

Matthew 1

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Seek the face of God

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People seeking or worshipping gods can be understood from psychological, cultural, social, philosophical, and religious perspectives. People often explore the fundamental questions of life through religious beliefs, such as the origin of life, the meaning of existence, and the fate after death. God provides a superior power or wisdom that enables people to seek answers. In the face of pain, difficulty, or uncertainty in life, faith in God can bring comfort. God in religious doctrine is seen as a being who can understand and guide people, giving hope and strength in times of difficulty. Many religions use God to prescribe moral codes that help people distinguish between right and wrong, and provide rules of conduct that help people live meaningful and harmonious lives. Some people seek to connect with God because it allows them to experience a certain mental state that transcends everyday life, and these experiences bring a strong sense of satisfaction and spiritual awakening. Some scholars believe that belief in God is an instinctive human need, a desire for control of the unknown, a fear of death, or comfort in the unknowable. The motivations for seeking God and faith are diverse and involve an individual's understanding of the world, the exploration of life, and the need for the heart. Different cultures, different religions, and different personal backgrounds can also influence the way people understand and believe in God.

The main theme of Matthew's gospel is to reveal that the Lord Jesus is the King of the kingdom of heaven, Jesus is the name of the Lord Jesus, which means "the Lord is salvation", and "Jesus Christ" is the first, the last, the beginning, and the end. Jesus: Our Savior who makes us receive salvation from God. "Christ" is the King and priest of God's kingdom who came to earth to fulfill God's plan and accomplish God's will.

God chose men because of God's own will, and Jesus was the direct son of David, the son of a virgin conceived, and his name was Jesus." Jesus wanted to save His people from sin. Sin keeps us away from

the creator of all things, and it blinds us to the needs of our own flesh and lust and not to the needs of eternal life. Man's self-centeredness, self-centeredness, greed for money, people's self-centeredness, so that we not only do not see our own problems, but also do not see the needs of others. Jesus not only saved people from sin and forgave them, but he also saved people from their sins, so that they would no longer be slaves to sin, which is the foundation of the kingdom. "Immanuel" shows God's heart for man, because there is a void in the heart of man that no one but God can fill. The Jesus we believe in is not only the Savior, but He is also willing to live with us, talk to us every day, walk with us, be our best friend, and be our shepherd in life. What a grace this is,

The fact that the people of God are not afraid of failure and fall, but who will not repent and return to the Lord, and the genealogy of Jesus includes kings, commoners, exiles, and freed from captivity, which tells us that no matter how noble or lowly a person's status is, no matter how unfortunate and bad a person's suffering, as long as we are willing to connect to Christ by faith, we will be exalted, freed, freed, transformed, and share in the hope of His incorruptible glory through His glorious life.

The Lord Jesus is "Immanuel," and His birth brought in "God with us," and He is a manifestation of God Himself. To have Christ is to have God, and to be with Christ is to be with God. In the kingdom, God is with us; God is with us in the expansion of the kingdom; In the new heavens and new earth, God will be with man forever.

Let's pray:

Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for giving Your only begotten Son, Jesus. Because of Him, we are redeemed; I am no longer a slave to sin. With Jesus, our lives are meaningful and our steps are steady. Pray that the Holy Spirit will move us to appreciate how precious salvation is and how faithful promises are. Serving the Lord Jesus is the most beautiful blessing of our lives.

Pray in the honorable name of victory in the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen!

Matthew 1

The Genealogy of Jesus the Messiah

1 The record of the genealogy of ^[a]Jesus the ^[b]Messiah, the son (descendant) of ^[c]David, the son (descendant) of Abraham:

² Abraham ^[d]was the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of ^[e]Judah and his brothers [who became the twelve tribes of Israel]. ³ Judah was the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, Perez was the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram. ⁴ Ram was the father of Aminadab, Aminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon. ⁵ Salmon was the father of Boaz by ^[f]Rahab, Boaz was the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse. ⁶ Jesse was the father of ^[g]David the king.

David was the father of Solomon by ^[h]Bathsheba who had been the wife of Uriah. ⁷ Solomon was the father of Rehoboam, Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asa. ⁸ Asa was the father of Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah. ⁹ Uzziah was the father of Jotham, Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah. ¹⁰ Hezekiah was the father of Manasseh, Manasseh the father of Amon, and Amon the father of Josiah. ¹¹ Josiah became the father of

Jeconiah [also called Coniah and Jehoiachin] and his brothers, at the time of the deportation (exile) to Babylon.

¹² After the deportation to Babylon: Jeconiah became the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel. ¹³ Zerubbabel was the father of Abihud, Abihud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor. ¹⁴ Azor was the father of Zadok, Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud. ¹⁵ Eliud was the father of Eleazar, Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob. ¹⁶ Jacob was the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, by ^[i]whom Jesus was born, who is called the Messiah (Christ).

¹⁷ So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen; from David to the Babylonian deportation (exile), fourteen generations; and from the Babylonian deportation to the Messiah, fourteen generations.

Conception and Birth of Jesus

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: when His mother Mary had been ^[i]betroted to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child by [the power of] the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ And Joseph her [promised] husband, being a just *and* righteous man and not wanting to expose her publicly to shame, planned to send her away *and* divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, descendant of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the Child who has been ^[k]conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a Son, and you shall name Him Jesus (The Lord is salvation), for He will ^[l]save His people from their sins.” ²² All this happened in order to fulfill what the Lord had spoken through the ^[m]prophet [Isaiah]: ²³ “Behold, the ^[n]virgin shall be with child and give birth to a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel”—which, when translated, means, “God with us.” ²⁴ Then Joseph awoke from his sleep and did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him, and he took *Mary* [to his home] as his wife, ²⁵ but he kept her a virgin until she had given birth to a Son [her firstborn child]; and he named Him Jesus (The Lord is salvation).

Matthew 1 is the opening chapter of the New Testament and sets the stage for the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. It includes the genealogy of Jesus, the miraculous conception of His birth, and the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies. This chapter is critical in understanding the nature of Christ's mission and the spiritual significance of His arrival.

1. Genealogy of Jesus (Matthew 1:1-17)

Matthew begins by establishing Jesus' royal lineage. This genealogy traces Jesus' ancestry from Abraham to David, and from David to Joseph, the husband of Mary, who is the mother of Jesus.

- **Key verses:**

- **Matthew 1:1:** "The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham."
- **Matthew 1:16:** "And Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ."

Explanation: The genealogy is important because it establishes Jesus as the fulfillment of two key Old Testament promises:

- **Abraham's Promise** (Genesis 12:3): God promised Abraham that all nations would be blessed through his offspring.
- **David's Promise** (2 Samuel 7:16): God promised that the Messiah would come from David's line and establish an everlasting kingdom.
- **Spiritual Influence:** The genealogy reveals that Jesus is the promised Messiah, not a random figure but one whose birth was planned by God through the centuries. It reminds believers that God's promises are steadfast and His plan unfolds through generations.

2. The Birth of Jesus (Matthew 1:18-25)

This section of the chapter details the circumstances surrounding the birth of Jesus, focusing on Joseph's response when he learns of Mary's pregnancy and the divine intervention that assures him of the miraculous nature of the birth.

- **Key verses:**
 - **Matthew 1:18:** "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 from the Holy Spirit."
 - **Matthew 1:20-21:** "But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, 'Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.'"
 - **Matthew 1:22-23:** "All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: 'Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel' (which means, God with us)."
 - **Matthew 1:24-25:** "When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus."

Explanation:

- The chapter recounts how Joseph, initially planning to divorce Mary quietly due to her pregnancy, is reassured by an angel who tells him that the child is conceived by the Holy Spirit and will be the Savior, Jesus (which means "The Lord saves").
- The prophecy from **Isaiah 7:14** is fulfilled in this moment: "The virgin shall conceive and bear a son," confirming that Jesus' birth is a miraculous event orchestrated by God.
- **Spiritual Influence:**
 - **The fulfillment of prophecy:** This fulfillment shows that Jesus' life is the culmination of God's plan, highlighting God's faithfulness to His Word. Believers are reminded that God's promises, even when they seem impossible or far off, always come to pass in His perfect timing.
 - **Immanuel – God with us:** This phrase signifies that God is not distant or remote but has come to live among His people. This is a foundational truth for the Christian faith,

offering comfort and assurance that God is present in our lives, in our struggles, and in our joys.

- **Joseph's obedience:** Joseph's decision to obey God's command in faith shows a model of humble obedience. His example teaches that even when we do not fully understand God's plans, trust and obedience are paramount.

3. Theological Themes and Spiritual Influence

God's Plan of Salvation: Matthew 1 highlights that Jesus is the fulfillment of God's salvation plan for humanity. Through Jesus, God is taking action to save His people from their sins (Matthew 1:21). This act of salvation is not based on human merit but on God's grace, as Jesus' coming is entirely an act of divine intervention.

The Role of Faith: Joseph's faith is a central theme in Matthew 1. Despite the cultural and personal challenges he faced in accepting Mary's pregnancy, he chooses to believe and obey God. His willingness to act on divine revelation, without question, models the kind of faith God desires in His followers. In times of uncertainty or difficulty, Joseph's story encourages Christians to trust in God's guidance, even when the path is unclear.

Jesus as the Fulfillment of Old Testament Prophecies: The birth of Jesus fulfills numerous prophecies, especially those related to the Messiah. Matthew 1 specifically connects Jesus' birth to the prophecy in Isaiah 7:14. This establishes Jesus not only as a descendant of David but as the divine Savior who is both fully human and fully divine. The fulfillment of prophecy strengthens believers' faith, assuring them that God is in control and His Word is trustworthy.

Immanuel: The Presence of God: The name "Immanuel," meaning "God with us," is a powerful reminder that the presence of God is with believers through Jesus Christ. This provides profound comfort, knowing that God is not removed from human suffering but has entered into it fully. In Christ, God draws near to His people, offering hope, guidance, and the promise of eternal life.

Conclusion: Spiritual Influence of Matthew 1

Matthew 1 serves as a profound theological introduction to the life of Jesus. Its key themes—Jesus' divine identity, His role in fulfilling God's promises, and the example of faith demonstrated by Joseph—are foundational to the Christian faith.

For believers today, the spiritual influence of this chapter is clear:

- **God's Faithfulness:** God's promises are sure and trustworthy. His plan of salvation, which started in the Old Testament, is fulfilled in Jesus, assuring Christians that God's promises for the future are just as certain.
- **The Presence of God:** Jesus' name, Immanuel, reminds believers that God is always present in their lives. No matter what trials or difficulties they may face, they can take comfort in knowing that God is with them, offering His strength and peace.
- **Obedience in Faith:** Like Joseph, Christians are called to trust and obey God's leading, even when it is difficult or incomprehensible. True faith is not just believing in God but acting on His guidance, no matter the circumstances.

In sum, Matthew 1 lays a rich theological foundation for understanding the person and work of Jesus Christ, and its spiritual impact continues to shape the lives of Christians today.