

## *SITTING AT THE FEET OF JESUS*

### Who is This Jesus and Where Does He Come From? Matthew 1:1–2:23

*“All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet....”* Matthew 1:22

#### Day 1: Read Matthew 1:1–2:23.

1. The formulaic statement “This was to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet” appears five times in this passage. Matthew wants us to know that Jesus is the long awaited Messiah prophesied of in the Old Testament. How is each OT prophecy fulfilled in the life of Jesus?

1:22, 23

2:5, 6

2:14, 15

2:17, 18

2:22, 23

2. The succession of kings in Israel makes up a significant portion of Matthew’s genealogy of Christ. What do you think Matthew wants his readers to know about Jesus? (1: 6–11)
3. There are five women mentioned in Jesus’ genealogy. What do you know about the nationality, reputation, occupation or character of these women? Why would God inspire Matthew to include them in the genealogy of Jesus?

Tamar (Gen. 38)

Rahab (Josh. 2:1–21)

Ruth (Ruth 1:1–22; 2:10–12; 4:13–15)

Bathsheba (Uriah’s wife) (2 Sam. 11)

Mary (Mt. 1:18–25)

#### Days 2 and 3: Read Matthew 1:18–2:18.

4. How does Mary become pregnant? Why is this significant in redemptive history?
5. What might Joseph’s initial reaction have been when he learned that his fiancée, Mary, was pregnant? In spite of these thoughts and feelings, how does Joseph show grace to Mary?

6. There is no other instance in the New Testament in which Jesus is called "Immanuel" (v. 23). What about this title is significant? Consider how sin has affected our access to God. (Isa. 59:1-4, 15b, 16)
7. How do the purpose of the Magi's trip (v.2) and their actions towards Jesus (v. 11) foreshadow the future role he will have? (📖\*Phil. 2:6-11)
8. Why is Herod (and "all Jerusalem" as well) so "disturbed" (verse 3) by what the Magi say?
9. When Herod's plan to kill Jesus is thwarted by the Magi, what does he do to ensure that the "King of the Jews" will never threaten his throne?
10. After Herod's death, Jesus leaves Egypt and returns to the land of Israel. What Old Testament event does this parallel? (Gen. 46:3, 4; Deut. 5:1, 6; Hos. 11:1) In what ways?

**Days 4 and 5: Read Matthew 1:1—2:23.**

11. Nazareth as a village was utterly insignificant, and people from the region were often detested. (See, for ex., Jn. 1:45, 46.) How does Jesus' coming from lowly Nazareth fit with the OT prophecies of the Messiah? (Ps. 22:6-8; Isa. 53:3)
12. For 400 year prior to the coming of Jesus there had been no prophetic word from God; how does that dramatically change in the first two chapters of Matthew?
13. Throughout the Old Testament, God protected the "seed" (the forefathers of Jesus through whom he would come) from Satan's plans to thwart his plan of redemption. How do attempts to destroy the seed and God's sovereign protection of it continue to play out in the first two chapters of Matthew?
14. Like our world today, Jesus' world was characterized by political unrest, the schemes of wicked men, merciless killing, and untold heartbreak. In spite of this, what do we know that gives us the assurance that God is still in control and sovereignly at work bringing about his plan of salvation and redemption? What verse or passage in the Bible brings you comfort during troubled times?

\* The 📖 symbol identifies verses for further study.