

SBC – Dec. 27, 2020

Matt. 1:1-25 (NKJV)

“The Genealogy and Birth of Christ”

1

Prayer:

Today we are going to start our journey through the book of Matthew. Matthew bridges the gap between the OT and the NT. There are what is called “the four-hundred silent years” between the last of the OT prophets and New Testament Revelation which bursts on the scene with the birth of Jesus Christ. It seemed like out of the blue this happened, but in truth it was in perfect accord with God’s perfect timing.

Slide # 1

Galatians 4:4 (NKJV)

4 But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law,

Before we get into Matthew 1 which presents the genealogy and birth of Christ, let me give you a little background to the book of Matthew.

Author: *Matthew* – also called *Levi*. Matthew means “*gift of the Lord*”. Matthew was a Jew who collected taxes from the Jewish people for the Roman government. His own people would have considered him a “traitor”. At the call of Jesus, he left all and followed Christ, becoming one of the twelve disciples/apostles.

Date written: (?) Many believe it was written somewhere around AD 50 and most conservative scholars believe it was written before AD 70 because the book seems to have been written from the perspective that the temple is still standing (cf. Mt. 24:2).

Purpose: To clearly present to the Jewish people that Jesus was in fact the promised and prophesied Messiah as foretold in the Old Testament.

Matthew’s target audience: Matthew’s gospel is Jewish in orientation, so it is replete with OT references containing more than any other NT writer.

A Synoptic gospel: Matthew is one of the SYOPTIC gospels meaning that in many ways it is very similar to Mark and Luke. The 4th gospel of John is unique being mostly its own material.

Matthew’s gospel gives more detail on the life of Christ than the other gospels. It also gives more large blocks of Jesus’ teaching than the others. And Matthew alone makes specific future references to the church (cf. Mt. 16:18; 18:17).

Credentials and Chronicles the Messiah: Matthew shows the credentials of Jesus the Messiah; it then chronicles His presentation to Israel and their rejection. Matthew also shows that one day Christ will come again. Until then we need to be about obeying THE GREAT COMMISSION which is how the gospel ends.

Slide # 2

Theme: *Christ the King*

Outline:

Chps. 1-2 The Advent of the King. (Proving His LEGAL right to the throne by His genealogy.)

Chp. 3 The Herald of the King. (His baptism)

Chp. 4 The Test of the King. (Proving His MORAL right to the throne by not yielding to temptation.)

Chps. 5-7 The Pronouncements of the King. (Proving His JUDICIAL right to the throne by accurately interpreting the Mosaic law in the Sermon on the Mount.)

Chps. 8-10 The Power of the King. (Proving His PROPHETICAL right to the throne by fulfilling prophecy.)

Chps. 11-12 The Rejection of the King.

Chp. 13 The Parables of the King.

Chps. 14-16 The Revelations of the King.

Chps. 17-20 The Instructions of the King.

Chps. 21-23 Formal Rejection of the King.

Chps. 24-25 The Predictions of the King.

Chps. 26-27 The Passion of the King.

Chp. 28 The Resurrection of the King.

Properly understood Matthew 1 presents Christ's human credentials and also His divine credentials to be the Messiah. He had to be both human and divine to meet ALL the criteria of OT prophesy. It all intersects perfectly in Jesus Christ as Matthew will demonstrate.

Slide # 3

Outline of Matthew 1

Matt. 1:1-17 – The genealogy of Christ

Matt. 1:18-23 – Explanation of the Virgin Birth

Matt. 1:24-25 – The Character and Obedience of Joseph

Matthew 1:1–25 (NKJV)

1 The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham:

This first verse serves as sort of a title for the genealogy seen in the first 17 verses, but it also serves to introduce the thematic idea that Jesus is of the royal lineage of king David – the Son of David Who fulfills the covenant promises. The theme of Jesus being the promised KING (the Son of David) is prominent in Matthew and is seen here in the very first verse.

“The book of genealogy” can be translated as “record of origins” or record of history.” Matthew 1-2 presents a record of the origins of Jesus Christ – in terms of his family tree.

Jesus is His historical/human name given to Him at the time of His circumcision (cf. Lk. 2:21). It corresponds to the name Joshua in the OT and it literally means **“YHWH is salvation”**. Thus, it serves to define Him. Jesus is YHWH God who provides salvation. This is His name – His person – Who He is.

Christ is a Greek word corresponds to the Hebrew word Messiah. It literally means “Anointed One”. Those anointed in the OT were set apart by God for a special purpose. Jesus is THE ANOINTED ONE – the most special One – set apart by God for the most important role ever. The term Christ is rooted in the OT and it designates the special promised Coming One who would come as both Deliverer and King.

“Son of David” is a Messianic designation recurring 10 times in the book (cf. 1:1; 9:27; 12:23; 15:22; 20:30-31; 21:9, 15; 22:42, 45). God promised David that a son of his would sit on his throne forever. God promised David an eternal throne and a Son to sit on it (cf. 2 Sam. 7:12-16). Jesus is this promised Son who will fulfill this promise that we commonly refer to as the Davidic Covenant.

“Son of Abraham” is a given since He is the **“Son of David”**. However, it makes a point. Abraham is the human father of the Jewish nation. It was to Abraham that God gave the great Abrahamic Covenant involving land, seed, and blessing (cf. Gen. 12:1-3). Jesus is the One Who brings about the fulfillment of God’s covenant promises to Abraham which would extend to the nations.

Slide # 4

Genesis 12:3 (NKJV)

3 I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And **in you** all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

Jesus the Messiah came in fulfillment of the kingdom promises to David and of the Gentile-blessings promises to Abraham (cf. also Matt. 3:9; 8:11). **-D.A. Carson**

Genealogical records today are not studied to seriously by the average reader. However, they are essential in establishing the claims of anyone who would claim to the Messiah. Many assume that the genealogical records at the time of Christ were kept in the temple or some public place where they could be referenced.

Jews in David’s line carefully preserved their genealogies because they knew from the OT prophecies that one of their descendants would be Messiah. Evidence in Josephus (Live 1) and rabbinic texts suggests that genealogical records were kept in public registers.

- HCSB

At the time of the Lord’s birth, ample genealogical evidence was available to check a Hebrew’s historical background. Such would be crucial in determining whether Christ had the necessary “genealogical pedigree” to establish his ancestry. If these records were not available, any attempt to argue for the Lord’s messiahship on the ground of Old Testament prophecy—at least pertaining to his ancestry—falls flat. The fact is, however, those genealogical records substantially vanished when the Romans slaughtered and/or dispersed the Hebrew populace in A.D. 70. Accordingly, no modern Jew [or anyone after 70 AD) could possibly argue that he is the promised Messiah, since he would be unable to establish his lineage from David. – **Wayne Jackson**

That is really quite profound to think about. Jesus had to be born prior to 70 AD to be able to prove His genealogical qualifications as Messiah. In the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple in 70 AD all these official records were lost or destroyed. The timing of God sending His Son historically came just prior to this so that the truth of His genealogical records could be established. And those records were still available at the time Matthew was written in about 50 A.D. Indeed, in the fullness of time God sent forth His Son (cf. Dan. 9:25-26).

2 Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob, and Jacob begot Judah and his brothers.

Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are the three great patriarchs on which the nation of Israel was founded. God repeated to each one the truth of the Abrahamic covenant which is the conduit of all covenant blessings. And then Judah is specifically mentioned in reference to his brothers. This is because the scepter – the right to rule goes through this tribe.

Slide # 5

Genesis 49:10 (NKJV)

10 The scepter shall not depart from Judah, Nor a lawgiver from between his feet, Until Shiloh comes; And to Him shall be the obedience of the people.

It is clear that the genealogy given by Matthew was selective in which some names are omitted. He is drawing a genealogical line from Abraham to Jesus, but he does so selectively, but he does so to make his point that indeed Jesus meets the genealogical qualifications of being One who is of the royal line of David.

3 Judah begot Perez and Zerah by Tamar, Perez begot Hezron, and Hezron begot Ram.

4 Ram begot Amminadab, Amminadab begot Nahshon, and Nahshon begot Salmon.

5 Salmon begot Boaz by Rahab, Boaz begot Obed by Ruth, Obed begot Jesse,

6 and Jesse begot David the king. David the king begot Solomon by her who had been the wife of Uriah.

It was not customary to list women in a person's genealogy, but here we have 4 women mentioned and in each case they have an unusual background. Tamar was immoral with her father-in-law Judah (cf. Gen. 38:6-30); Rahab was a prostitute by background (cf. Josh. 2); Ruth was a Gentile Moabites; and her who had been the wife of Uriah (namely Bathsheba) who is not even mentioned by name (cf. 2 Sam. 11-12). Two of these women were Gentiles (Rahab and Ruth) and three of them were morally stained.

This shows us a number of things. Number one Jesus also had Gentile blood represented in Him. He is Savior of the world (cf. Jn. 1:29; 4:42). And also the GRACE of God takes the most unlikely candidates and uses them to a glorious end. God's plan illustrates and magnifies His GRACE.

And finally, in Christ the barriers of sex and race are torn down. As Paul says in Gal. 3:28, “***you are all one in Christ Jesus.***”

God uses a motley crew to develop His great Messianic story. It’s ultimately a story about God and what He can do using anyone. It champions the story of GRACE. This is the Messiah’s story. And to think He can even use you and me in the ongoing story of redemptive history!

Note that in verse 6 it says “***Jesse begot David the king***”. That is significant because in all the naming and listing in this genealogy only David is called “***the king***”. This is because it is through David in keeping with the Davidic covenant that the kingdom is brought in through the Son of David – that is the greater David Who is the Messiah. Through David comes the KING! Kingship belongs to David!

Note also that the genealogy here in Matthew 1:6 says David begot Solomon while in Luke it traces the genealogy through Nathan the son of David (see Luke 3:31, 2 Sam. 5:14). This becomes an important detail as the story unfolds.

7 Solomon begot Rehoboam, Rehoboam begot Abijah, and Abijah begot Asa.

8 Asa begot Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat begot Joram, and Joram begot Uzziah.

9 Uzziah begot Jotham, Jotham begot Ahaz, and Ahaz begot Hezekiah.

10 Hezekiah begot Manasseh, Manasseh begot Amon, and Amon begot Josiah.

Both good kings and wicked kings are listed – all in the line of David. Manasseh was of the worst of the worst and yet at the end was converted. This mixture shows something of the strange and unexpected workings of God’s providence in the all-wise plan of God’s salvation provided in the Messiah.

11 Josiah begot Jeconiah and his brothers about the time they were carried away to Babylon.

Now here is a problem. His name is Jeconiah, also called Jehoiachin or simply Coniah. Jeconiah and his line were cursed. He was not to have a descendant sit on the throne of David although he was in the line of David.

Slide # 6**Jeremiah 22:30 (NKJV)**

30 Thus says the LORD: 'Write this man [Jeconiah] down as childless, A man who shall not prosper in his days; **For none of his descendants shall prosper, Sitting on the throne of David,** And ruling anymore in Judah.' ”

But here he is in the Messianic genealogy. How does this work? In 2 Samuel 7:12-17 God promised David and eternal Davidic Covenant through his son Solomon. But in the line of Solomon is Jeconiah who was cursed. So here is the dilemma. How can God's promise that the throne of David be established forever through Solomon and the reality of the curse both be fulfilled?

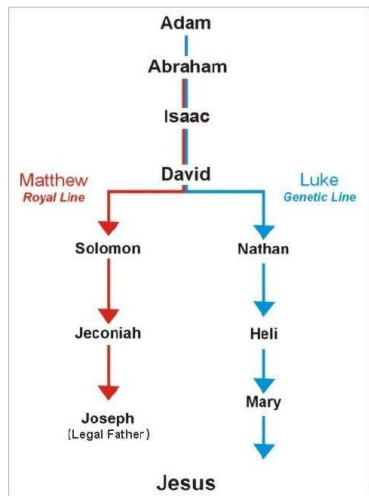
The answer is this: There is a throne line that goes through Solomon which leads to Joseph. This is the genealogy of Joseph. But there is also a blood line that goes through another son of David named Nathan. This is the genealogy of Mary.

Slide # 7

If Jesus has been the *real* son of Joseph, He would have come under this curse. Yet He had to be the legal son of Joseph in order to inherit the rights to the throne of David. The problem was solved by the miracle of virgin birth: Jesus was the *legal* heir to the throne through Joseph. He was the *real* Son of David through Mary. The curse on Jeconiah did not fall on Mary or her children since she did not descend from Jeconiah. – **William MacDonald**

This is absolute precision fulfillment meeting all the exact genealogical requirements to be the Messiah. Jesus had to come through the line of Solomon to assume the throne. But He could not come through the line of Solomon because cursed Jeconiah was of that line. How could it happen then? Well, by way of adoption through the throne line of Joseph.

But Jesus had to be of the blood line of David to be a true Son of David. This was fulfilled through Mary who was of the line of Nathan – also a son of David. This line had no curse. So, in the genealogy of Christ both the throne line and blood line converge in the Messiah Jesus through both Joseph and Mary as only God could do.

Side # 8

Note the deportation to Babylon is very significant because it marked the end of Davidic succession in which someone from the line of David was seated on David's throne in Jerusalem. That break continued on until Jesus was presented as the rightful heir of the Davidic throne at His first coming. But since the Jews rejected Him the throne of David continues to remain unoccupied. The next king to sit on David's throne in Jerusalem will be Jesus the Messiah at the time of His Second Coming when He sets up His kingdom.

12 And after they were brought to Babylon, Jeconiah begot Shealtiel, and Shealtiel begot Zerubbabel.

13 Zerubbabel begot Abiud, Abiud begot Eliakim, and Eliakim begot Azor.

14 Azor begot Zadok, Zadok begot Achim, and Achim begot Eliud.

15 Eliud begot Eleazar, Eleazar begot Matthan, and Matthan begot Jacob.

16 And Jacob begot Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus who is called Christ.

Verse 16 in the Greek is very clear that Jesus was born of Mary and not of Joseph. All the way through this entire section it says so and so begot this person and then that person begot so and so. That is the pattern. But here that pattern is broken. It does not say that Joseph begot Jesus. Rather it simply says that Joseph was the husband of Mary.

And then it says it was of Mary "***of whom was born Jesus who is called Christ.***" In the Greek this is all the more clear.

“**Of whom**” is singular and not plural. And it is feminine not masculine, meaning this could only apply to Mary and not to Joseph.

Slide # 9

Matthew 1:16 (NKJV)

16 And Jacob begot Joseph the husband of Mary, **of whom** [*singular/feminine*] was born Jesus who is called Christ.

This emphasis on Jesus being born of Mary (singular/feminine) is significant because it underscores the virgin birth. There was no human father involved. Jesus was born of the woman and not of the man. This is the fulfillment of prophecy stretching back to the very first Messianic prophecy in the Bible as found in Gen. 3:15.

Slide # 10

Genesis 3:15 (NKJV)

15 And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and **her Seed**; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel.”

The Messiah would be of the seed of the woman. And He was as seen in the virgin birth of Jesus Christ through Mary.

17 So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations, from David until the captivity in Babylon are fourteen generations, and from the captivity in Babylon until the Christ are fourteen generations.

Matthew, for his purposes, is merely drawing a sketch of the genealogical record in survey form. There are obvious omissions in the record and unusual inclusions.

In addition to the confirmed gaps, there are implied gaps because of the unequal time spans involved: from Abraham to David is about a thousand years; from David to the Captivity in Babylon, about four hundred years; and from the Captivity to the birth of Christ, about six hundred years. – **Howard Vos**

The reason why the genealogy is arranged in three brackets of fourteen is not known, but it was customary for the Jews to arrange genealogies according to a scheme for memory purposes. So perhaps that is involved here.

Slide # 11

The importance of the number fourteen is unclear, but the name “David” (Hb. *dwd*) adds up to 14 on the basis of Hebrew numerology (4 [“D”] + 6 [“W”] + 4 [“D”]), and since there were three letters, this may account for three sets of 14. – ***The Moody Bible Commentary***

Many commentators point to this as a possibility pointing out that the head of the list is “**Son of David**” in verse one and therefore the intent may be to draw attention to the Davidic emphasis seen throughout the entire genealogy. But again we don’t know for sure what is the purpose of the 3 segments of 14.

Footnote: The name Jeconiah is repeated in verse 12 in relation to the third grouping to make the number of names 14.

Also note this in relation to the three groupings of 14.

In the first grouping the Davidic throne is established; in the second grouping the Davidic throne is cast down in abeyance in the Babylonian captivity; and in the third grouping history brings us right to the One who is rightful heir of the throne of David – namely the Messiah Jesus Christ.

As a subpoint it is noted that in association with the first grouping in verses 2-5 is the establishing of the Abrahamic covenant; in association with the second grouping in verses 6-11 is the establishment of the Davidic Covenant; and in association with the third grouping in verses 12-16 that brings the Messiah will be the establishment of the New Covenant.

There are lots of interesting details, but the main point is that in survey form Matthew is showing that Jesus has the exact right genealogical credentials as the Son of David to be the Messiah!

The story of Jesus has both a human side and a divine side. On the human side is His “natural” credentials that line up perfectly with the Messianic requirements of Scripture as presented in Matt. 1:1-17. On the divine side is His “supernatural” credentials that line up perfectly with the requirements of Scripture as seen in Matt. 1:18-25. Jesus is both man and God and His full story harmonizes BOTH perfectly in keeping with all the Messianic requirements presented in Scripture.

Christ’s human side is emphasized in Mt. 1:1-17; His divine side in 1:18-25.

18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit.

Jewish betrothal was sort of like our idea of engagement, but it was stronger involving a marriage commitment without the final sexual consummation of the marriage. Normally the betrothal period was about a year in which the groom made preparations for his bride including the building of a house – often attached to his father’s house. When the groom was ready then he would come with his friends at a time unannounced to receive his bride, officially consummate the marriage, and have a wedding feast. The bride was thus expected to “live ready” to meet her groom at any time.

We as God’s people are the bride of Christ and we are in the betrothal stage as stated by Paul in 2 Cor. 11:1. Christ our groom has gone back to heaven to prepare a place for us and at an unannounced time He will return to receive His bride. “Live Ready!”

Unfaithfulness during the time of betrothal period was considered to be adultery as the couple was considered to be legally married. Dissolution of the marriage at this point required a formal divorce or worse a public stoning. It was in the context of this betrothal period that it became very evident that Mary was pregnant!

We know from further revelation that this child was of the Holy Spirit. In other words, it was a supernatural reality brought about by the Spirit of God. But Joseph didn’t initially know this: All he knew was that his betrothed fiancé was now pregnant. Ot-oh! Now what! The OT called for the death penalty for a person sexually unfaithful to their partner during the betrothal period as seen in Deut. 22:23-24.

We don’t know what the interaction between Joseph and Mary was. All we know is that she was clearly pregnant and Joseph knew it and he knew he was not the father. Can you imagine Mary trying to explain this to Joseph! ***“But honey, I haven’t been unfaithful to you! God did it to me!”*** She seemed so sincere – she was such a sweet gal. What to make of it all?

19 Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly.

Joseph was a just or a righteous man in how he lived his life. In other words he was a true sincere believer who walked the walk (cf. Lk. 1:6; 2:25).

The fact that his fiancé was pregnant put a cloud of suspicion over both of them. Joseph knew he was innocent, but the proof was clear that Mary was pregnant and therefore must be guilty. Never in the annals of history had a virgin given birth. Joseph had no evidence of another man being involved, but there was the evidence of the pregnancy which was undeniable.

The death penalty called for the death of BOTH guilty parties, but where was the guy? There was no trace – no evidence. What to do? As a godly righteous man Joseph would not just go along with this. He would not marry an immoral woman guilty of covenant unfaithfulness.

Slide # 12

Two courses were open to [Joseph]: he could bring Mary before the court to be publicly charged and condemned, or he could put her away privately by drawing up a bill of divorce before the two or three witnesses – without even spelling out the charges. – **Howard Vos**

Joseph was a just man with a reputation to protect but he was also a merciful man and did not want to make Mary a public example of shame and so he was minded to put her way secretly (cf. Num. 5:11-31).

20 But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.

It is interesting that God allowed Joseph to stir over these things for a while. These are testing times. These are refining times. And they are proving times. The character of Joseph shines through in the crucible of life. He was not bitter or vengeful, but rather thoughtful and deliberate consistent with a righteous walk of faith that would not compromise and yet showed compassion.

The text says, “***while he thought about these things, behold an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.”***”

This is the official explanation from heaven. This was a supernatural reality. This conception was of the Holy Spirit. Mary was innocent! Taking her as his wife would not infringe upon his righteous walk at all – at least not before God.

Slide # 13

Verses 1-17 establish Jesus as a legal son of Joseph; vv. 18-25 deny that Joseph was Jesus' physical father. The first was necessary to establish Jesus' lineage to David and His royal right to be King. The second was necessary to establish His qualifications [as God's Son] to be the Savior of all people. – ***The Nelson Study Bible***

Note once again the Davidic emphasis comes to the fore as the angel addressed Joseph as “**Joseph, son of David**”. This is all about God fulfilling His promises through the line of David.

You don't have to be afraid of the will of God. The angel said to Joseph “**do not be afraid.**” Lots of scary things are allowed to come into our lives and yet if God is leading us, we don't have to be afraid. We can trust Him to work out His sovereign purposes.

21 And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.”

Jesus was not to be named after His legal father Joseph which was customary. Instead, He was to be named Jesus! In Scripture when God names someone that name signifies what defines a person. The name “**Jesus**” in the NT is the Hebrew name “**Joshua**” in the OT (cf. Acts 7:45; Heb. 4:8). It essentially means “Savior” and yet more literally it means “God-Savior”. This is Who Jesus is. He is God-Savior! While Joshua in the OT was a type of savior that God used, Jesus was to be THE SAVIOR! He didn't just have the name Joshua but rather was JESUS THE CHRIST!

Slide # 14

Heb. (Yehoshua/Joshua)

Gk. (Iesous)

Eng. (Jesus)

Slide # 15

“Yehoshua” is a compound name consisting of two words.

“Yeho” is a prefix form of God's Name **YHWH**.

“Shua” means to deliver, rescue, or **save**.

Jesus means “**YHWH saves**” or “**YHWH is salvation**”.

Jesus is YHWH God Who saves. The name Jesus therefore means Savior because He is the God Who saves. This is His NAME. This is WHO He is. Jesus is Savior and God all wrapped up in ONE person! And this is emphasized in more detail even in the immediate context.

Slide # 16

Isaiah 43:11 (NKJV)

11 I, even I, am the LORD [YHWH], And besides Me there is no savior [Deliverer].

His Name would be called Jesus because He would save His people (that is God's people) from their sins. He is the Savior from sin and only God can do this because He alone is Savior – meaning Jesus has to be God (cf. Isa. 43:11). He is the God-Savior! Commentators believe that presenting Jesus as YHWH Who will save His people from their sins really amounts to an indirect reference to Psalm 130:8.

Slide # 17

Psalm 130:7–8 (NKJV)

7 O Israel, hope in the LORD [YHWH]; For with the LORD [YHWH] there is mercy, And with Him [YHWH] is abundant redemption.

8 And He [YHWH] shall redeem Israel From all his iniquities.

For us who believe in Jesus we have come to recognize Him as our personal God – our personal Savior! It's personal to us!

As we read on in the gospel story we find that Jesus is the Savior of all who believe on Him by what He did on the cross in dying for all our sins!

The removal of sin was one of the features expected in the Messianic age, but the way in which Jesus was to do it was totally unexpected.

– *The New Bible Commentary*

22 So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying:

This is another great proof that Jesus is the true Messiah. Everything about Him is in fulfillment of prophecy. Matthew in writing to Jews emphasizes the fulfillment of prophecy at least 12 times in the book (cf. 1:22-23; 2:15, 17-18, 23; 3:15; 4:14-16; 5:17; 8:17; 12:17-21; 13:14-15, 35; 21:4-5; 27:9-10).

23 “Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which is translated, “God with us.”

This is a quote from Isaiah 7:14 which was a prophecy given 700 years before the birth of Christ.

Slide # 18

Isaiah 7:14 (NKJV)

14 Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.

There is a context to Isaiah 7:14 with absolute precision fulfillment. This was first given as sign to Ahaz. The Hebrew word (*Almah*) translated as “*virgin*” in Isaiah 7:14 literally means “*a young woman who is not sexually active.*” Ahaz was told of a virgin who would have a child and before this child would know the difference between right and wrong the two kings that Ahaz feared would come to nothing as seen in Isa. 7:15-16.

Slide # 19

When the predicted events came to pass in a few years the sign was proven true. However, the ultimate fulfillment of the Immanuel prophecy is seen in the Messiah. In other words, the Isaiah 7:14 prophecy has a double fulfillment – a near and far accomplishment of the prediction with the ultimate being the final fulfillment in the care of the virgin Mary and the virgin birth of Jesus Christ.

– ***Stanley Toussaint***

We should note that while the Hebrew word (*Almah*) translated as “*virgin*” in Isaiah 7:14 can generally refer to a young woman of marriageable age who is sexually inactive; when applied by the Holy Spirit to Mary in Matt. 1:23 the word used (*parthenos*) can only mean VIRGIN in the strict sense of the word.

Slide # 20

Luke 1:34 (NKJV)

34 Then Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I do not know a man?”

Mary was clearly a full-fledge virgin who had never had sexual relations with any man. This was a supernatural miracle performed by the Holy Spirit.

Observe that they shall call His name Immanuel which is translated “God with us”. This is what the term “Immanuel” means – “God with us”. This is Who Jesus is. He was God come in the flesh. He was God in a human body. He was God with us. Immanuel is His Name in the sense of a descriptive title. This defines WHO Jesus is.

So, both His names: Jesus and Immanuel underscore that Jesus is God – the second member of the triune Godhead consisting of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit. Col. 2:9 says that in Christ “dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily”. Jesus was FULLY God living in a human body! He is IMMANUEL – He is God with us!

People sometimes think Jesus is a lesser God, saying, He is only the Son of God. But what they fail to realize is that the same angel (Gabriel) who said He is the Son of God also said He is Immanuel “God with us”.

Slide # 21

Luke 1:35 (NKJV)

35 And the angel answered and said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be **called the Son of God.**

Matthew 1:23 (NKJV)

23 “Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall **call His name Immanuel,**” **which is translated, “God with us.”**

The title “Son of God” as used in reference to Jesus means that He is of the order of God, very God of very God. It speaks of His very nature being that of being very God.

But note one more thing: Matthew said, “***they shall call His name Immanuel***”. The THEY refers back to the people (“His people”) in verse 21 that He shall save from their sins. These people who come to believe in Him will personally recognize Jesus as their GOD – God Who is their Savior! He is Immanuel to us! He is God with us!

As “Doubting Thomas” came to faith in the resurrected Christ, calling Him, “My Lord and my God!” so also every true believer comes to recognize Jesus as their personal Lord (that is Master) and God (Jn. 20:28). He is our God-Savior! This prepares us for the next chapter in which the wise men come to worship Him. All true believers are true worshipers!

**24 Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife,
25 and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS.**

Joseph is sometimes called “the forgotten hero of Christmas.” Even though he was sorely tested during this challenging time he proved himself righteous in his walk (v. 19); merciful and compassionate in his response (v. 19); obediently responsive to God (v. 24); and self-disciplined in not having sexual relations with Mary until after the birth of Christ (v. 25).

Joseph was just the right man God could use in this most unique role as the legal step-father of the Messianic Son of David.

Note also that verse 25 implies that after the birth of Christ the marriage of Joseph and Mary was physically consummated. Other Scriptures clearly bring out that Jesus had a number of half-brothers and sisters (cf. Mt. 12:46; 13:55; Mk. 6:3; Jn. 7:3, 5; Acts 1:14; 1 Cor. 9:5; Gal. 1:19).

The OT was shadowy, while the NT shines direct sunlight on the subject. The OT involved much type and symbol; while the NT reveals reality and substance. The OT was much about predictive prophecy; while the NT brings the fulfillment.

The story is told about an Englishman named Green was walking through the woods when he came upon a stranger in the path. He was startled when the stranger smiled and waved at him. “Oh, Hello, Mr. Green!” said the stranger. Obviously this “stranger” wasn’t a stranger at all – but for the life of him, Mr. Green could not place him. Embarrassed, but unwilling to admit to a poor memory for names and faces, Mr. Green offered his hand. “Ah, yes! Hello! Good to see you, old boy! How long has it been?” “Well,” said the other man, “It was at Lady Asquith’s reception last October, wasn’t it? Nearly a year, then.” Mr. Green remembered Lady Asquith’s reception and tried to recall all the people he had met. This gentleman’s face looked familiar, but he just couldn’t place it. Still groping for clues to this fellow’s identity, Greene decided to ask a few questions. “And how is your wife?” “Quite well,” said the other man. “And You? Still in the same business, I presume?” “Oh yes,” said the other man, with a merry twinkle in his eye. “I’m still the king of England.” Mr. Greene – Behold Your King! (As recounted by Red Stedman)

Matthew writing to Jews emerging out the shadowy pages of the OT says to Israel and by way of application to all of us that Jesus is the long awaited promised One in the OT Scriptures.

BEHOLD YOUR KING!

When the light of the gospel shines on Him we see Him clearly for Who He truly is.

As we open the Gospels, it becomes clear that the long-awaited moment has come. That promised and prophesied Someone has arrived – and He steps forth in all the astonishing fullness of His glory. – **Ray Stedman**

The story of Jesus is called the Greatest Story ever told and it is precisely this because it is about the Greatest Person ever known.

Behold Jesus the God-Savior! Believe on Him today and He will save you from your sins. We call His Name Jesus because He saves His people from their sins. We call Him Immanuel because He is God with us!

Do you know Him?

Behold Jesus the Christ!
Behold Jesus is God come in the flesh!
Behold Jesus our Savior!
Behold Jesus the King!