

# 2019-2020 Bible Study

## #6

10/22/19

# Matthew 1

10/22/19

# Matthew 1 (Cont)


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# Outline for Matthew 1

- Introductory verse revealing purpose of the gospel
- Jesus as the new Joshua
- A prophet like Moses
- The anointed one - “Christ”
- Significance of the genealogy
  - Son of David
  - Fulfilled 3<sup>rd</sup> promise to Abraham
- Significance of the number 14
- • Joseph's dilemma
  - Joseph's response to a dream
  - Joseph names Jesus (Isaiah 7:1-17)
  - Explanation of the perpetual virginity of Mary

# Matthew 1 (Cont)

- **Matthew 1:18 –19** *“Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, **before** they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a **just man** and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to send her away quietly.”*
  - Father suggested that we underline or highlight the word “**before**” as it points to the virgin birth
  - **Just man** meant that Joseph was righteous and law-abiding (someone who kept the Law of Moses perfectly)

# Matthew 1 (Cont)

- Since Joseph found Mary to be “**with child**,” if he suspected her of adultery, he was required by the Law to subject her to the water of testing (**Numbers 5:11-31**) But, if she was “with child” by the power of the **Holy Spirit**, it meant that God was her husband creating an even more difficult betrothal position for Joseph
- Thus, to excuse him from this predicament, he decided to send her away quietly to avoid her possibly being stoned if people did not believe her story \*

# Matthew 1 (Cont)

- **Matthew 1: 20 – 23** *“But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, Joseph, **son of David**, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit”*
  - At that moment, Joseph heard from an angel in a dream who addressed him as “**son of David**”
  - The genealogy, however, points out that he was the “**son of Jacob**”
  - Matthew is emphasizing the importance of Joseph’s role and why he cannot walk away

# Matthew 1 (Cont)

- Joseph was the heir to the throne of Israel as a “**son of David**”
- God, through the angel, announced that the child shall be called “Jesus”
- Since naming a child was the duty of the father, the angel was directing Joseph to adopt this child and name him “Jesus”
- This was important so that “Jesus” could legally be understood as a “son of David”
- Thus, Joseph was critical to this story



# Matthew 1 (Cont)

- Even though Mary was from the line of David, inheritance could not come by the mother
- To further solidify this, Joseph will name him “Jesus” to fulfill the prophecy of *Isaiah* who said, “a virgin will conceive and bear a son and his name shall be called ***Emmanuel***” – God is with us (**Isaiah 7:14**)
  - Look at the story of King Ahaz (**Isaiah 7:1-17**) \*

# Matthew 1 (Cont)

- **Matthew 1:24-25** *“When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; took his wife, but knew her not **until** she had borne a son; and he called his name Jesus.”*
  - At this point, Matthew is delivering the word of God
  - Joseph married Mary as the angel of God commanded because he was “righteous”
  - But, he “*knew her not*” is biblical language to mean that they had no relations *until she had born a son; and called his name Jesus*
  - This confirmed that *Joseph* adopted Jesus

# Matthew 1 (Cont)

- Often Protestants will argue that the word “**until**” indicates that Mary and *Joseph* had other children **after** the virgin birth of Jesus
- But that is not what it is saying within this context, and it relates to the use of the word “**before**” indicating that this was a virgin birth
- If this had not been established there could have been confusion concerning the generic makeup of Jesus
- Matthew clearly shows that there had been no relations from the moment of conception all the way “**until**” the birth

# Matthew 1 (Cont)

- In modern English, “until” is used to express a change of action
- In Biblical Greek *heos (until)* can mean a change of action or **no change of action** until a certain moment of speaking with no change of action implied
  - *“sit at my right hand until I make your enemies your footstool (Ps 110)”*
  - *Michal, the daughter of Saul had no children until the day of her death”*
  - *We eat turkey today because the first pilgrims ate turkey and we have been doing this in America until today (an old English construction)*
- We will now turn to **Matthew 2**

# Matthew 2

# Outline for Matthew 2

- The Messiah and King Herod
- The story of the Star and Numbers 22-24
- The location of the birth place of the Messiah
- The gifts of the wise men and Isaiah 60
- Herod and the killing of the innocents
- The fulfillment of Jeremiah 40
- Joseph's response to his dream to go to Egypt and then return to Israel
- The Messiah was to be a Nazarene

# Matthew 2

- **Matthew 2:1-2** *“Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem 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?”*
  - Why would Matthew start out by telling us about King Herod?
  - It is because he has been speaking about the “king” all along through the use of the word “Christ” (4 times in Mt 1)
  - Father suggested that we go back and read the word “Christ” in place of “King” and it will make total sense

# Matthew 2 (Cont)

- Messiah (Christ) means the anointed king of Israel
- The wise men were seeking this anointed King of the Jews
- Although *Herod the Great* was sitting on the throne, he was not the legitimate king of the people of Israel
- His father was an ***Edomite***, a descendant of ***Esau*** the brother of *Jacob*
- His mother was an ***Ishmaelite***



# Matthew 2 (Cont)

- *Herod* was a descendant of *Abraham* but not of *Israel (Jacob)*
- He was not from one of the 12 tribes of Israel and therefore could not be the king according to **Deuteronomy 17:15**
- He was a vassal king of the Roman Empire who the people of Israel saw and hated as an illegitimate ruler
- Therefore, what caused these wise men to come seeking the King of the Jews?
- The answer can be found in **Numbers 22-24 \***

Numbers 22-24

# Numbers (Cont)

- **Numbers 22-24:13**

- At this point, *Israel* was encamped in the plain of *Moab* on the eastern side of the Jordan River facing *Jericho*
- This will be the place where *Moses* looks to the west at the Promised Land
- Eventually, *Joshua* will lead them from the plain of Moab across the Jordan just before Jericho

# Numbers (Cont)

- When the people of *Israel* finally arrived at the plains of *Moab*, *Balak the King of Moab* was afraid because he had seen what *Israel* had done to *King Sihon* of the *Amorites* and *King Og* of the *Ammonites at Bashan* (*Psalms 135:8-12*)
- Balak decided to send emissaries to Babylon to hire ***Balaam***, a prophet, to offer a curse on the people of Israel
  - It was believed that whatever a prophet prophesied would come true

# Numbers (Cont)

- Eventually, *Balak* agreed and came to *Moab*, where he met *Balaam* and told him that he would only be able to say and do what God (Yahweh) told him
- The next morning, they went to a peak in the Mountains of *Moab*, offered sacrifices, and *Balak* pointed to the people of *Israel* who were encamped in the plains of Moab, and told the prophet to curse them

# Numbers (Cont)

- *Balak* was astonished when three times in a row *Balaam* offered a **blessing** instead of a curse against Israel
- This made *Balak* furious and he told the prophet to go home without being paid for his efforts
- *Balaam* reminded the king that he had warned him that all he could do was to relate what Yahweh told him to say

# Numbers (Cont)

- **Numbers 24:14-25**

- Before he left, *Balaam* told the king what *Israel* would do to his nation in the future
- *Balaam* went from a false prophet to a true prophet as he predicted the downfall of *Moab*, *the Amalekites*, *the Kenites*, *Asshur*, and *Eber*
- He even told *Balak* that when he saw God (Yahweh) his eyes were opened

# Numbers (Cont)

- Then, he predicted the rising of the **star** and **scepter** of Israel (**Genesis 49:10**)
- This was about the human king who will govern the people of *Israel* and who would come from the tribe of *Judah* as God
- Initially, this would be King David, who crushed the head of *Moab* and dispossess the *Edomites*



# Numbers (Cont)

- Eventually, this will be fulfilled in Jesus Christ when the wise men (having heard this story from the Israelites living in their country) come from the East seeking the King of Israel
- *Herod the Great, an Edomite (Idumaea), was eventually dispossessed*
- This is a very important prophecy that impacted King David and Jesus

# Matthew 2 (Cont)

- **Matthew 2:3-11** *“When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born....by another way.”*
  - Remember the word “king” and “Christ” are used synonymously here
  - Herod has no clue about any of this so he asked the Jewish scribes where the “Christ” was to be born
  - The scribes tell this *Edomite* that the Christ was to be from the house of David from the village of *Bethlehem*

# Matthew 2 (Cont)

- Next, Herod asked the wise men what time the star appeared to them to ascertain the possible age of the child
- Father said we have no idea what this star is and Christians have been speculating about it from the earliest time
- Whatever it was, it can be seen as a miracle from the hand of God
- Regardless, it most likely took these Magi at least one year to travel from Persia to Jerusalem
  - Matthew is now speaking of a **child** living in a **house**
  - This is not what is portrayed in the Christmas pageant

# Matthew 2 (Cont)

- To understand the three gifts, we need to turn to **Isaiah 60:1-6**
  - Look at the star reference (the light has come)
  - This is also about the restoration of the kingdom of Israel where God will restore the kingdom, His divine king, the temple, and the Gentiles will come into the kingdom
  - The kings of the earth shall come and bring their wealth
    - **Gold** – a gift for a king
    - **Frankincense** – a gift for a god
  - This will be a beautiful eternal day, bathed in the light of God (Rev 22)
  - They also will bring **myrrh**, a spice used for anointing the dead
  - This all points to the death and resurrection of Jesus, the immortal king who is God \*