

MATTHEW

The book of Matthew begins by showing that God has kept his promises to Israel. Jesus is the promised Messiah, or king. The rule of God has come to earth. This is what the story of Israel is about. Matthew lists the names of the people in the family line of Jesus. Jesus came from the family line of Abraham, the ancestor of all the tribes of Israel. That family line continued to the great King David. Then Matthew shows that Jesus came from David's family. God really had kept his ancient promises.

Matthew makes connections between Jesus' life and the story of Israel. Just as Israel crossed the Jordan River, Jesus went to the Jordan River. As Israel wandered in the desert, Jesus was tempted in the desert. In addition, Matthew presents Jesus as the new Moses. Matthew presents the story of Jesus' life and work in five parts. These five sections contain the five main speeches given by Jesus. Each speech ends with words similar to "After Jesus finished saying all these things." These five parts remind us of the five books of Moses in the Old Testament.

Jesus celebrates a Passover meal with his disciples. This is just like the time Israel celebrated the Passover meal before leaving Egypt. After the Passover Israel was freed and no longer in slavery in Egypt. Jesus died on the cross and rose again to make his people free. Those who believe in him will be free from sin and death.

At the beginning of the book, Jesus is given the name "Immanuel." That name means "God with us." At the end of the book, Jesus sends his followers into the world. He sends them out with a promise that he would always be with them.

The Family Line of Jesus the Messiah

1 This is the written story of the family line of Jesus the Messiah. He is the son of David. He is also the son of Abraham.

²Abraham was the father of Isaac.

Isaac was the father of Jacob.
Jacob was the father of Judah and his brothers.

³Judah was the father of Perez and Zerah. Tamar was their mother.
Perez was the father of Hezron.
Hezron was the father of Ram.

⁴Ram was the father of Amminadab.
Aminadab was the father of Nahshon.

Nahshon was the father of Salmon.

⁵Salmon was the father of Boaz. Rahab was Boaz's mother.
Boaz was the father of Obed. Ruth was Obed's mother.

Obed was the father of Jesse.

⁶And Jesse was the father of King David.

David was the father of Solomon.
Solomon's mother had been Uriah's wife.

⁷Solomon was the father of Rehoboam.

Rehoboam was the father of Abijah.
Abijah was the father of Asa.

⁸Asa was the father of Jehoshaphat.
Jehoshaphat was the father of Jehoram.

Jehoram was the father of Uzziah.

⁹Uzziah was the father of Jotham.

Jotham was the father of Ahaz.

Ahaz was the father of Hezekiah.

¹⁰Hezekiah was the father of Manasseh.

Manasseh was the father of Amon.
Amon was the father of Josiah.

¹¹And Josiah was the father of Jeconiah and his brothers. At that time, the Jewish people were forced to go away to Babylon.

¹²After this, the family line continued.
Jecooniah was the father of Shealtiel.

Shealtiel was the father of Zerubbabel.

¹³Zerubbabel was the father of Abihud.

Abihud was the father of Eliakim.
Eliakim was the father of Azor.

¹⁴Azor was the father of Zadok.
Zadok was the father of Akim.
Akim was the father of Elihud.

¹⁵Elihud was the father of Eleazar.
Eleazar was the father of Matthan.
Matthan was the father of Jacob.

¹⁶Jacob was the father of Joseph. Joseph was the husband of Mary. And Mary was the mother of Jesus, who is called the Messiah.

¹⁷So there were 14 generations from Abraham to David. There were 14

from David until the Jewish people were forced to go away to Babylon. And there were 14 from that time to the Messiah.

Joseph Accepts Jesus as His Son

¹⁸This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about. His mother Mary and Joseph had promised to get married. But before they started to live together, it became clear that she was going to have a baby. She became pregnant by the power of the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph was faithful to the law. But he did not want to put her to shame in public. So he planned to divorce her quietly.

²⁰But as Joseph was thinking about this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. The angel said, "Joseph, son of David, don't be afraid to take Mary home as your wife. The baby inside her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She is going to have a son. You must give him the name Jesus. That's because he will save his people from their sins."

²²All this took place to bring about what the Lord had said would happen. He had said through the prophet, ²³"The virgin is going to have a baby. She will give birth to a son. And he will be called Immanuel." (Isaiah 7:14) The name Immanuel means "God with us."

²⁴Joseph woke up. He did what the angel of the Lord commanded him to do. He took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵But he did not sleep with her until she gave birth to a son. And Joseph gave him the name Jesus.

The Wise Men Visit Jesus

2 Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea. This happened while Herod was king of Judea. After Jesus' birth, Wise Men from the east came to Jerusalem. ²They asked, "Where is the child who has been born to be king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose. Now we have come to worship him."

³When King Herod heard about it, he was very upset. Everyone in Jerusalem was troubled too. ⁴So Herod called together all the chief priests of the people. He also called the teachers of the law. He asked them where the Messiah was going to be born. ⁵"In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied. "This is what the prophet has written. He said,

⁶"But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are certainly not the least important among the towns of Judah.

A ruler will come out of you.

He will rule my people Israel like a shepherd.'" (Micah 5:2)

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the Wise Men. He found out from them exactly when the star had appeared. ⁸He sent them to Bethlehem. He said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report it to me. Then I can go and worship him too."

⁹After the Wise Men had listened to the king, they went on their way. The star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them. It finally stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they were filled with joy. ¹¹The Wise Men went to the house. There they saw the child with his mother Mary. They bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures. They gave him gold, frankincense and myrrh. ¹²But God warned them in a dream not to go back to Herod. So they returned to their country on a different road.

Jesus' Family Escapes to Egypt

¹³When the Wise Men had left, Joseph had a dream. In the dream an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph. "Get up!" the angel said. "Take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you to come back. Herod is going to search for the child. He wants to kill him."

¹⁴So Joseph got up. During the night, he left for Egypt with the child and his mother Mary. ¹⁵They stayed there until King Herod died. So the words the Lord had spoken through the prophet came true. He had said, "I brought my son out of Egypt." (Hosea 11:1)

¹⁶Herod realized that the Wise Men had tricked him. So he became very angry. He gave orders about Bethlehem and the area around it. He ordered all the boys two years old and under to be killed. This agreed with the time when the Wise Men had seen the star. ¹⁷In this way, the words Jeremiah the prophet spoke came true. He had said,

¹⁸"A voice is heard in Ramah.