

JESUS—THE SAVIOR IS BORN

MATTHEW 1-2



...for he said unto him that the Lord surely should come to redeem his people, but that he should not come to redeem them in their sins, but to redeem them from their sins.

Helaman 5:10



MATTHEW

He was the son of Alphaeus, but was known as Levi before his conversion

His name means “Gift of God”

He lived in Capernaum and was a tax collector (publican)

He communicated with both Romans and Jews

He was one of original 12 Apostles (eyewitness)

He was well versed in Old Testament and uses many quotes in his gospel from the Old Testament

His gospel was for the Jewish persons in Palestine

His chief object was to show that Jesus was the Messiah of whom the prophets spoke. He also emphasizes that Jesus is the King and Judge of men

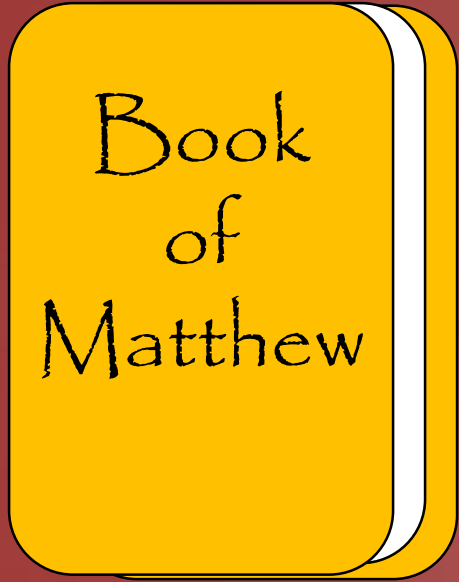
His Gospel was probably written in Aramaic but is known to us by a Greek translation

His later life is not known for certain

A tradition asserts that he died a martyr's death

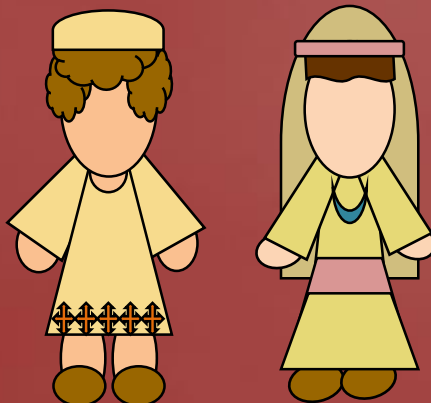
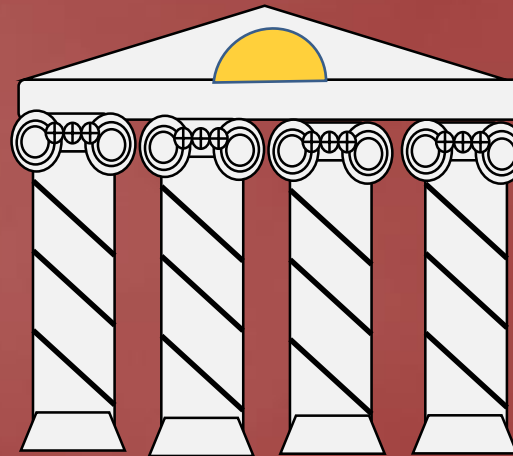


The Book was likely written in the second half of the first century A.D.



- *The only gospel to refer to wise men
- *The only gospel to refer to the star in the east
- *The only gospel of Herod's killing of children in Bethlehem
- *Has 10 different parables than other Gospels.
- *Has the most compiled record of the "Sermon on the Mount"
- *Refers to bodies slept/arose and came out of grave referring to the resurrection
- *Refers to Jesus as the "Son of David" 12 times
- *The book traces Abraham's lineage to Jesus

***Background during Matthew's time:** Jews wanted deliverance from Roman oppression. Many saw Jesus as deliverer, but realized He would not deliver them out of Roman hands.



***As a writer:** He appeals to Jewish audience and uses events and principles in testimonies, and talks of the prophecy of Jesus.

PHOTO--TRAITS

2014 and 1977
Both 20 years old



Father and Daughter



Three Generations



Mother and Son

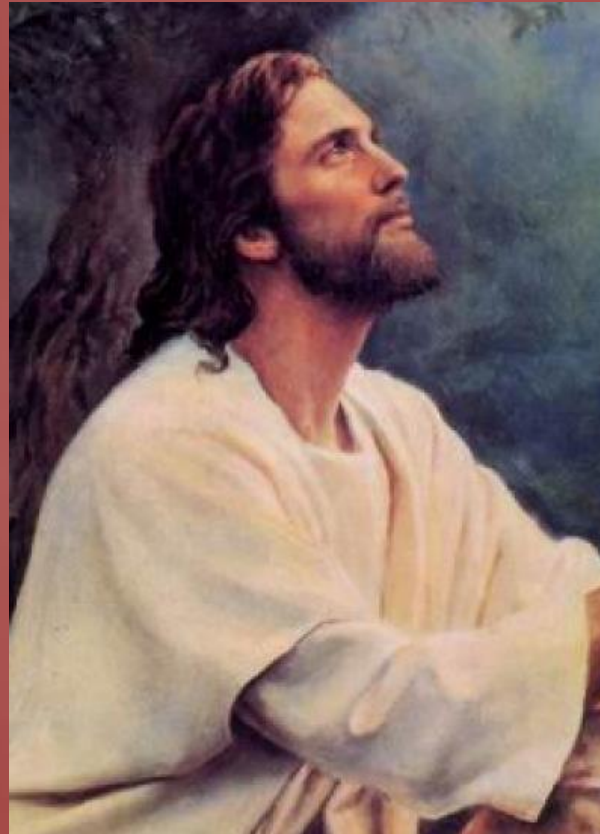
Mother and Daughters



THE PROPHECIES

The Messiah would be a descendant of David

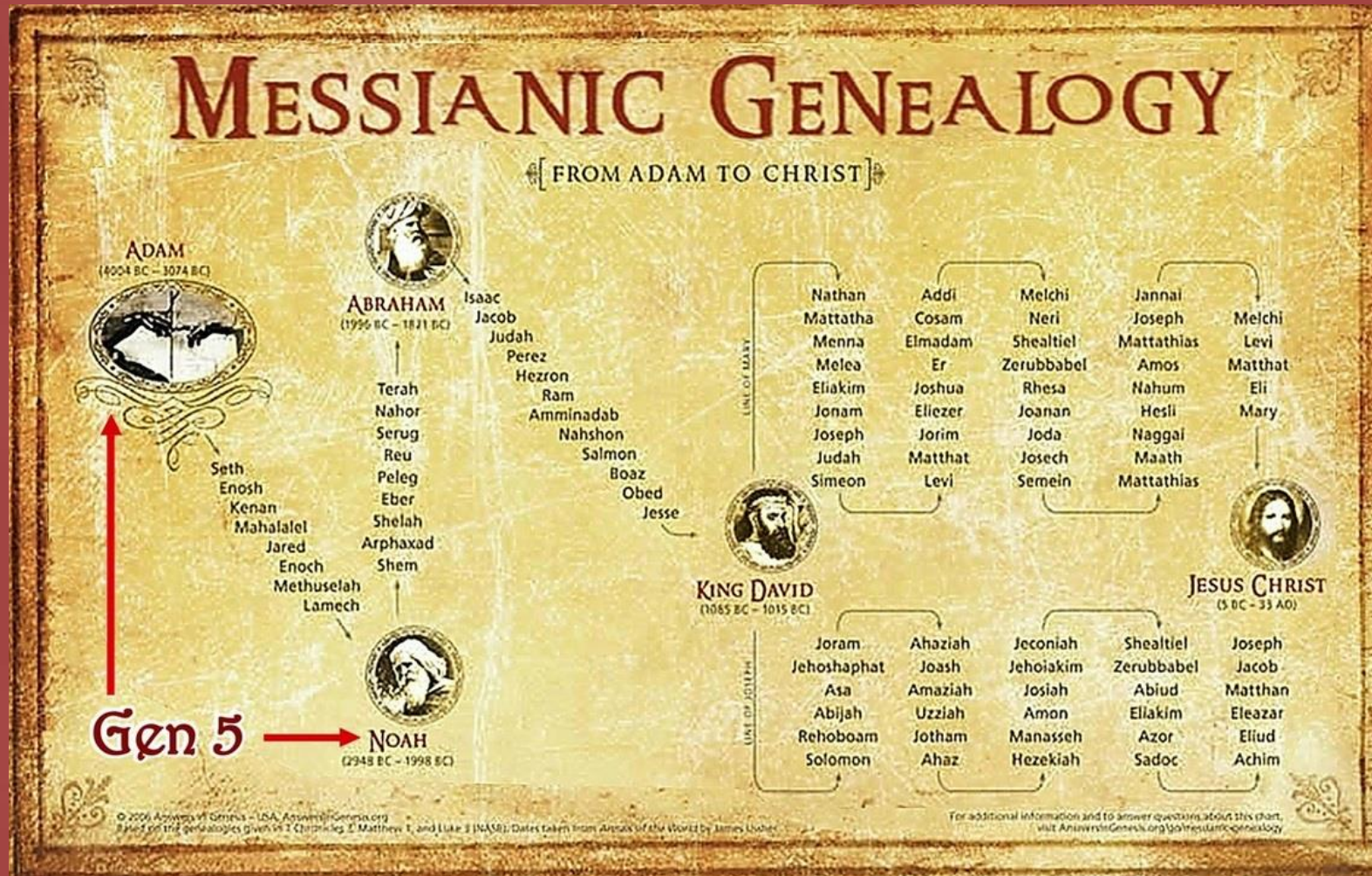
An offspring of Abraham would bless "all the nations of the earth"



**Jesus Christ was a descendant of
David and of Abraham**

JESUS IS THE PROMISED MESSIAH

Jesus was the rightful heir to the throne of David



Christ is the Greek form of the Aramaic word *Messiah*, which means "the anointed."

LOOKING FOR A DELIVERER

*Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows:
yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and
afflicted. Isaiah 53:4*

Many Jews were looking only for a deliverer from the Roman power and for a greater national prosperity; thus, when the Messiah came, the leaders and many others rejected him.



Only the humble and faithful were able to see
in Jesus of Nazareth the true Christ

THE ANOINTED ONE

Jesus was anointed by Heavenly Father to be our “Prophet, Priest, King, and Deliverer”



He was to be Heavenly Father’s representative in all things pertaining to the salvation of mankind.

THE WOMEN IN JESUS' LINE



Tamar was from Adullam in
Canaanite territory
Genesis 38



Rahab was a Canaanite of Jericho
Joshua 2:1–7



Ruth was a Moabitess before
converting to Judaism
Ruth 1:4



Bathsheba was the wife of
Uriah, a Hittite
2 Samuel 11:3

All four were either non-Israelites
or associated with non-Israelites.

JOSEPH

He was the Son of Heli (Luke 3:23) and husband of the virgin Mary and a “Just Man”

His descent could be traced from David by a double line (Matt. 1:1–16; Luke 3:23–38).

He lived at Nazareth and espoused Mary, possibly the daughter of his uncle Jacob.

Joseph worked the trade of *Tekton*, meaning not just a joiner or carpenter, but a master builder, somebody who worked on the various materials needed for the construction work, including timber and iron, but most frequently stone (2)

It was shortly before the marriage that Mary received the visit from the angel Gabriel.

The birth of the child, Jesus, was miraculous, His mother being His only earthly parent; but Joseph was naturally regarded in Nazareth as His father, and the holy child treated him as such (Luke 2:48, 51).

It is probable that Joseph died before the Crucifixion (and probably before our Lord’s baptism), as otherwise Mary would hardly have been committed by our Lord to the keeping of John (John 19:26–27).



MARY

Tradition tells us she was the daughter Joachim and Hannah (Anna) named Miriam or Mary and the firstborn female

She was from Nazareth

Anna prayed in her garden to have a child and like Hannah, Samuel's mother, she promised to have their child raised in the Temple as a holy vessel of God

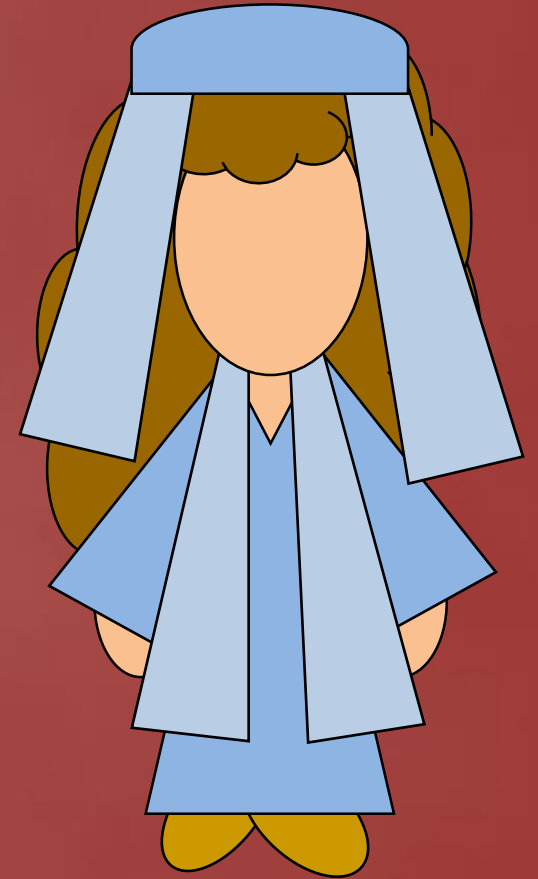
Her cousin was Elisabeth, wife of Zacharias the priest, and mother of John, the Baptist

She was a virgin and mentioned in the Book of Mormon in Alma 7:10 and Mosiah 3:8

She was betrothed to Joseph at about the age of 12

She received 'an Annunciation' when the angel Gabriel appeared to her and announced her divine selection to be the mother of Jesus She was at the death of her son

According to Apocryphal writings, at some time soon after her death, her incorrupt body was assumed directly into Heaven, to be reunited with her soul, and the apostles thereupon found the tomb empty



BETROTHED

Marriage between a young man and a young woman was arranged and agreed to by the heads of the respective families—usually the fathers.



Painting by Lyle Beddes

Once the marriage was agreed upon, the wedding consisted of two stages: betrothal (also called espousal) and a wedding ceremony.

Though betrothed couples were legally regarded as husband and wife, between the time of betrothal and the wedding ceremony, a strict code of chastity was enforced.

At the time of betrothal the young man took legal possession of the young woman, but not physical possession.

THREE POSSIBLE ACTIONS

By Jewish law, to break a betrothal required a bill of divorcement. Deuteronomy 22:13-21, 25-27

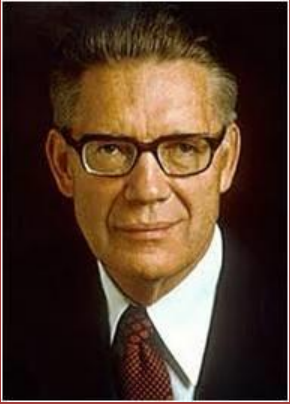
First, he could have subjected Mary to a public divorce and perhaps even execution (stoning), for people would have presumed that Mary was guilty of adultery—a crime punishable by death under the law of Moses.

Second, Joseph could have had his betrothal to Mary privately annulled before two witnesses.

A third option was to proceed with the marriage. Joseph was inclined to show mercy to Mary by quietly annulling the betrothal agreement

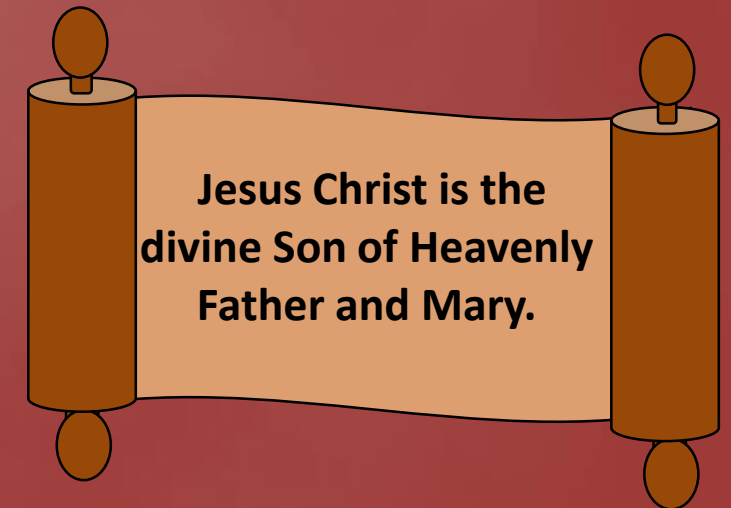


“to put her away privily” = Joseph planned to cancel the engagement privately without forcing Mary to face public humiliation or the possible penalty of stoning



“Just as Jesus is literally the Son of Mary, so he is the personal and literal offspring of God the Eternal Father. ... Matthew’s statement, ‘she was found with child of the Holy Ghost,’ properly translated should say, ‘she was found with child *by the power of the Holy Ghost.*’

... Alma perfectly describes our Lord’s conception and birth by prophesying: Christ ‘shall be born of Mary, ... she being a virgin, a precious and chosen vessel, who shall be overshadowed and *conceive by the power of the Holy Ghost*, and bring forth a son, yea, even *the Son of God.*’ (Alma 7:10)”



**Jesus Christ is the
divine Son of Heavenly
Father and Mary.**



“That Child to be born of Mary was begotten of Elohim, the Eternal Father. ... In His nature would be combined the powers of Godhood with the capacity and possibilities of mortality.

... The Child Jesus was to inherit the physical, mental, and spiritual traits, tendencies, and powers that characterized His parents—one immortal and glorified—God, the other human—woman.”



Because Jesus was the Son of an immortal Father and a mortal mother, He had the capacity to live eternally if He chose, as well as the ability to die. This divine nature uniquely qualified Him to be able to suffer for our sins, die on the cross, and be resurrected.

ישוע

TO SAVE

The name *Jesus* comes from *Iēsous*, a Greek form of the Hebrew name *Yeshua* (Joshua in English).

Yeshua means “Jehovah saves,” and the long form of the name,

Yehoshua, means “Jehovah is salvation.”

...for he said unto him that the Lord surely should come to redeem his people, but that he should not come to redeem them in their sins, but to redeem them from their sins. Helaman 5:10



Both forms of the name bear witness of the identity and mission of Jesus Christ, who was Jehovah in the premortal life.

Matthew described the Savior’s mission of salvation by declaring, “He shall save his people from their sins.”

THE YEAR OF HIS BIRTH



Concerning the year in which Jesus Christ was born, “the Church has made no official declaration on the matter” (7)



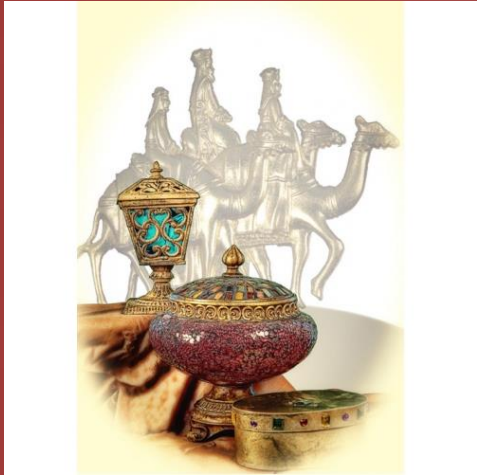
The calendar currently used throughout most of the world was created many centuries after Jesus Christ lived, and experts disagree about how to use existing historical information to calculate the year of His birth. (3)



“This is not a settled issue. Perhaps also it does not matter too much as long as we have an accepted framework of time within which to relate the actual events of [Christ’s] life” (5)

GIFTS

The Gospel of Matthew is the only Gospel to include an account of the Wise Men--*magoi*, which originally referred to religious wise men from Persia or Babylon, but by Matthew's day the word encompassed a variety of religious practitioners. (3)



1. How did the Wise Men know the Messiah had been born?
2. Why did the Wise Men want to find the Messiah?
3. How did the chief priests and scribes know where the Messiah would be born?
4. What did Herod want the Wise Men to do after they found Jesus?
5. What did the Wise Men do instead?
6. Were there just 3 Wise Men?

The Bible Doesn't Say

THE STAR IN THE EAST

The Sign of the Messiah

Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.
JST Matthew 2:2



But thou, Beth-lehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.
Micah 5:2

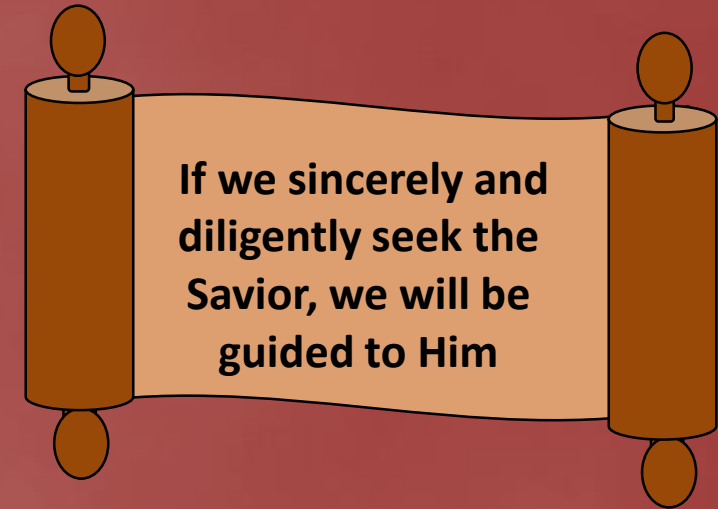
Bethlehem = "house of bread," was the place where the "Bread of Life" would be born.



And behold, there shall a new star arise, such an one as ye never have beheld; and this also shall be a sign unto you.
Helaman 14:4

SEEKING THE LORD

Regardless of who the Wise Men were or where they came from, their visit shows that those who should have been aware of the signs accompanying the birth of Jesus Christ failed to recognize them, while righteous people from other lands, directed by the Holy Ghost, not only noticed the signs but acted upon them.



**If we sincerely and
diligently seek the
Savior, we will be
guided to Him**



The exact time of the Wise Men's visit is unknown; however, Matthew 2:11 suggests that some time had passed since the birth of Jesus Christ, for the Wise Men found Jesus in a "house," not a manger, and He was a "young child," not a baby.

Gold = King

Incorruptible, pure,
valuable, eternal

Frankincense = Priest

Temple incense, sacrifice, prayer,
resurrection

Myrrh = Healer

Balm, healing, death,
atonement



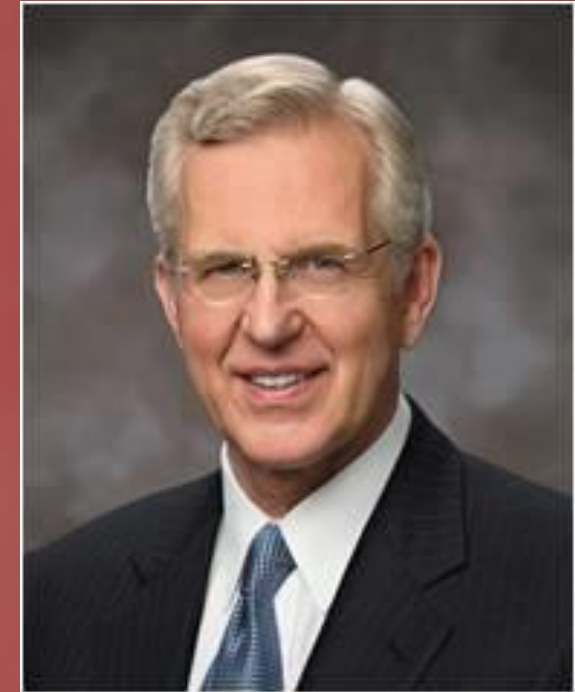
“In ancient times when people wanted to worship the Lord and seek His blessings, they often brought a gift. ...

“Is there something in you or in your life that is impure or unworthy?

When you get rid of it, that is a gift to the Savior. Is there a good habit or quality that is lacking in your life?

When you adopt it and make it part of your character, you are giving a gift to the Lord.

Sometimes this is hard to do, but would your gifts of repentance and obedience be worthy gifts if they cost you nothing?”



ESCAPE TO EGYPT



Herod became angry after the Wise Men “departed into their own country” without telling him where the Messiah was. Hoping to kill the Messiah, he ordered that all children two years old and younger in Bethlehem and the surrounding area be killed.

Joseph, Mary, and Jesus stayed in Egypt until Herod died. God instructed Joseph through dreams to take his family back to Israel, and they settled in the city of Nazareth.

Prophecies fulfilled:

1. Christ would be born of a virgin. Isaiah 7:14
2. He would be born in Bethlehem. Micah 5:2
3. A New Star will Arise. Helaman 14:4

Sources:

Suggested Hymn: #181 *Jesus of Nazareth, Savior and King*

1. Bible Dictionary
2. *With Jesus in Jerusalem*, pg 33-34, Bargil Pixner, Corazin Publishing 1996)
3. New Testament Institute Student Manual
4. Wikipedia
5. Elder Bruce R. McConkie (*Doctrinal New Testament Commentary*, 3 vols. [1965–73], 1:82).
The Mortal Messiah: From Bethlehem to Calvary, 4 vols. [1979–81], 1:350
6. James E. Talmage (*Jesus the Christ*, 3rd ed. [1916], 81).
7. J. Reuben Clark Jr., *Our Lord of the Gospels*[1954], vi.
8. Elder D. Todd Christofferson (“When Thou Art Converted,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2004, 12).

Matthew 1–4 Matthew sets forth the genealogy and birth of Jesus Christ. Wise men seek the King of the Jews. Guided by dreams, Joseph takes Mary and the child Jesus to Egypt and later to Nazareth. John the Baptist preaches the gospel of repentance and baptizes Jesus Christ. The Savior is tempted in the wilderness. He begins His mortal ministry by teaching and healing.

Languages

<i>Aramaic</i>	<i>Greek</i>
Esaias	Isaiah
Jonas	Jonah
Elias	Elijah
Jesus	Jeshua
Messiah	Christ

Gospel Principles Matthew 1-2	Related Scriptures
Jesus Christ is the Divine Son of Heavenly Father and Mary.	Matthew 1:18-25 Luke 1:32,35 1 Nephi 11:13-22 Mosiah 3:8 Alma 7:10
The Birth, Life, and Mission of Jesus is the fulfillment promises of the ancient prophets.	Matthew 1:21-23 Matthew 2:6, 15, 18, 23 Isaiah 7:14 Jeremiah 31:15 Hosea 11:1 Micah 5:2 2 Nephi 10:3
Those who understand and follow the teachings of scriptures will be better prepared to meet the Lord.	Matthew 2:1-11 D & C 18:34-36
The Purpose of the Lord can not be frustrated or stopped.	Matthew 2: 13-21 D & C 121:33

Glossary of Words

❖ Found with Child	Going to have a baby, pregnant
❖ Be with Child	Going to have a baby, pregnant
❖ Of the Holy Ghost	Happened by the power of the Holy Ghost (but the Holy Ghost is not His Father)
❖ Just	Righteous
❖ Being interpreted is	Means, is translated
❖ Knew her not	Did not have any sexual relations with her
❖ Scribes	Teachers of Jewish rules and laws
❖ Privily	Privately, secretly
❖ Enquired	Asked
❖ Frankincense, myrrh	Fragrant (strong smelling) plant saps that were burned as incense and used as perfume
❖ Slew	Killed
❖ Lamentation, mourning	Crying and sadness
❖ Thither	There
❖ Turned aside	Went back

Messiah	Related Scriptures
The Messiah shall have the Spirit, preach the gospel, and proclaim liberty	Isa. 61:1–3; Luke 4:18–21
We have found the Messias, which is, being interpreted, the Christ	John 1:41 John 4:25–26
God raised up among the Jews a Messiah, or, in other words, a Savior	1 Ne. 10:4
The Son of God was the Messiah who should come	1 Ne. 10:17
Redemption cometh in and through the holy Messiah	2 Ne. 2:6
The Messiah cometh in the fulness of time	2 Ne. 2:26
The Messiah shall rise from the dead	2 Ne. 25:14
In the name of Messiah I confer the Priesthood of Aaron	D&C 13:1
The Lord said, I am Messiah, the King of Zion	Moses 7:53

Matthew 1:1-17 The Royal Lineage:
“The consensus of judgment on the part of investigators is that Matthew’s account is that of the royal lineage, establishing the order of sequence among the legal successors to the throne of David, while the account given by Luke is a personal pedigree, demonstrating descent from David without adherence to the line of legal succession to the throne through primogeniture or nearness of kin. Luke’s record is regarded by many, however, as the pedigree of Mary, while Matthew’s is accepted as that of Joseph. The all important fact to be remembered is that the Child promised by Gabriel to Mary, the virginal bride of Joseph, would be born in the royal line” James E. Talmage (*Jesus the Christ*, 3rd ed. [1916], 86).
Though both Matthew’s and Luke’s accounts are correct, the most important aspect of Jesus Christ’s genealogy has been made clear on several occasions by God the Father: “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him”
Old Testament Institute Student Manual

Matthew 1:3,5,6 The non-Israelite women in Jesus’ Genealogy:
First, it demonstrates that God had worked through Gentiles in the past, thus preparing Matthew’s readers to appreciate the commission to “teach all nations” that would come at the end of his Gospel (Matthew 28:19).

Second, the mention of these particular women, each of whom figured in a controversy of some sort in the Old Testament, shows that in Israel’s past, God had worked through people and situations that the Jews would not have expected, thus preparing Matthew’s readers for the account that is immediately to follow—Mary and the virgin birth.

Third, it shows all of us today that personal righteousness is not dependent on possessing the “perfect” lineage, since Jesus Christ’s lineage was not perfect. Finally, the inclusion of women in the Savior’s pedigree reflects the important truth that men and women are equal in the eyes of God.
Old Testament Institute Student Manual

Matthew 1:19: Betrothal
A betrothal was not like our idea of engagement. It was a very serious covenant – legally binding – could not break without a divorce. During a betrothal they were as if legally married but not yet consummated. Adultery during this period was seen as worse than after the wedding. (Mary and Joseph) Choosing a companion was not the prerogative of the bride – only the groom. She could only accept or reject.

Matthew 1:1-17 The Genealogy of Jesus:
“Jesus was not Joseph’s son, but Joseph’s genealogy is essentially Mary’s genealogy, for they were cousins; Jesus inherited from his mother, Mary, the blood of David and therefore the right to David’s throne. Jesus was born in the royal line, and as Elder James E. Talmage has explained, ‘Had Judah been a free and independent nation, ruled by her rightful sovereign, Joseph the carpenter would have been her crowned king; and his lawful successor to the throne would have been Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews’ [*Jesus the Christ*, 3rd ed. (1916), 87; see also *Jesus the Christ*, 83–86, 89–90; Bruce R. McConkie, *Doctrinal New Testament Commentary*, 3 vols. (1965–73), 1:94–95]” (*The Life and Teachings of Jesus and His Apostles*, 2nd ed. [Church Educational System manual, 1979], 22).

The Dreams of Joseph
“Gerald N. Lund, who later became a member of the Seventy, discussed Joseph’s visions and spiritual sensitivity: ‘Matthew tells us that [Joseph] was of the lineage of King David, that he was a just and considerate man, that in a dream an angel told him who Jesus would be, that he was obedient, and that he gave Jesus his name, which means *savior*. (See Matt. 1.) We know that he took Mary to Bethlehem, where Jesus was born. (See Luke 2:4–6.) Less than two years later, Joseph took his family into Egypt to escape Herod, after being warned in a dream. In Egypt, a dream again told him when to return, and another dream told him to go to Galilee. (See Matt. 2:13–15, 19–22.) Four dreams from God! Joseph must have been an exceptionally visionary and spiritually sensitive man’ (*Jesus Christ, Key to the Plan of Salvation* [1991], 51–52)” (*New Testament Student Manual* [Church Educational System manual, 2014], 13–14).

Matthew 2:1-12 The Identity of the Wise Men:
“It would appear they were true prophets, righteous persons like Simeon, Anna, and the shepherds, to whom Deity revealed that the promised Messiah had been born among men. Obviously they were in possession of ancient prophecies telling of the rise of a new star at his birth. That they did receive revelation for their personal guidance is seen from the inspired dream in which they were warned not to return to Herod after they had found and worshiped the Son of Mary” (*Doctrinal New Testament Commentary*, 3 vols. [1965–73], 1:103).

Regardless of who the Wise Men were or where they came from, their visit shows that those who should have been aware of the signs accompanying the birth of Jesus Christ failed to recognize them, while righteous people from other lands, directed by the Holy Ghost, not only noticed the signs but acted upon them.