

December 12th

# Advent 2021

—THE BIBLICAL BIRTH NARRATIVES—



*“...in a sense, Matthew is the NT’s book of Genesis, its book of beginnings....God’s faithfulness to undo the curse of [the] garden of Eden through the line of Abraham is channeled through the line of David...”*

*—Reggie Kid, A Biblical Theological Intro to the New Testament*

## “THE INCARNATION ACCORDING TO MATTHEW”

### Introduction:

- When we speak of the *clarity* of Scripture, we mean that the Bible’s message about God’s work to accomplish our salvation and that its instructions about how to receive that salvation can be understood. The gospels rightly therefore focus primarily on the public ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Matthew and Luke, however, also include birth narratives in order that we might better understand the unfolding of God’s plans and purposes. These accounts complement one another even as they convey different details about the birth of Christ in order that we might recognize how God’s promises are fulfilled through Him.

**Key Point:** In his gospel, Matthew emphasizes that Jesus is the long-awaited Messianic King who has come to \_\_\_\_\_ humanity from our sins in order that all might joyfully \_\_\_\_\_ Him.

### Matthew’s Birth Narrative

- Matthew begins his account of Jesus’ birth with a \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus.

#### Observations:

- The genealogy highlights Jesus’ relationship to prominent events and figures in Israel’s history.  
Matt. 1:1— *The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.*
  - ⇒ The intro verse alludes to the account of the creation in the LXX (Gen. 2:4 - “the book of the origins of the heavens and the earth”) and to the genealogy of Adam (Gen. 5:1 - “the book of the generations of Adam”).
  - ⇒ The genealogy presents Jesus as the fulfillment of God’s \_\_\_\_\_ promises to Israel to raise up a king who would sit on David’s throne (2 Sam. 7:16) as well as His \_\_\_\_\_ promises that all nations would be blessed through Abraham (Gen. 12:3).
- The genealogy includes four \_\_\_\_\_ in order to highlight both gentile inclusion and God’s redemptive grace.  
*Tamar                                  Rahab                                  Ruth                                  The Wife of Uriah (Bathsheba)*

**Key Point:** While establishing Jesus’ royal lineage, the genealogy does not \_\_\_\_\_ the reality of sin in Jesus’ family history.

- Matthew centers his account of the birth of Jesus on the experience of \_\_\_\_\_.

#### Observations:

- The account highlights Joseph’s righteous \_\_\_\_\_.  
Matt. 1:18-19—<sup>18</sup> *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. <sup>19</sup> And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly.*
  - ⇒ Joseph’s character \_\_\_\_\_ with many of the other “sons of David” listed in Jesus’ genealogy.  
Matt. 1:24-25—<sup>24</sup> *When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, <sup>25</sup> but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.*
- The angel’s words were meant to \_\_\_\_\_ Joseph of God’s good plans both for his family and for all mankind.  
Matt. 1:20b-21—*“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. <sup>21</sup> She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”*
- Joseph’s faith was evidenced in his simple \_\_\_\_\_ to God (Matt. 1:24; 2:13-15).

**Key Point:** The account of Joseph hints that his son will be a man who is more \_\_\_\_\_ that even he was in order that He might deliver His people from their sins.

- **Matthew's quotation from Isaiah emphasizes that Jesus' birth fulfilled God's \_\_\_\_\_ to His people.**

Observations:

1. Jesus' birth would be the personal fulfillment of the promise that God would be "\_\_\_\_\_" His people.
2. This quotation should be understood in light of its wider OT context.

Isa. 8:7-8—<sup>7</sup> therefore, behold, the Lord is bringing up against them the waters of the River, mighty and many, the king of Assyria and all his glory. And it will rise over all its channels and go over all its banks, <sup>8</sup> and it will sweep on into Judah, it will overflow and pass on, reaching even to the neck, and its outspread wings will fill the breadth of your land, O Immanuel."

Isa. 8:10—Take counsel together, but it will come to nothing; speak a word, but it will not stand, for God is with us.

**Key Point:** Jesus's birth meant that God was truly present among His people, bringing about the experience of both His \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

- **Matthew's account describes the visit of \_\_\_\_\_ who journeyed from the east to find Jesus.**

Observations:

1. Matthew mentions that the magi were led by a \_\_\_\_\_.  
⇒ Although little detail is provided about this star, it certainly recalls the prophecy of Balaam (Num. 24:17) that speaks of a "star" that will rise from Jacob.
2. The account draws an intentional contrast between the magi and \_\_\_\_\_.

**Key Point:** The \_\_\_\_\_ of the magi to Jesus anticipated the response of other gentiles who would come to faith in Jesus and worship Him as King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

Gen. 49:10—<sup>10</sup> The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until tribute comes to him; and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples.

Psa. 86:9—All the nations you have made shall come and worship before you, O Lord, and shall glorify your name.

## **Letting Matthew Shape Our Advent**

1. The Advent season offers us a chance to reflect on both our \_\_\_\_\_ and Jesus' \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The Advent season offers us a chance to reflect upon our own \_\_\_\_\_ to Messiah.

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<i>Tamar</i>	<i>Rahab</i>	<i>Ruth</i>	<i>The Wife of Uriah (Bathsheba)</i>
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**Key Point:** While establishing Jesus’ royal lineage, the genealogy does not hide the reality of sin in Jesus’ family history.

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#### Observations:

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**Key Point: Jesus's birth meant that God was truly present among His people, bringing about the experience of both His mercy and judgment.**

- **Matthew's account describes the visit of magi who journeyed from the east to find Jesus.**

Observations:

1. Matthew mentions that the magi were led by a star.  
⇒ Although little detail is provided about this star, it certainly recalls the prophecy of Balaam (Num. 24:17) that speaks of a "star" that will rise from Jacob.
2. The account draws an intentional contrast between the magi and Herod.

**Key Point: The worship of the magi to Jesus anticipated the response of other gentiles who would come to faith in Jesus and worship Him as King of Kings and Lord of Lords.**

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2. The Advent season offers us a chance to reflect upon our own response to Messiah.