of Jesus was beginning of the 4<sup>th</sup> set of 14 generations (Jesus came at end of*

*OT as written "...in the fullness of time..." Every letter of Jewish alphabet has a numerical reference<sup>7</sup> ; David in Hebrew (no consonants) = DVD or 464*

6. Matthew writing for a very knowledgeable and sophisticated audience; numbers are important and relevant

**NOTE:** Women not typically mentioned in genealogy, but Matthew tells of four: Tamar<sup>2</sup> (Gen 37-38), Rehab<sup>3</sup> (Joshua 2), Ruth (Book of Ruth), Bathsheba (Book of Samuel) – all questionable backgrounds; demonstrates inclusion of sinners into the people/family of God

7. Since did not reject David or Solomon for sins, cannot reject Jesus because Mary pregnant but not married only betrothed (period before wedding – may live together (and considered married) for up to a year but no sexual relations)

8. Suspicion Theory: Joseph suspects Mary of adultery and plans to divorce her (adultery means death according to law in Deut. 22); Remembrance Theory: Joseph already knew about Mary's pregnancy and considered himself part of plan and was a reverent measure to keep secret the mystery within her

9. Parallel of two Josephs: Shared same name (Joseph); Both had fathers names Jacob; God spoke to both; both saved their families by bringing to Egypt; beginning of *formula* quotations<sup>6</sup>

10. Matthew bookends his gospel with Matt 1:23 *"Behold a virgin shall conceive and bear a son. His name shall be called Emmanuel...which means God is with us."* And he ends his Gospel with Matt 28:19 *"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...and behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age."*

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11. Matthew takes OT story and show who Jesus is and how He relates to the entire story; Isaiah 7:14 prophesied the birth of Jesus; one verse created confusion for Protestants Matt 1: 25 "*He (Joseph) had no relations with her until she bore a son, and he named him Jesus.*" Some interpret this and other verses to indicate Joseph did consummate the marriage and Jesus had brothers and sisters. Important to understand the culture and other writings/interpretation of same words in other parts of Bible – 2 Sam 6, 24; 1 Tim 4:13- same wording; Catholic Church firmly establishes Mary's virginity – in culture, the reference to brothers and sisters is made for cousins or other family members. Important to understand Mary's divine role which will be discussed later

12. Matthew refers to four shady ladies and many other less than holy people who became a part of God's family to show us that no matter what we have done or where we are right now, we have opportunity to have a new beginning in Jesus Christ; this is the beginning of something new; Jesus is the beginning of the next cycle of seven – God is truly with us and everything begins to change; because of Him, we are saved and His faithfulness as a son, offers us the opportunity to become faithful sons and daughters.

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<sup>1</sup>**Deportation of Israel (Babylonian captivity):**913 BC, Israel divided into two nations – Israel to the North with 10 tribes and Judah to the South with two tribes; Israel (northern 10) did not listen to prophets, did not repent, went their own way, created own rules and priesthood – they were taken into captivity. While Judah (tribes of Benjamin and Judah) were warned, they did not listen to prophets; they were captured but also physically removed from the Promised Land (Canaan) and transported to Babylon. Others captured nations were brought in to populate Canaan (one group was the Samaritans). They were to be in captivity but because of stubbornness became 419 yrs. While they returned physically, they did not return spiritually; that is important point when searching for Messiah

## <sup>2</sup>**Tamar (Judah's wife)**

In the **Book of Genesis**, Tamar was the daughter-in-law of Judah, as well as the mother of two of his children: the twins Perez and Zerah.

**Parents:** Elam **Children:** Perez, Zerah **Siblings:** Amnon **Great grandchildren:** Ram, Jerahmeel

**Grandchild:** Hezron **Grandparent:** Shem

<sup>3</sup>**Rahab** was, according to the **Book of Joshua**, a woman who lived in Jericho in the Promised Land and assisted the Israelites in capturing the city by betraying her people. In the New Testament, she is lauded both as an example of a saint who lived by faith, and as someone "considered righteous" for her works.

**Children:** Boaz **Great grandchild:** Jesse **Grandchild:** Obed

## <sup>4</sup>**Ruth (daughter-in-law of Naomi)**

Ruth is the title character of the **Book of Ruth**. In the narrative, she is not an Israelite but rather is from Moab; she marries an Israelite. Both her husband and her father-in-law die, and she helps her mother-in-law, Naomi, find protection.

**Spouse:** Ibzan **Children:** Obed

**Great grandchildren:** David, Zeruiah, Nethaneel, Shimeah, Abinadab, Abigail, Ozem, Eliab, Raddai

**Grandchild:** Jesse **Siblings:** Orpah

<sup>5</sup>**Wife of Uriah** (assuming is Bathsheba)

## **2 Samuel 11:26-27** Revised Standard Version (RSV)

When the wife of Uriah heard that Uriah her husband was dead, she lamented her husband. And when the mourning was over, David sent and brought her to his house, and she became his wife, and bore him a son. But the thing that David had done displeased the LORD.

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## **Formula Quotations/Citations**

<sup>6</sup>Matthew's gospel continually looks back in order to look forward, as it is steeped in Old Testament quotations, known as *formula citations*, which function as evidence of Jesus' messianic identity (1.22; 2.6, 15, 16, 23; 4.15-16; 8.17; 12.17-21; 13.14, 35; 21.4; 27.9-10).

"[Matthew] introduces many of his direct quotations from Scripture with the stereotyped formula 'this was to fulfill what was spoken'....and they offer an authorial commentary on the narrative," Luke T. Johnson, *The Writings of the NT*, 174. "Matthew has about 60 references of quotations from the Old Testament...Only in Matthew has Jesus come not to abolish the law and the prophets, but to fulfill them (5.17-20)," (Richard Burridge, *Four Gospels, One Jesus?* 76-77.)

"This is almost a Matthean peculiarity among the Synoptic Gospels [Lk 22.37; see also Mk 15.38; Lk 18.31; 24.44]. *That Jesus is to be related to the Scriptures is a commonplace in early Christianity, but Matthew has uniquely standardized the fulfillment of the prophet word. In finding this fulfillment, Matthew usually makes no attempt to interpret the larger contextual meaning of the cited OT passage; rather there is a concentration on the details where there is a resemblance to Jesus or the NT event....[L]ikely the citations have a didactic purpose, informing Christian readers and giving support to their faith.....Besides using the formula citations to fit the general theology of the unity of God's plan, the Matthean evangelist selected them to serve his particular theological and pastoral interests in addressing a mixed Christian community of Jews and Gentiles,*" (Raymond Brown, *Introduction to the New Testament*, 207, 208.)

...And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. (Matt 10:30)

## **7Numbers, Colors & Materials in the Bible** <http://www.wildolive.co.uk/numbers.htm>

Numbers, colors and materials all have significance in the Old Testament and Jewish culture. Thus the constructional details recorded and numbers in scripture convey spiritual messages.

Much of the following information may be found in "*Seeing Christ in the Tabernacle*" by Ervin N Hershberger. He points out that some are widely accepted while others are deduced from context. His interpretations concern mainly the way in which these things are pictures of Messiah. Some are obviously New Testament in application.

Gold	Deity and Glory
Silver	Atonement, redemption
Brass	Judgment
White	Purity, repentance and forgiveness (see Yom Kippur)
Blue	Heavenly, heaven (sky ) A reminder of the commandments (Num 15 v37-41)
Purple	Royal color
Scarlet	Atonement - Atoning blood
Fine linen	the righteousness of the saints
Rams' skins died red	consecration
Shitim wood	Incorruptible
Water	Life from God, cleansing
Oil	the Holy Spirit
Sweet spices	Fragrant life

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127 The book also looks at the symbolism used in numbers and measurements.

One	Unity
Two	Fellowship (Two witnesses required)
Three	the Trinity
Four	Earth ( four winds, four corners, four points of the compass )
Five	Grace
Six	Man, human weakness, short of perfection
Seven	Perfection, completeness
Eight	New beginning (new world after flood with 8 people, new week
Nine	Fruit of Spirit (Gal 5), 9 beatitudes, self-repeating ( multiply 9 by any number, add the digits in the answer and the result always ends in 9)
Ten	Responsibility on earth, completeness
Eleven	Human failure, confusion, judgment
Twelve	Earthly government (12 tribes, 12 apostles)
Forty	Testing
Fifty	Jubilee (follows seven times seven Sabbath years. see Lev 25 v8-17)

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## 129 Gematria

130 The letters of the Hebrew *Alefbet* have numerical values. There is a Jewish discipline known  
131 as *Gematria* devoted to finding hidden meanings in the numerical values of words. For example 18 is  
132 the numerical value of *Chai* (meaning Life) so donations to Jewish charities are routinely made in  
133 denominations of 18. The value for "mother" plus the value for "father" equals 44, which is also the  
134 value for "child". Have you ever wondered why John records in his Gospel (chapter 21) that the  
135 miraculous catch of fish numbered 153? The value of 153 is obtained from "ANI ELOHIM" -"I AM  
136 GOD".

137 It can be possible to take this too far. For instance, some say that, since the letter *waw* or *vav* has the  
138 value of 6, *www* = 666 (the mark of the Beast) which means that the Internet is the Antichrist or  
139 something similar. This is nonsense since *gematria* works by adding the values so "*www*" will equal 18,  
140 which is *Chai* or "life".

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